

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1975 Dodge Ramcharger Restoration Guide

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

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1975 Dodge Ramcharger Restoration Guide

Model Years 1975

Model year	1975 - Ramcharger year 2 of 8 (1974-1981 span)
Generation	First (removable roof)
Drive	4WD (AW100) and new 2WD version
Roof	No roof, dealer fabric top, or optional removable steel roof
Identifiers	A 2WD Ramcharger is 1975 or later - never a 1974.

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 1975 Dodge Ramcharger - one year, covered on its own because that is how these trucks were built and how they must be restored. Specifications were checked against the marque model history, Hagerty's and MotorTrend's published histories, and factory literature. Where sources disagree, this guide prints the disagreement instead of guessing.



Scope. Covers the 1975 Ramcharger in 4WD and the new 2WD form. Trail Duster shares procedures.

Where 1975 sits in the run

- **Coming in:** 1974 launched the Ramcharger as a 4WD-only, one-seat-standard utility truck.
- **Leaving:** 1976 is the carryover year - the passenger seat's last year as an option before it becomes standard for 1977.

Platform Snapshot

Fact	Detail
Model year	1975
Platform	Chrysler AD, shortened pickup chassis
Wheelbase	106 in (9 in shorter than the short-bed pickup)
Drive	4WD (AW100) and new 2WD version
Roof	No roof, dealer fabric top, or optional removable steel roof
Transfer case (4WD)	NP203 full-time (4WD, standard)
Grille / front tell	Pickup-line grille carried over; round headlights
Engines	225 slant six, 318 LA V8, 360 LA V8, 400 B V8, 440 RB V8
Twin	Plymouth Trail Duster (1974-1981 run)

The 1975 Register - What Makes a 1975 a 1975

- The two-wheel-drive Ramcharger joins the line - Dodge learned buyers wanted daily drivers, not just trail trucks. The 225 slant six is the 2WD base engine.
- A Ramcharger wins the 1975 Sno*Drift rally outright - the model's competition credential, earned in its second year.
- Everything else carries the 1974 specification forward: full pickup-style doors all year (the half-door split is a 1974-only story), removable roof menu, driver's seat standard with the passenger seat still optional.

VIN, Fender Tag, and Build Date

The VIN, the frame stamp, and the fender tag tell you what the truck is; the broadcast sheet tells you how it was built. On this model the build date itself can be a specification - 1974's door split turns on it - so read the tag before the truck, every time.

Engines: The 1975 Menu

All ratings are SAE net as published for the year. The fender tag and block stampings are the authority for the truck in front of you.

Engine	Output (net)	Notes
225 slant six	Base (2WD)	Standard on the new 2WD truck



Engine	Output (net)	Notes
318 LA V8	150 hp	Volume V8
360 LA V8	Small block	Optional
400 B V8	Big block	Optional
440 RB V8	225 hp	Top engine

Restoring the 1975 engines

- 318/360 LA small blocks: the survivors - most trucks, best parts support. Keep the 360's balance hardware with the 360.
- Big blocks (1974-78): verify the radiator is the correct big-block unit and the manifolds are sound; claims need paperwork.
- 225 slant six: simple and durable; check the manifold and carburetor first.
- Casting dates should precede the build date by weeks.

Transmissions and Transfer Cases

Unit	Type	Application
3-speed manual	Column/floor by build	Base
4-speed manual (NP435)	Floor-shift, granny low	The 4WD favorite
TorqueFlite 727	3-speed automatic	Optional across the line

NP203 full-time case standard on 4WD trucks; the 2WD truck is a conventional rear-drive AD chassis. Full-time front-axle bearing inspection remains the standing advice.

Axles, Suspension, and Brakes

- Leaf springs at both ends - the Ramcharger kept them its whole life, and the articulation is part of the appeal.
- Dana 44 front axle; Chrysler 9.25-inch rear (8.25 on some builds); limited-slip available on the 9.25.
- Front disc, rear drum brakes, power-assisted; power steering optional.
- Full-time trucks (NP203 years): the front axle's bearing design is the known weak point - inspect first, budget honestly.

Body, Rust, and Sheet Metal

The Ramcharger shares the pickup's galvanized-steel head start and adds problems of its own: a huge removable roof (1974-80) whose seals age, and rear quarters that live in the spray zone. Work this map:

- Rockers and rear quarters - the documented Ramcharger rust zones.
- Floor pans, especially under the roof's drip path; roof flanges and gutters on steel-top trucks.
- Lower doors and the tailgate (1974-80) - the flip-up rear window frame rots from inside.
- Front fenders: Ramcharger fenders have their own taper and do NOT interchange with pickup fenders, whatever a seller says. Buy the best ones you can find.

Sheet metal support is moderate: LMC's Ramcharger catalog covers 1974-1993 with live stock, and the reproduction houses carry patch panels. The removable steel roof is salvage-only - a complete, straight top is