

ROAD TEST

Ram 3500 Laramie Crew Cab 4X4 2017

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An auto industry exec on the trucking side once explained heavy-duty pickups perfectly.

Half-ton pickups are for people who really like trucks, he said. Heavy-duty pickups are for people who really NEED them.

The Dodge Ram 3500 pickup is about as big as you can get before edging into the commercial grade world of chassis-cab trucks, and it pushes the power, hauling and towing envelope to the edge of pickup abilities. But not everyone needs those abilities, which means thinking carefully about how much truck you want to get.

Here's an analogy, if you like.

Let's say you need to hang a picture but decide to pass up on the sensible 16-ounce hammers and, in the spirit of "go big or go home," buy a 20-pound sledgehammer.

Yeah, you might manage the picture hook if you're careful enough, but your wife's gonna look at you funny and, unless you have plans to demo a few walls, go a-workin' on the railroad, or take down a crack house door, you've probably got more hammer than you really need. And, having bought it, you can't really complain that it's too awkward, cost too much and doesn't fit in your toolbox.

Ditto for the our Ram 3500 which is big

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The 2017 Ram 3500 dressed handsomely in optional Brilliant Black Crystal Pearl (\$225) and chrome, seen here in a Laramie Crew Cab 4X4 configuration. It's a heavy-duty hauler for all purposes.

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