



The Most and Least Reliable Cars

Our latest auto reliability surveys reveal the automaker that leads the pack right now. Plus, the hybrids and EVs you can count on.

by **Jonathan Linkov**

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HEN A CAR COMPANY starts selling a brand-new model, the first examples are exciting and attention-grabbing but can be prone to problems. In fact, cars from a debut year can have chronic issues that translate into years of repairs.

CR's newest Auto Surveys confirm this: Buyers looking for reliability should avoid all-new or recently redesigned models for at least the first—and sometimes even the second—model year.

That's why, even if you're buying from a dependable brand, it's worth researching even deeper. "While brand rankings can guide you to the showroom, it's critical to look at reliability for specific models before making a purchase," says Jake Fisher, senior director of auto testing at Consumer Reports. "Even within high-ranking companies, there can be significant variation in reliability."

To help identify those reliable brands and models, we calculate predicted reliability ratings for almost every new vehicle on the market. To do this, we use data from our annual reliability surveys, which ask CR members about issues they've had with their vehicles in 20 potential problem areas over the prior 12 months. Here's what we found.

SUBCOMPACT SUV

75 RELIABILITY SCORE



✓ Subaru Crosstrek

MIDSIZE 3-ROW/LARGE SUV

68 RELIABILITY SCORE



✓ Kia Sorento Hybrid

LUXURY MIDSIZED SUV

67 RELIABILITY SCORE



✓ Lexus RX Hybrid

COMPACT SUV

98 RELIABILITY SCORE



✓ Subaru Forester

MIDSIZE 2-ROW SUV

61 RELIABILITY SCORE



✓ Subaru Outback

THE MOST RELIABLE MODELS BY CATEGORY

LUXURY COMPACT SUV

77 RELIABILITY SCORE



✓ Lexus NX

MIDSIZE PICKUP TRUCK

59 RELIABILITY SCORE



✓ Honda Ridgeline

ELECTRIC CAR

82 RELIABILITY SCORE



✓ BMW i4

Subaru Surges to the Top

This year, Subaru ascended to the top of our brand rankings, supplanting Lexus and Toyota, which have held the two top spots for many years.

“Subaru’s cars share many reliable components,” says Steven Elek, who oversees auto data analytics at CR. “This commonality means that when Subaru redesigns a vehicle, it can make fewer incremental changes by carrying over dependable systems. This reduces the risk of new problems.”

Within Toyota, below-average reliability scores for the redesigned Tacoma, Tundra, and bZ4X EV hurt the brand’s overall ranking.

Subaru’s only model with below-average

reliability is the all-new Solterra EV, which is based on the Toyota bZ4X.

Hybrid Reliability Rises

Our survey results also have more data on hybrids and electric vehicles than ever before. On average, hybrid cars remain reliable, while pure electric cars and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) are more likely to have issues. “Today’s hybrids are extremely fuel-efficient,” Fisher says. “But despite their added complexity, they deliver reliability that is similar to conventional gas cars.” Even compared with gasoline vehicles, the Toyota Corolla Hybrid and RAV4 Hybrid, Hyundai Elantra Hybrid, and Lexus NX Hybrid are among this

year’s most reliable cars.

However, there are exceptions. Ford’s F-150 Hybrid, based on the problematic gas-only F-150, is the least reliable new model in the survey, with transmission and hybrid battery problems. The Ford Escape Hybrid is also among the least reliable models.

Among EVs, the Nissan Ariya remains the most reliable electric SUV, followed by the Genesis GV60 and Ford Mustang Mach-E. The BMW i4 is now the most reliable electric car, with the Kia Niro EV and Hyundai Ioniq 6 among the other strong performers. At the other end of the EV spectrum, reliability scores for the Rivian R1S and R1T and the Ford F-150 Lightning pickup remain low.

THE LEAST RELIABLE MODELS BY CATEGORY

SUBCOMPACT SUV

24 RELIABILITY SCORE



Volkswagen Taos

TROUBLE SPOTS: Engine, brakes, electrical accessories, in-car electronics, noises/leaks.

21 RELIABILITY SCORE



Ford Escape Hybrid

TROUBLE SPOTS: Hybrid battery replacement, brakes, electrical accessories, engine electrical, in-car electronics, noises/leaks.

LUXURY COMPACT SUV

34 RELIABILITY SCORE



Lincoln Corsair

TROUBLE SPOTS: Drive system, body hardware, noises/leaks, in-car electronics.

LUXURY MIDSIZED SUV

30 RELIABILITY SCORE



Mercedes-Benz GLE

TROUBLE SPOTS: Electrical accessories, minor transmission, in-car electronics, body hardware, brakes, climate, and more.

“Since EV technology is still relatively new, automakers continue to work the bugs out of their powertrains and platforms,” Elek says. “But we also see issues with their non-EV components, such as the latest infotainment and electronic features.”

With PHEVs, having two distinct powertrains—both all-electric and gasoline—increases the chances for problems. The Toyota RAV4 Prime is the most reliable PHEV in our survey, but most have average reliability, including the BMW X5, Hyundai Tucson, Kia Sportage, Lexus NX, Toyota Prius Prime, and Volvo XC60. The BMW, Kia,

Lexus, and Toyota are less reliable than their gas versions.

It Still Pays to Wait

While a few models debuted this year with strong predicted reliability—such as the Ford Mustang, Lexus TX, and Subaru Crosstrek, Forester, and Impreza—it’s usually not wise to buy an all-new model.

For example, GM’s brand-new all-electric Cadillac Lyriq and Chevrolet Blazer EV are the lowest-scoring models in our survey, suffering from problems with the EV battery, electrical accessories, climate system, and in-car

electronics. Both the gas-only version of the all-new Mazda CX-90 and the also new PHEV version have steering and suspension issues, as well as transmission problems.

If you need more reasons not to buy a new car the first year it’s available, look to the Ford Explorer, which we can recommend for the first time since its 2020 debut. This mid-sized SUV was among the least reliable models in multiple past surveys but has improved to average. So, too, have the Ford Bronco Sport and Genesis GV80, which finally moved to average reliability after multiple years of below-average scores.

MID-SIZED 2-ROW SUV

22 RELIABILITY SCORE



Jeep Grand Cherokee

TROUBLE SPOTS: Drive system, engine electrical, climate system, brakes, steering/suspension, body hardware, and more.

MID-SIZED 3-ROW/LARGE SUV

15 RELIABILITY SCORE



Mazda CX-90 Plug-in Hybrid

TROUBLE SPOTS: EV battery, transmission, climate system, steering/suspension, electrical accessories, in-car electronics.

MID-SIZED PICKUP TRUCK

15 RELIABILITY SCORE



Chevrolet Colorado/GMC Canyon

TROUBLE SPOTS: Engine, minor transmission, electrical accessories, paint/trim, noises/leaks, body hardware, in-car electronics.

ELECTRIC CAR

7 RELIABILITY SCORE



Lucid Air

TROUBLE SPOTS: Electric motor, EV charging, electrical accessories, climate system, paint and trim, noises/leaks.

