

## First Drive: 2011 Ford F-Series Super Duty brings it Strong

Written by Cliff Murphy

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It's a guy thing. Tim Allen understands. If you've got a job to do, you need the right tool. As guy logic goes, the bigger and more powerful the tool, the better.

If what you do requires a tool shaped like a truck, then you're currently experiencing a nirvana-like period in history. In just the last few months, Chrysler and General Motors introduced their new heavy-duty trucks. We drove the 2010 Dodge Ram Heavy Duty in October and liked it. We also saw the Chevrolet and GMC HDs at the Chicago Auto Show last month. Although we've yet to get behind the wheel, the powertrain and chassis improvements appear promising.

Not to be left out, Ford's rolling introduction of its latest F-Series Super Duty just culminated with an Arizona-based press-only driving event (we first reported on the new truck in September). Want to know everything about Ford's big, new tool? For starters, the blue oval on the grille measures 13 inches. Believe it or not, there's more.

Those of you with functional long-term memories will recall that Ford introduced an all-new Super Duty for 2008. While the 2011 edition is billed as all-new, not everything about the newest F-Series Super Duty is the product of an empty CAD/CAM screen. Following its own recent pattern for product introductions, Ford did what we'd consider a super-duper freshening on its heavy-duty truck.

Major changes include all-new and stronger powertrains, new front-end sheetmetal, and mildly freshened interiors. While certainly not all-new, the changes are certainly all good.

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