

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1976 Ford F-Series Dentside Restoration Guide

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1976 Ford F-Series Dentside Restoration Guide

Model Years 1976

Model year	1976 - grille facelift; last year of the FEs
Engines	300, 302, 360, 390 (final year), 460
One-year series	F13 - F-150 with 3/4-ton suspension, 8-lug
New this year	Flareside returns; 4x4 front discs available
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 1976 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 1976 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 1976 sits in the run

- Coming in: the 1975 launch-F-150 truck - original egg-crate grille without the black headlight accents, no Flareside, and closed-knuckle 4x4 axles.
- Leaving: 1977 replaces the FE engines with the 351M and 400, moves the badges to the cowl, and fits a fuel-filler door. A 1976 is the last FE Dentside.

Platform Snapshot

Fact	Detail
Model year	1976 (Dentside year 4 of 7)
Body styles	Regular cab, crew cab, SuperCab; Styleside and Flareside; chassis-cab
Drive	2WD and 4WD across the line
Engines	300 I6; 302; 360 FE; 390 FE; 460
Transmissions	3-speed manual; C4/C6 automatics; NP435 4-speed
Transfer case (4x4)	NP205 (married)
Front brakes	Discs standard 2WD; available on 4x4 from 1976

The 1976 Register - What Makes a 1976 a 1976

- Grille facelift: the split grille gains black accents around the headlights and a revised egg-crate pattern; the headlights gain a square frame. Still round lamps, still the split layout - the 1978 single-piece grille does not belong here.
- The Flareside bed returns after a three-year absence, on regular-cab F-100 and F-150 trucks, 2WD and 4WD.
- Front disc brakes become available on four-wheel-drive trucks, and the 4x4 front axle switches to the open-knuckle Dana 44 design, improving turning radius and serviceability.
- Power steering changes from the external-assist design to an integral (in-box) design.
- One-year oddity: the F13 - an F-150 2WD on 3/4-ton suspension with 8-lug wheels (the basis of the F-150 Special). An 8-lug “F-150” is correct for 1976 only.
- LAST year for the 360 (Y) and 390 (H/M) FE engines, and the last year for the F-100 4WD (F11).



Printed as a conflict. Secondary histories disagree on the exact year the F-Series took the U.S. truck sales lead - 1976 in some, 1977 in others. The sales race is context, not specification; this guide asserts neither year and it does not affect any part or procedure in this book.

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 (1976)
F10	F-100 2WD pickup
F11	F-100 4WD pickup (last year)
F13	F-150 2WD, 3/4-ton suspension, 8-lug (1976 only)
F15	F-150 2WD pickup
F25 / F26	F-250 2WD / 4WD pickup
F35	F-350 2WD pickup
F37 / F38	F-350 2WD / 4WD chassis-cab

Code	Engine (1976)
A	460 V8
B	300 I6 1-bbl
G	302 V8 2-bbl
Y	360 V8 2-bbl (last year)
H	390 V8 2-bbl (last year)
M	390 V8 4-bbl (last year)
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
300 I6	Ford I6	Base engine
302 V8	Windsor	2-bbl
360 V8	FE	2-bbl; final year
390 V8	FE	2-bbl (H) or 4-bbl (M); final year; no factory 4WD
460 V8	385-series	4-bbl (A/J); no factory 4WD