CHEVY VIN DECODER

How to use a **Chevy VIN decoder** on any Chevrolet or GMC: GM's WMIs, what positions 4–8 mean on cars and trucks, Silverado, Corvette and Camaro codes, engine and plant codes, the SPID label and **RPO codes**, a GM build sheet by VIN, and how a decode compares with **Carfax**.

47	Free	$14.99
Chevy & GMC VINs decoded with NHTSA data	Chevy VIN decoder at carcheckervin.com	full history report when you're buying

CarCheckerVIN

www.carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/chevrolet

Free Chevy & GMC VIN decoder · VIN lookup · Vehicle history reports

START HERE

ABOUT THIS CHEVY VIN DECODER GUIDE

A **Chevy VIN decoder** reads the 17 characters on every Chevrolet, GMC and other General Motors vehicle and turns them back into the facts GM coded into them: brand and type, weight class, drivetrain, trim, engine, model year and plant. This guide shows you how to read a GM VIN yourself and get the most from a free **Chevrolet VIN decoder** or **GMC VIN decoder**.

It is published by **CarCheckerVIN (carcheckervin.com)**, which runs a free VIN decoder and sells full vehicle history reports. Every GM code printed here comes from one of two primary sources: General Motors' own 2025 Vehicle Identification Numbering Standard, filed with NHTSA and published in its Manufacturer Information Database, or a decode in NHTSA's vPIC database. Our 47 example VINs were decoded in one vPIC batch in November 2026; check digits are valid, serial numbers illustrative.

Contents

Where to decode & where to buy 3
1. What a Chevy VIN decoder shows 4
2. A Chevy VIN, position by position 5
2b. GM WMIs for Chevrolet & GMC 6
3. GM cars vs trucks: positions 4–8 7
3b. Silverado & Chevy truck decoder 8
3c. GMC VIN decoder 9
4. Position 8: GM engine codes 10
5. Check digit & model year 11
6. Position 11: GM plant codes 12
7. Chevy & GMC trucks, decoded 13
7b. Cars & SUVs, decoded 14
8. Corvette VIN decoder 15
8b. Camaro VIN decoder 16
9. SUVs, vans, EVs & work trucks 17
10. SPID label & RPO codes 18
11. GM build sheet by VIN 19
12. Chevy VIN lookup: history & recalls 20
13. Carfax Chevy vs CarCheckerVIN 21
14. Spot a mismatched Chevy or GMC 22
15. Classic GM VINs & bulk decoding 23
Glossary 24
Frequently asked questions 25
Sources & free Chevy VIN decoder 26

FREE CHEVY VIN DECODER

Decode a Chevy or GMC VIN while you read

Paste any 17-character VIN into **carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/chevrolet** (or **/vin-decoder/gmc**) for the year, model, trim, engine, drive and plant, plus a free history preview. No card, no sign-up. A full vehicle history report is $14.99.

How to use this guide

Buying a used Chevy or GMC

Read Chapters 1, 7, 12, 13 and 14, and decode every truck on your list first.

Owner, mechanic or parts buyer

Chapters 3, 4, 10 and 11: engine codes, series, RPO codes, build records.

Corvette, Camaro & classic fans

Chapters 8, 10, 11 and 15: sports-car VINs, build data, pre-1981 serials.

BUYER'S SHORTCUT

WHERE TO DECODE A CHEVY VIN & WHERE TO BUY THE REPORT

Decoding a Chevrolet or GMC VIN is free everywhere. Finding out what happened to that truck since it left Fort Wayne or Silao is not. Here is where to do each.

OUR PICK

CarCheckerVIN · www.carcheckervin.com

- **Free Chevy & GMC decoder:** year, model, trim, engine, plant
- **Free history preview** for the same VIN, with no credit card
- **Full vehicle history report: $14.99**, no subscription
- **Packs:** 3 for $35.99, 5 for $54.99, 10 for $89.99 ($9 a report)
- Title brands, odometer readings, owner count and NMVTIS title records
- Liens, impounds, total-loss records, auction sales with photos
- Open recalls, service records, factory specs and market value
- Search by VIN, by U.S. license plate, or paste a list of VINs

Decode a Chevy VIN free at carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/chevrolet →

Free Chevy VIN decoders vs paid reports

Where	Cost	Best for
CarCheckerVIN decoder	Free; report $14.99	GM specs plus a free preview of history, then the full report on your shortlist
NHTSA vPIC decoder	Free	GM's filed data: model, trim, engine RPO, plant, check digit
A GM dealer's parts or service desk	Ask the dealer	Build records from GM's systems, which list more RPO codes than the QR label (Chapter 11)
Carfax report	Widely quoted at $44.99	Service history; free on many dealer listings
NICB VINCheck	Free (5 searches per 24 hours)	Stolen-not-recovered and salvage/total-loss records from participating insurers

Decoder or history report?

A decoder is enough when you own the truck and need the engine RPO, GVWR class or plant, or want to see whether a listing's "4×4 High Country" is real. Buying? A decoder can't show salvage brands, odometer readings, liens or auction sales: get a **vehicle history report**.

