

Ford's F-250 is up for any job

Continued from pg. 3

cent and posting emissions numbers on par with gasoline engines.

As for mileage, well even the diesel tends to be thirsty and I averaged about 24.5L/100km, although I could squeak by at around 13L/100km at modest highway speeds, remembering that the only thing I was hauling was me.

I had a lot of trucker-wanna-be fun with the six-speed manual but the bulk of sales will probably prefer the TorqShift five-speed automatic.

And notable new features include:

- A stowable bed extender that folds flat against the cargo box sides when not in use boosts cargo-hauling versatility.

- An industry-first, integrated Tailgate Step with grab assist, both folding out of the tailgate for easier access to the cargo box.

- Industry-exclusive PowerScope power-fold, power-telescoping trailer-tow side mirrors for wide load convenience.

- Rear View Video Camera Backup System to help drivers maneuver in tight spaces or line up the truck's hitch with trailers

I haven't even begun to list the four trim levels, the wealth of standard equipment, the extra options, stand-alone performance packages and new special edition models that, for 2009, will include a Cabela's FX4 for the out-



With all the refinements, available equipment and options of interior sets new standards for quality. a luxury sedan, the Super Duty's evolution of the F-Series

Photo by Rob Beintema

door enthusiast and for the first time, a Harley-Davidson F-450 pickup.

So, forgetting what I said about "a truck you need", once you start picking and choosing from the "truck you desire" column, it's easy to bump up the price with an almost limitless list of extra performance equipment and option choices.

As tested, this heavily-loaded FX4 added almost \$22K to the \$43,699 base price, for a total of \$65,184. Definitely the boss's truck.

Of course, whatever's added to the base vehicle is up to the customer, but

considering the foundational improvements to chassis, powertrain and performance, this newest version of Super Duty successfully complements an F-Series lineup that has been Canada's best-selling pickup truck for 41 years.

So whether you're towing a backhoe for work or a big boat, a very big boat for play, the Super Duty lineup has a model capable of serious trucking and hauling.

But, as for me, as much fun as it was playing the trucker . . .

"Umm, Debbie, have you got a Focus? Or something a little smaller?"

Ford F-250 Super Duty 2008 At A Glance

BODY STYLE: Heavy-duty pickup truck.
DRIVE METHOD: front-engine 4X4, six-speed manual

ENGINE: (as tested) 6.4-litre Power Stroke V8 Turbo Diesel (350 hp / 650 lb/ft)

FUEL ECONOMY: (as tested) 24.6L/100km avg.

PRICE: Base (Regular Cab)— \$28,999, FX4 4X4 Crew Cab— \$43,699 starting price as tested plus options— \$66,484 (including \$1,300 destination fee).

WEBSITE: ford.ca

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