

## History of the Toyota Tacoma

by Betsy Bearden

If you can remember the Toyota Hilux Pickup Truck with the 20R engine that was produced in the '70s and into 1980, then you need to listen to this: The Toyota Tacoma is based on the legendary Hilux.

The Toyota Tacoma started out as a compact truck but was redesigned in 2005 when it became reclassified as a mid-sized truck. Introduced to the U.S. in 1995, the Tacoma replaced the Hilux (the little truck that could, and did, and did...). The Hilux was one of the major building blocks that formed the foundation for Toyota's reputation of producing dependable, reliable, and long-lived vehicles, along with the Land Cruiser, the Corolla, and the Camry; the Tacoma is definitely showing signs of joining these icons in automotive history.

With all the body styles, trim levels, and options available with the Tacoma, as far as a really great mid-sized truck, what other truck could you possibly ever need? Although competition is always healthy, the Tacoma has no real competition in its class. The Nissan Frontier is the only real competition, but it lacks space, and it is not as refined as the Tacoma. So, that puts us back at square one: what other truck could you possibly ever need?

In 2010, the production of the Tacoma was moved to Toyota's Texas plant in San Antonio. The Tacoma is being built alongside big brother, the Tundra. By moving production to San Antonio, Toyota has brought 1,000 new jobs to Americans. Moving Forward....

If you are looking for a head-turner, the Tacoma TRD (Toyota Racing Development) packages started in 1998, and when you opt for this sporty version, you can make it as tough as you want to make it. The TRD off-road package and the street-oriented package (again, you have options!) includes 16-inch alloy wheels, and 17-inch alloy wheels respectively. They offer a heavy-duty suspension, a locking rear differential, hill start assist and hill descent control (automatic only), skid plates, sport seats and the extra convenience items from SR5 and Convenience packages. Even better, the TRD Sport Upgrade package adds to the regular version, 18-inch chrome-clad wheels.

Most models come standard with a 2.7-liter four-cylinder engine, and 159 horsepower under the hood with 180 pd-ft of torque. A five-speed manual transmission is standard on Regular and Access Cab models. You will realize 19 mpg city/24 mpg highway.

If you choose the 4.0-liter V6, you can expect 236 hp and 266 lb-ft of torque that comes standard on the four-wheel-drive Double Cab and X-Runner. The V6-powered Tacoma

Double Cab will take you from 0-60-mph in about 7.7 seconds, and it can tow up to 6,500 pounds. If you want to become the next generation to re-create that of the Hilux fame, come on in and get your Tacoma today. See how many miles you can boast about—down the road.

*References:*

*[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toyota\\_Tacoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toyota_Tacoma)*

*<http://www.edmunds.com/toyota/tacoma/2012/#fullreview>*