- [ ] Read the VIN from the windshield or door-pillar label, not the ad.
- [ ] Decode it free; compare drive, engine and trim with the badges.
- [ ] Run NHTSA recalls and NICB VINCheck, both free.
- [ ] Buy reports for your last two or three only: a 3-pack ($35.99) costs less than one Carfax.

CHAPTER 1

WHAT A CHEVY VIN DECODER SHOWS

Every Chevrolet and GMC VIN is written to a rulebook General Motors publishes for itself. A **GM VIN decoder** simply runs that rulebook backwards. Know the rulebook and you can check any decoder's answer.

GM's VIN rulebook

GM's **Vehicle Identification Numbering Standard** says it complies with the U.S. VIN regulation (49 CFR Part 565) and Canada's CMVSS 115, and it covers GM vehicles sold in the United States, U.S. territories and Canada and those built in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The 2025 edition used throughout this guide is dated May 9, 2024. GM's Global Safety Center submits the code tables to NHTSA, which publishes them in its Manufacturer Information Database and loads them into **vPIC**, the database behind NHTSA's free VIN decoder. That's why decoders agree on the basics: they all start from GM's own tables.

Decoder, lookup, check, report

Tool	What it does with a Chevy VIN	Example answer
Chevy VIN decoder	Translates the 17 characters with GM's tables	2025 Silverado 1500 LT, 4×4, L84 5.3 L V8, Fort Wayne
Chevy VIN lookup	Decodes, then searches records tied to the VIN	Specs plus recall and history summary
VIN check	Looks for problems on record	Salvage brand, total loss, odometer issue
History report	A dated timeline of everything on record	Titles, owners, mileage, liens, auction sales

Read straight from a GM VIN

- Country, maker and brand/type (positions 1–3)
- Truck GVWR class, chassis and drive; car line and series
- Restraint system and engine (positions 7–8)
- Validity (check digit), model year, plant, sequence

Added from GM's data in vPIC

- Trim name, such as LT, RST, Denali or AT4
- Engine RPO code, displacement, cylinders and fuel
- Body class, doors and, on some trucks, cab type
- Plant city, state and country

Where to find the VIN on a Chevy or GMC



Windshield, driver's side
The VIN plate on the dash, readable from outside through the lower corner of the glass.



Certification label
On the driver-side B-pillar of GM models; on a Corvette it's on the driver's door. QR code from model year 2018.



Title, registration, insurance
Paperwork copies. Compare them with the VIN on the vehicle: all must match exactly.

CHAPTER 2

A CHEVY VIN, POSITION BY POSITION

Here is a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT VIN, read with GM's 2025 standard and confirmed by NHTSA's vPIC decoder: a four-wheel-drive pickup with the L84 5.3-liter V8, built in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Pos.	Value	GM's name for it	Decoded meaning
1	1	Region of build	United States
2	G	Manufacturer	General Motors
3	C	Vehicle brand/type	Chevrolet truck
4	U	GVWR / brake system / body style	GVWR Class F, 7,001–8,000 lb, hydraulic brakes, plus a body-style column
5	K	Chassis	4×4
6	D	Series	1500 Chevrolet Silverado LT
7	E	Restraint system	AY0: active manual belts; front airbags, front seat-side airbags (1st row), roof-side airbags (all rows)
8	D	Engine type	L84: 5.3 L V8 gasoline, direct injection
9	1	Check digit	Valid: vPIC says "VIN decoded clean"
10	S	Model year	2025
11	Z	Plant location	Fort Wayne (vPIC: Fort Wayne, Indiana)
12–17	104381	Sequence number	Production number (illustrative in this example)

The three sections of a GM VIN

WMI · 1–3
Who built it, the region of build and the brand and type: car, truck, MPV, incomplete vehicle or bus.

VDS · 4–9
What it is. On GM trucks: weight class, chassis, series, restraints, engine, then the check digit.

VIS · 10–17
Which one it is: model year, assembly plant and the number assigned on the line.

vPIC adds what GM filed for that pattern: Silverado, series 1500, trim LT, pickup, GVWR Class 2F. Run the same breakdown on your own truck at **carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/chevrolet**, then read on: the next pages take each section in turn.

POSITIONS 1–3: GM WMIS FOR CHEVROLET & GMC

GM's standard says WMIs are assigned to General Motors by SAE and identify the country of origin, the maker and the type or brand of vehicle. For a Chevy or GMC, the first character is the region of build, G is General Motors, and the third character is the brand and type.

Chevrolet WMIs

WMI	Brand / type, region	Seen on
1G1	Chevrolet car, U.S.	Malibu, Corvette, Camaro, Cruze, Bolt EV
2G1	Chevrolet car, Canada	2010 Camaro (Oshawa)
1GC	Chevrolet truck, U.S.	Silverado, Silverado HD, Colorado, Express
2GC	Chevrolet truck, Canada	Silverado (Oshawa)
3GC	Chevrolet truck, Mexico	Silverado (Silao)
1GB, 3GB	Chevrolet incomplete vehicle, U.S. / Mexico	Silverado, Express
1GA	Chevrolet bus (non-school bus), U.S.	Express
1GN	Chevrolet MPV, U.S.	Tahoe, Suburban, Traverse
2GN	Chevrolet MPV, Canada	2020 Equinox (Ingersoll)
3GN	Chevrolet MPV, Mexico	Equinox, Blazer
KL7	Chevrolet MPV, GM Korea	Trax, Trailblazer

