

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1966 Lincoln Continental Restoration Guide

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1966 Lincoln Continental Restoration Guide

Model Years 1966

Model year	1966 — new body, new coupe, 462 power
Body styles	4-door sedan; 2-door hardtop coupe; 4-door convertible
Wheelbase	126 in
Engine	462 cu in MEL V8, 340 hp / 485 lb-ft
Transmission	3-speed Turbo-Drive automatic
Brakes	Front discs, rear drums
Production	54,755 (published figure)
Length	220.9 in (up ~5 in)

Every specification in this guide was checked against factory literature, marque references, period road tests, and documented survivor vehicles. Where sources disagree or the record is silent, this guide says so rather than guessing.

Published by RestorationEssentials



What This Year Is — and What Changed

For 1966 Lincoln gave the five-year-old Continental an all-new body, a bigger engine and — for the first time since 1960 — a two-door. The coupe took nearly a third of sales, prices were trimmed by roughly \$600 with equipment held, and production jumped by more than a third. The coupe's doors are conventional front-hinged; the sedan and the four-door convertible keep the center-opening rear doors.

1966 change register

- All-new body: about 5 in longer (220.9 in), an inch wider and taller; the growth goes mostly to rear-seat room.
- Two-door pillarless hardtop coupe joins the line — the first Lincoln two-door since 1960, aimed at the Cadillac Coupe de Ville and Imperial Crown Coupe.
- 462 MEL V8 replaces the 430: 340 hp / 485 lb-ft. (One secondary source dates the 462 to 1965; factory-line histories and the house research file place it in 1966 — see corrections file.)
- Curved side glass returns, with gentler tumblehome for interior room.
- Convertible revised: glass rear window replaces plastic, and a second hydraulic pump separates the top and decklid systems — the hydraulic solenoids are deleted. Top service procedures change accordingly.
- Tilt steering wheel and an 8-track tape player join the options; 1966 is the first year a factory tape player was offered.



Factory Specification — 1966

Item	Factory specification	Notes
Engine	462 cu in M EL V8	340 hp / 485 lb-ft (factory gross)
Wheel base / length	126 in / 220.9 in	New body, same wheel base
Body styles	Sedan; coupe (new); convertible	Coupe = conventional doors
Convertible top	Glass rear window; twin pumps	Top/dock lid hydraulics separated
Side glass	Curved	Returns for 1966