

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1973 Ford F-Series Dentside Restoration Guide

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so you can judge the depth before you spend a dollar.

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RESTORATIONESSENTIALS

Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1973 Ford F-Series Dentside Restoration Guide

Model Years 1973

Model year	1973 - first year of the Dentside (6th generation)
Engines	240, 300, 302, 360, 390, 460
Front brakes	Discs standard on F-100/F-150 (new)
Cab styles	Regular cab and crew cab (no SuperCab yet)
VIN format	11-character warranty number

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.

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How This Guide Works

This is a **single-year restoration** guide for the 1973 Ford F-Series - one year of the sixth generation (1973-1979), the “Dentside” trucks named for the stamped body-side recess. The year gets its own guide because Ford changed these trucks every year - cab styles, series codes, engine codes that change meaning mid-generation, grilles, and headlamps - and a factory-correct restoration matches the year on the warranty plate. Specifications were checked against the 1973-1979 Ford Truck Master Parts Catalog data published by FORDification and the LMC Truck identification references. Where sources disagree, this guide prints the disagreement instead of guessing.

Scope. Covers 1973 F-100, F-150, F-250, and F-350 light-duty pickups, chassis-cabs, and SuperCabs. Medium-duty trucks and the 1978-79 Bronco (separate guide) are outside this guide's scope.

Where 1973 sits in the run

- Coming in: the Bumpside - drums all around, no F-150, no SuperCab, and a completely different body.
- Leaving: 1974 adds the SuperCab extended cab mid-year. A 1973 cab is regular or crew only - a SuperCab cab on a “1973” is a later body.

Platform Snapshot

Fact	Detail
Model year	1973 (Dentside year 1 of 7)
Body styles	Regular cab, crew cab; Styleside/Flareside; chassis-cab
Drive	2WD and 4WD, F-100 through F-350
Engines	240 I6; 300 I6; 302; 360 FE; 390 FE; 460 (no factory 4WD with 390/460)
Transmissions	3-speed manual; C4/C6 automatics; NP435 4-speed
Transfer case (4x4)	NP205 (married, gear-driven)
Front brakes	Disc brakes standard on F-100/F-150

The 1973 Register - What Makes a 1973 a 1973

- All-new body: the stamped “dent” side recess, recessed door handles, and larger curved glass all around. Extensive galvanized sheet metal is used to fight corrosion.
- The grille is the two-piece “split” design: two egg-crate inserts divided by an upright center bar, F-O-R-D spelled across the top rail, rectangular turn signals at each side, and round headlights below.
- Front DISC brakes are standard on F-100/F-150 - the generation's biggest drivability change. Verify caliper, rotor, and proportioning-valve part numbers by year when rebuilding.
- The regular-cab F-350 is offered with a wide Styleside bed for the first time, and dual rear wheels join the F-350 options.
- There is no F-150 and no SuperCab in 1973 - both arrive later (1975 and 1974 respectively).
- Engine codes this year: A = 240, B = 300, G = 302, Y = 360, H = 390 2-bbl, J = 460 4-bbl.



VIN and Warranty-Plate Decoding

Same 11-character warranty-number system as the Bumpside: series (3) + engine (1) + plant (1) + consecutive unit number (6). Decode the door warranty plate for paint, trim, axle, and transmission codes as well. **Warning:** two engine codes change meaning inside this generation - always decode with the model year attached.

Code	Series (1973)
F10	F-100 2WD pickup
F11	F-100 4WD pickup
F25 / F26	F-250 2WD / 4WD pickup
F35	F-350 2WD pickup
F37 / F38	F-350 2WD / 4WD chassis-cab

Code	Engine (1973)
A	240 I6 (1973-74 meaning)
B	300 I6 1-bbl
G	302 V8 2-bbl
Y	360 V8 2-bbl
H	390 V8 2-bbl
J	460 V8 4-bbl

No factory big-block 4x4. The 390 and 460 were not available with factory four-wheel drive in this generation. A 4x4 wearing one left the factory with a smaller engine.

Engines

Engine	Family	Notes
240 I6	Ford I6	Base six; final two years of the 240 in F-Series
300 I6	Ford I6	The durable workhorse six
302 V8	Windsor	2-bbl
360 V8	FE	2-bbl
390 V8	FE	2-bbl (H); no factory 4WD
460 V8	385-series	4-bbl (J); no factory 4WD

Emissions equipment is year- and engine-specific from the start of this generation. Restoring to factory-correct means restoring the smog equipment too - photograph every hose and bracket before disassembly.