GMC WMIs

WMI	Brand / type, region	Seen on
1GT	GMC truck, U.S.	Sierra, Sierra HD, Savana
2GT	GMC truck, Canada	Sierra
3GT	GMC truck, Mexico	Sierra (Silao)
1GD, 3GD	GMC incomplete vehicle, U.S. / Mexico	Sierra, Savana
1GJ	GMC bus (non-school bus), U.S.	Savana
1GK	GMC MPV, U.S.	Yukon
3GK	GMC MPV, Mexico	Terrain
7GZ	GMC incomplete, built by Navistar	Savana

Other GM brands in the same standard

1G6 Cadillac car · 1GY Cadillac MPV · KL4 Buick MPV from GM Korea · LRB Buick MPV from SAIC GM in China. See carcheckervin.com/gm-vin-decoder.

Sources: GM 2025 VIN Standard; vPIC decodes of our examples for 1G1, 2G1, 1GN, 2GN, 1GK and 3GK. Common examples, not a complete list. For the exact factory, read position 11 (Chapter 6).

When a Chevy doesn't start with 1G

Mexican builds start **3G**, Canadian builds **2G**, and Korean-built Trax and Trailblazer start **KL7**. GM's standard also lists the Chevrolet Low Cab Forward truck under **JAL** (Isuzu, Japan) and **54D** (The Shyft Group, U.S.), and Express incomplete vehicles built by Navistar under **1HA**. All are genuine Chevrolets.

Reading the third character

C Chevy truck · **B** Chevy incomplete · **N** Chevy MPV · **1** Chevy car · **A** Chevy bus · **T** GMC truck · **D** GMC incomplete · **K** GMC MPV · **J** GMC bus. A Sierra and a Silverado built side by side differ here first.

CHAPTER 3

GM CARS VS TRUCKS: WHAT POSITIONS 4–8 MEAN

This is the part most decoding charts get wrong. GM uses positions 4, 5 and 6 differently on passenger cars than on trucks, SUVs, vans and incomplete vehicles. Positions 7 and 8 mean the same thing on both.

Position	Passenger car	MPV, light-duty truck & incomplete vehicle
4	Vehicle line, usually the same as GM's "book" letter	Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), brake system and body style, in one character
5	Series: the trim levels and badges for that line	Chassis: shows two-wheel or four-wheel drive where both exist (some use the book letter instead)
6	Body style	Series: the trim levels and badges
7	Restraint system. GM uses letters only in position 7, each tied to a three-character restraint code such as AY0 or AYF.	
8	Engine. Letters or digits; GM's standard prints the engine RPO beside each code.	

Source: GM 2025 Vehicle Identification Numbering Standard, "Organization and Description of VIN Positions".

A car VIN decoded: 2025 Chevrolet Malibu LT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	G	1	Z	D	5	S	T	0	S	F	1	1	7	2	6	3

Pos.	Value	What GM's 2025 table says
1–3	1G1	United States · General Motors · Chevrolet passenger car
4	Z	Vehicle line: Malibu (GM book Z)
5	D	Series: Chevrolet Malibu LT (1LT). B and C are LS, E is Premier (2LT), G is RS
6	5	Body style 69: sedan, 4-door, 4-window, notchback
7	S	AYF: front airbags, front and rear seat-side airbags, roof-side airbags, front knee airbags
8	T	LFV: 1.5 L 4-cylinder gasoline, direct injection, turbocharged
10–11	S F	2025 model year; plant F, Fairfax (vPIC lists Kansas City, Kansas)

The practical difference

On a Silverado, position 5 tells you 4×2 or 4×4. On a Malibu, position 5 is the trim. Read a car VIN with a truck chart and you'll "decode" a trim as a drivetrain.

Why vPIC says Kansas City

GM's table names the plant Fairfax; vPIC returns the city, Kansas City, Kansas, with "Fairfax" as the plant name. Same factory, two labels.

SILVERADO VIN DECODER: THE CHEVY TRUCK CODES

A **Silverado VIN decoder**, like any **Chevy truck VIN decoder**, answers the questions truck buyers ask: is it a 4×4, which trim, which engine, which weight class? GM puts the answers in positions 4, 5, 6 and 8.

Position 4: weight class & body

GVWR (lb), brakes	Codes
1500 · Class E, 6,001–7,000, hydraulic	N P R
1500 · Class F, 7,001–8,000, hydraulic	U V
HD · Class H, 9,001–10,000, hydraulic	0 1 2
HD · Class 3, 10,001–14,000, hydraulic	3 4 5

Each class has one code per body-style column (GM numbers them 03, 43 and 53). Proof that position 4 is the weight class: our two 2025 Silverado 2500 High Country decodes, 1GC**4**KREY… and 1GC**1**KREY…, share every vehicle-describing character except position 4 (the check digit and our illustrative serials differ too), and vPIC returned Class 3 for one and Class 2H for the other.

Position 5: 4x2 or 4x4

On 2025 Silverado 1500 and HD trucks, **A = 4×2** and **K = 4×4**. Our 2004, 2012 and 2014 Silverados with K in position 5 also decoded as 4WD. The 2020 Silverado in our set has **Y** there and decoded as 4WD too: codes change between generations, so decode by model year.

Position 6: 2025 Silverado 1500 series

Code	Series (4x4 list, chassis K)
A	Work Truck
B	Custom
C	Trail Boss Custom
D	LT
E	RST
F	Trail Boss LT
G	LTZ
H	ZR2
J	High Country
K	LT-L
4 / 9	SSV / non-U.S., non-Canada

The 4×2 list (chassis A) reuses A–F for Work Truck, Custom, LT, RST, LTZ and High Country, so the same letter can mean different trims on a 4×2 and a 4×4.

2025 Silverado HD series (chassis K, 4x4)

2500: L Work Truck · M Custom · N LT · P LTZ · R High Country. **3500:** S Work Truck · T LT · U LTZ · V High Country. HD engines: **Y** = L5P 6.6 L Duramax turbo-diesel V8; **7** = L8T 6.6 L gasoline V8. HD plants: **F** Flint (U.S. VINs) and **1** Oshawa (Canadian VINs).

CHEVY TRUCK VIN DECODER

Decode any Silverado, Colorado or Express free at **carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/chevrolet**, and see the Silverado-specific buyer's checks at **carcheckervin.com/chevrolet-silverado-carfax-alternative**.

GMC VIN DECODER: SIERRA, YUKON & SAVANA

A **GMC VIN decoder** uses the same GM tables as a Chevy one. A Sierra shares its plants, engines and position-4 weight codes with the Silverado, but GMC gets its own brand character, its own drive letters and its own series list.

Silverado vs Sierra, side by side

Position	2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	2025 GMC Sierra 1500
3: brand/type	**C** Chevrolet truck	**T** GMC truck
5: chassis	**A** 4×2 · **K** 4×4	**H** 2WD · **U** 4WD
6: series	A Work Truck … J High Country	A Fleet/Base … H Denali Ultimate
8: engine	Same: D L84 5.3 L V8 · L L87 6.2 L V8 · K L3B 2.7 L turbo 4 · 8 LZ0 3.0 L diesel	
11: plant	Same: Z Fort Wayne (U.S.) · 1 Oshawa (Canada) · G Silao (Mexico)	

Sierra 1500 series (4WD)

Code	Series
A	Fleet/Base
B	SLE
C	Elevation
D	SLT
E	AT4
F	AT4X
G	Denali
H	Denali Ultimate
J	Elevation-L

Sierra HD series (4WD)

Code	Series
L M N	2500 Fleet/Base, SLE, SLT
P R	2500 AT4, Denali
X Z	2500 Denali Ultimate, AT4X (AWD)
S T U	3500 Fleet/Base, SLE, SLT
V	3500 AT4 SRW
W Y	3500 Denali, Denali Ultimate

Source: GM 2025 VIN Standard, GMC Sierra and Sierra HD tables. 2WD (chassis H) lists are shorter.

GMC VINs from our batch

VIN	vPIC decode
1GTUUGEL5SZ126418	2025 Sierra 1500 Denali, 4WD, L87 6.2 L V8, Fort Wayne, IN
1GTUUEE8XSZ139021	2025 Sierra 1500 AT4, 4WD, LZ0 3.0 L diesel, Fort Wayne, IN
3GTUUDED3SG204816	2025 Sierra 1500 SLT, 4WD, L84 5.3 L V8, Silao, Mexico
1GT4UREY8SF151337	2025 Sierra HD 2500 Denali, 4WD, L5P 6.6 L diesel, Flint, MI
1GKS2DKLXMR234685	2021 Yukon Denali, 4WD, L87 6.2 L V8, Arlington, TX

Savana and Terrain decodes are in Chapters 7 and 9. Decode any GMC free at **carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/gmc** or start from **carcheckervin.com/gmc-sierra-vin-lookup**.

CHAPTER 4

POSITION 8: GM ENGINE CODES & ENGINE RPOS

GM reserves position 8 for the engine, and its VIN standard prints the engine's RPO code beside every VIN character, so a good **Chevy VIN decoder** names the exact engine, not just its size.

2025 engine codes from GM's own tables

VIN	RPO	GM's description, simplified	Where GM lists it (2025)
D	L84	5.3 L V8 gasoline, direct injection	Silverado 1500, Sierra 1500
L	L87	6.2 L V8 gasoline, direct injection	Silverado 1500, Sierra 1500
K	L3B	2.7 L 4-cylinder gasoline, turbocharged	Silverado 1500, Sierra 1500
8	LZ0	3.0 L inline-6 diesel, turbocharged	Silverado 1500, Sierra 1500
Y	L5P	6.6 L V8 diesel, turbocharged, Duramax	Silverado HD, Sierra HD
7	L8T	6.6 L V8 gasoline, cast iron	HD pickups, Express, Savana
P / 1	LV1 / LWN	4.3 L V6 gasoline / 2.8 L 4-cylinder turbo-diesel	Express, Savana
T	LFV	1.5 L 4-cylinder gasoline, turbocharged	Malibu
G / B	LSD / LBD	1.5 L 4-cylinder gasoline, turbocharged	Equinox
2 / P	LIH / LBP	1.2 L 3-cylinder gasoline, turbocharged	Trax, Trailblazer
L	L3T	1.3 L 3-cylinder gasoline, turbocharged	Trailblazer

Older engine codes, from our vPIC decodes

VIN	RPO	Engine	Decoded on
C	L83	5.3 L V8	2014 Silverado, 2015 Tahoe, 2017 Suburban
7	LC9	5.3 L V8, flex fuel	2012 Silverado 1500 LTZ
T	LM7	5.3 L V8	2004 Silverado 1500
J	L86 / L99	6.2 L V8	2016 Yukon Denali / 2010 Camaro 2SS
W	LS3 / LFY	6.2 L V8 / 3.6 L V6	2008 Corvette / 2018 Traverse
7, 6, 4	LT1, LT4, LT2	6.2 L V8s	2015 Corvette (7 also on 2019 Camaro SS), 2015 Z06, 2020 Corvette
V	LLT / LYX	3.6 L V6 / 1.5 L turbo 4	2010 Camaro LT / 2018 Terrain, 2020 Equinox
X / S	LTG / LGX	2.0 L turbo 4 / 3.6 L V6	2017 Camaro / 2019 Blazer
3 / B	LFX / LUV	3.6 L V6 / 1.4 L turbo 4	2016 Colorado / 2014 Cruze

Same character, different engine

7 is the L8T on a 2025 Silverado HD, the LT1 on a 2015 Corvette and the LC9 on a 2012 Silverado; **L** is the L87 on a Silverado but the L3T on a Trailblazer. Read an engine code only with the model line and year, and give a parts desk all 17 characters: the VIN is what tells an L83 from an L84.

CHAPTER 5

POSITIONS 9 & 10: CHECK DIGIT & MODEL YEAR

GM computes the check digit in its production order system ("Calculated by POMS") with the standard North American formula. Here it is on our Silverado, `1GCUKDED1SZ104381`.

Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
VIN	1	G	C	U	K	D	E	D	1	S	Z	1	0	4	3	8	1
Value	1	7	3	4	2	4	5	4	–	2	9	1	0	4	3	8	1
Weight	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	10	0	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
Product	8	49	18	20	8	12	10	40	0	18	72	7	0	20	12	24	2

Sum: 320. 320 ÷ 11 = 29 remainder **1**, and position 9 is 1. A remainder of 10 is written **X**; GM's own worked example in its standard comes out at X. Letter values: A/J 1, B/K/S 2, C/L/T 3, D/M/U 4, E/N/V 5, F/W 6, G/P/X 7, H/Y 8, R/Z 9. GM's standard also repeats the federal rule that I, O and Q never appear in a VIN.

What the check digit catches

Almost any single mistyped character, such as an S read as a 5 or a B as an 8. It does **not** catch a cloned VIN copied from a real truck: that passes perfectly.

Position 10: the Chevy VIN year chart

Code	7th = digit	7th = letter	Code	7th = digit	7th = letter	Code	7th = digit	7th = letter
A	1980	2010	L	1990	2020	Y	2000	2030
B	1981	2011	M	1991	2021	1	2001	2031
C	1982	2012	N	1992	2022	2	2002	2032
D	1983	2013	P	1993	2023	3	2003	2033
E	1984	2014	R	1994	2024	4	2004	2034
F	1985	2015	S	1995	2025	5	2005	2035
G	1986	2016	T	1996	2026	6	2006	2036
H	1987	2017	V	1997	2027	7	2007	2037
J	1988	2018	W	1998	2028	8	2008	2038
K	1989	2019	X	1999	2029	9	2009	2039

The 7th-character rule applies to cars, MPVs and trucks with a GVWR of 10,000 lb or less (49 CFR Part 565). I, O, Q, U, Z and 0 are never model-year codes.

How GM fits the rule

GM's 2025 standard makes position 7 (the restraint code) letters only, so 2010-and-later GM cars and light trucks read from the right-hand column. Our 2004 Silverado (`1GCEK19T04…`) has a 9 in position 7, so its 4 means 2004.

Where the rule stops

The Chevrolet Low Cab Forward is rated above 10,000 lb, and GM puts a **digit** in its position 7 (chassis type). Confirm a heavy truck's year on the title. Recent codes:

R = 2024 **S = 2025** **T = 2026** **V = 2027**

CHAPTER 6

POSITION 11: GM PLANT CODES

GM's plant tables read "When VIN position 1 is …": a plant code means something only with the region in position 1, and often the model line. These are the codes we could verify.

11th	1st	Plant (as GM or vPIC names it)	Chevy & GMC lines	Source
Z	1	Fort Wayne, Indiana (older records: Roanoke, IN)	Silverado 1500, Sierra 1500	Std + vPIC
G	3	Silao, Guanajuato, Mexico	Silverado 1500, Sierra 1500	Std + vPIC
1	2	Oshawa, Ontario, Canada	Silverado, Silverado HD, Sierra	Std + vPIC
1	1	Wentzville, Missouri	Express, Savana, Colorado	Std + vPIC
F	1	Flint, Michigan	Silverado HD, Sierra HD	Std + vPIC
F	1	Fairfax (vPIC: Kansas City, Kansas)	Malibu	Std + vPIC
R	1	Arlington, Texas	Tahoe, Suburban, Yukon	vPIC
5	1	Bowling Green, Kentucky	Corvette (2008, 2015, 2020)	vPIC
0	1	Lansing Grand River, Michigan	Camaro (2017, 2019)	vPIC
J	1	Lansing Delta Township, Michigan	Traverse (2018)	vPIC
4	1	Lake Orion, Michigan	Bolt EV (2020)	vPIC
7	1	Lordstown, Ohio	Cruze (2014)	vPIC
9	2	Oshawa, Ontario ("Oshawa Plant #1")	Camaro (2010)	vPIC
6	2	Ingersoll, Ontario (CAMI)	Equinox (2020)	vPIC
S	3	Ramos Arizpe, Coahuila, Mexico	Equinox (2025), Blazer (2019)	Std + vPIC
L	3	San Luis Potosí, Mexico	Equinox (2025), Terrain (2018)	vPIC
C	K	Changwon, South Korea	Trax	Std + vPIC
B	K	Bupyeong, South Korea	Trailblazer (and the Buick Envista)	Std + vPIC
N	1 / 7	Springfield (Navistar)	Navistar-built Express, Savana	Std
S, 7	5, J	Charlotte, MI (S); Fujisawa, Japan (7)	Low Cab Forward (54D, JAL)	Std

Std = GM 2025 VIN Standard. vPIC = our November 2026 decodes (model years shown). Plant codes change over time: decode the full VIN rather than trust any chart, this one included.

Three traps in one table

1 is Wentzville on a U.S.-coded VIN and Oshawa on a Canadian one. **F** is Flint for heavy-duty pickups and Fairfax for the Malibu. **7** was Lordstown on our 2014 Cruze and is Fujisawa, Japan on a Low Cab Forward.

Proof the plant is position 11

Our two 2025 Equinox 1LT VINs, 3GNAXHEG0S**L**… and 3GNAXHEG5S**S**…, match in every position that describes the vehicle; only the plant code, the check digit and our illustrative serials differ. vPIC placed one in San Luis Potosí and the other in Ramos Arizpe.

CHAPTER 7

CHEVY & GMC TRUCKS AND VANS, DECODED

Every row came back “VIN decoded clean” from NHTSA’s vPIC decoder in November 2026. Check digits are valid; serials are illustrative.

VIN	Year, model, trim	Engine (RPO) & drive	GVWR · plant
1GCUKDED1SZ104381	2025 Silverado 1500 LT	L84 5.3 L V8, 4WD	2F · Fort Wayne, IN
3GCUKEEL8SG215507	2025 Silverado 1500 RST	L87 6.2 L V8, 4WD	2F · Silao, Mexico
2GCNAAEK2S1100742	2025 Silverado 1500 Work Truck	L3B 2.7 L turbo 4, 4×2	2E · Oshawa, ON
1GCUKHEL1SZ132650	2025 Silverado 1500 ZR2	L87 6.2 L V8, 4WD	2F · Fort Wayne, IN
1GCUKGE86SZ118734	2025 Silverado 1500 LTZ	LZ0 3.0 L diesel I6, 4WD	2F · Fort Wayne, IN
1GC4KREY4SF120995	2025 Silverado HD 2500 High Country	L5P 6.6 L diesel V8, 4WD	3 · Flint, MI
1GC1KREY2SF120996	2025 Silverado HD 2500 High Country	L5P 6.6 L diesel V8, 4WD	2H · Flint, MI
1GC4KTE79SF143208	2025 Silverado HD 3500 LT	L8T 6.6 L V8 gas, 4WD	3 · Flint, MI
1GCUYDED2LZ123456	2020 Silverado 1500 LT, crew cab	L84 5.3 L V8, 4WD	2F · Fort Wayne, IN
1GCVKREC4EZ211874	2014 Silverado 1500 LT, ext. cab	L83 5.3 L V8, 4WD	2F · Roanoke, IN*
3GCUKREC6EG188352	2014 Silverado 1500 LT, crew cab	L83 5.3 L V8, 4WD	2F · Silao, Mexico
1GCRKSE77CZ154420	2012 Silverado 1500 LTZ, ext. cab	LC9 5.3 L V8 flex fuel, 4WD	2E · Roanoke, IN*
1GCEK19T04Z166071	2004 Silverado 1500 (1/2 ton)	LM7 5.3 L V8, 4WD	2E · Roanoke, IN*
1GCGTCE31G1219905	2016 Colorado LT, crew cab	LFX 3.6 L V6, 4WD	1D · Wentzville, MO
1GCWGAFP5S1172246	2025 Express 2500 Cargo	LV1 4.3 L V6	2G · Wentzville, MO
1GTUUGEL5SZ126418	2025 GMC Sierra 1500 Denali	L87 6.2 L V8, 4WD	2F · Fort Wayne, IN
1GTUUEE8XSZ139021	2025 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4	LZ0 3.0 L diesel I6, 4WD	2F · Fort Wayne, IN
3GTUUDED3SG204816	2025 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT	L84 5.3 L V8, 4WD	2F · Silao, Mexico
1GT4UREY8SF151337	2025 GMC Sierra HD 2500 Denali	L5P 6.6 L diesel V8, 4WD	3 · Flint, MI
1GTW7AFP1S1180554	2025 GMC Savana 2500 Cargo	LV1 4.3 L V6	2G · Wentzville, MO

*vPIC names the plant “Fort Wayne Assembly” in Roanoke, Indiana on these older records: same code Z as the 2025 trucks. GVWR: 1D 5,001–6,000 lb; 2E 6,001–7,000; 2F 7,001–8,000; 2G 8,001–9,000; 2H 9,001–10,000; 3 10,001–14,000.

Drive is always clear. Every 4WD Silverado here has K in position 5 except the 2020 (Y); the 2025 Sierras have U, the Colorado T, the 4×2 Work Truck A. **Trim is exact** on every 2025 pickup.

Cab type is patchy: vPIC returned it for some trucks only, so check the truck. **Vans decode as trucks,** with a series (2500 Cargo) instead of a trim.

CHEVY CARS, SUVS & CROSSOVERS, DECODED

Twenty-seven more decodes from the same vPIC batch, from a 2008 Corvette to 2025 models, built in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and South Korea.

VIN	Year, model, trim	Engine (RPO) & drive	Plant
1G1ZD5ST0SF117263	2025 Malibu LT (1LT) sedan	LFV 1.5 L turbo 4	Kansas City, KS
1G1PC5SB8E7200617	2014 Cruze 1LT sedan	LUV 1.4 L turbo 4	Lordstown, OH
1G1FY6S0XL4113298	2020 Bolt EV LT hatchback	Battery electric, FWD	Lake Orion, MI
1G1YY26W385107733	2008 Corvette coupe	LS3 6.2 L V8	Bowling Green, KY
1G1YB2D76F5106215	2015 Corvette Stingray 1LT coupe	LT1 6.2 L V8, automatic	Bowling Green, KY
1G1YR2D63F5603144	2015 Corvette, trim “2LZ w/Z06”	LT4 6.2 L V8, manual	Bowling Green, KY
1G1Y72D41L5110482	2020 Corvette 2LT coupe (targa)	LT2 6.2 L V8, RWD	Bowling Green, KY
1G1Y82D49L5110484	2020 Corvette 3LT coupe (targa)	LT2 6.2 L V8, RWD	Bowling Green, KY
2G1FB1EV3A9167340	2010 Camaro LT coupe	LLT 3.6 L V6	Oshawa, ON
2G1FK1EJ9A9167341	2010 Camaro 2SS coupe	L99 6.2 L V8	Oshawa, ON
1G1FB1RX5H0142519	2017 Camaro 1LT coupe	LTG 2.0 L turbo 4	Lansing Grand River, MI
1G1FF1R74K0118207	2019 Camaro 1SS coupe	LT1 6.2 L V8	Lansing Grand River, MI
1G1FH1R7XK0118206	2019 Camaro 2SS coupe	LT1 6.2 L V8	Lansing Grand River, MI
1GNSKBKC2FR263107	2015 Tahoe LT	L83 5.3 L V8, 4WD	Arlington, TX
1GNSKHKC4HR184429	2017 Suburban LT	L83 5.3 L V8, 4WD	Arlington, TX
1GNSKBKD9MR105563	2021 Suburban LS	L84 5.3 L V8, 4WD	Arlington, TX
1GNSKCKDXMR105562	2021 Suburban LT	L84 5.3 L V8, 4WD	Arlington, TX
1GKS2CKJ2GR301468	2016 GMC Yukon Denali	L86 6.2 L V8, 4WD	Arlington, TX
1GKS2DKLXMR234685	2021 GMC Yukon Denali	L87 6.2 L V8, 4WD	Arlington, TX
1GNEVGKW4JJ148057	2018 Traverse LT (cloth)	LFY 3.6 L V6, AWD	Lansing Delta Twp, MI
3GNKBCRS4KS591204	2019 Blazer 2LT	LGX 3.6 L V6, FWD	Ramos Arizpe, Mexico
2GNAXKEV0L6158812	2020 Equinox LT (1LT)	LYX 1.5 L turbo 4, FWD	Ingersoll, ON
3GNAXHEG0SL108815	2025 Equinox 1LT	LSD 1.5 L turbo 4, FWD	San Luis Potosí, Mexico
3GNAXHEG5SS108816	2025 Equinox 1LT	LSD 1.5 L turbo 4, FWD	Ramos Arizpe, Mexico
3GKALMEV0JL177390	2018 GMC Terrain SLE	LYX 1.5 L turbo 4, FWD	San Luis Potosí, Mexico
KL77LGE26SC096420	2025 Trax 1RS	LIH 1.2 L turbo 3, FWD	Changwon, S. Korea
KL79MUSL3SB071935	2025 Trailblazer RS	L3T 1.3 L turbo 3, AWD	Bupyeong, S. Korea

Trims, engines and plants exactly as vPIC returned them; blank details were not returned. 47 VINs in all across both tables.

Your turn: decode your own Chevrolet or GMC free at **carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/chevrolet**, then preview its history records.

CHAPTER 8

CORVETTE VIN DECODER

A **Corvette VIN decoder** reads a passenger-car VIN: line, series and body in positions 4–6. All five Corvettes that decoded cleanly in our batch, from 2008 to 2020, start 1G1Y and carry plant code **5**, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	G	1	Y	7	2	D	4	1	L	5	1	1	0	4	8	2

Pos.	Value	2020 Corvette, as vPIC decodes it
1–3	1G1	General Motors, Chevrolet passenger car, United States
4	Y	Vehicle line: Corvette (vPIC's 2015 Corvette records cite "Book Code: Y")
5	7	Series: trim "Preferred 2LT" (our second 2020 VIN, with 8 here, is "Premium 3LT")
6	2	Body: coupe, listed as "Targa Body Style"
7–8	D 4	Restraint code D; engine LT2 6.2 L V8, rear-wheel drive, automatic
10–11	L 5	2020 model year; Bowling Green, Kentucky

Five Corvette VINs compared

VIN	Pos. 5	Pos. 7	Pos. 8	Decoded
1G1YY26W385107733	Y	6	W	2008 coupe, LS3 6.2 L
1G1YB2D76F5106215	B	D	7	2015 Stingray 1LT, LT1 6.2 L, automatic
1G1YR2D63F5603144	R	D	6	2015, "2LZ w/Z06", LT4 6.2 L, manual
1G1Y72D41L5110482	7	D	4	2020 Preferred 2LT, LT2 6.2 L
1G1Y82D49L5110484	8	D	4	2020 Premium 3LT, LT2 6.2 L

What the comparison shows

The 2008 car has a **digit** in position 7, the later cars a letter: the model-year rule from Chapter 5. The engine character changes with each engine (W, 7, 6, 4); the series character went from letters to digits by 2020. A 2015-style series letter on a 2020 VIN (1G1YB2D4…L5) came back from vPIC with error 8, "No detailed data available currently".

The Corvette label is on the door

GM's technician publication TechLink says the certification label sits on the driver-side B-pillar on GM models, **except the Corvette, where it's on the driver's door**. From the 2018 model year that label carries a QR code with the car's RPO codes (Chapter 10), the quickest way to confirm options the VIN doesn't encode.

Z06 or a Stingray wearing badges?

In our 2015 decodes the Stingray came back with engine code 7 (LT1) and the Z06-trim car with 6 (LT4). If a 2015 "Z06" decodes to an LT1, ask why. Decode free at **carcheckervin.com/corvette-vin-lookup**; build records at **carcheckervin.com/corvette-build-sheet**.

CAMARO VIN DECODER

A **Camaro VIN decoder** tells an SS from a V6 or turbo-four in one character, and our five decodes show something else: the Camaro changed country, WMI and plant code between 2010 and 2017.



2019 Camaro 2SS coupe: LT1 6.2 L V8, automatic, built at Lansing Grand River, Michigan. Note the X check digit: a remainder of 10.

Five Camaro VINs compared

VIN	WMI	5	7	8	11	Decoded
2G1FB1EV3A9167340	2G1	B	E	V	9	2010 LT, LLT 3.6 L V6, Oshawa
2G1FK1EJ9A9167341	2G1	K	E	J	9	2010 2SS, L99 6.2 L V8, Oshawa
1G1FB1RX5H0142519	1G1	B	R	X	0	2017 1LT, LTG 2.0 L turbo 4, Lansing
1G1FF1R74K0118207	1G1	F	R	7	0	2019 1SS, LT1 6.2 L V8, Lansing
1G1FH1R7XK0118206	1G1	H	R	7	0	2019 2SS, LT1 6.2 L V8, Lansing

All five decoded as coupes with F in position 4 and 1 in position 6. GM's 2025 standard (initial edition) lists the Malibu as its only Chevrolet car line, so Camaro and Corvette codes here come from vPIC decodes.

Four Camaro lessons

- **The WMI follows the factory.** Built in Oshawa, the 2010 cars are 2G1 (Canada) with plant 9; built in Lansing, the later cars are 1G1 with plant 0.
- **Position 8 separates SS from the rest.** Our SS trims decoded with V8 codes (J, 7); the LT and 1LT with V or X.
- **Series codes are reused and renamed.** B was LT in 2010 and 1LT in 2017; 2SS was K in 2010 and H in 2019.
- **Restraint codes changed too:** E on the 2010 cars, R on the 2017–2019 cars.

What the VIN won't prove

Performance packages, paint, interior and most factory options aren't among the 17 characters. On a Camaro, as on any GM car, they live in the RPO codes on the SPID label (older cars) or the certification-label QR code (2018 model year on), and in the original window sticker.

CAMARO VIN LOOKUP

Decode free and preview the history at **carcheckervin.com/camaro-vin-lookup**. A full report is $14.99.

Before you buy any Camaro or Corvette

Decode the VIN on the dash and the one on the certification label, check they match each other and the title, and confirm the engine code agrees with the badge. Then check the history: performance cars are where title brands and odometer problems cost the most. A $14.99 report at **carcheckervin.com/vehicle-history-report** covers title brands, odometer readings and auction sales with photos.

CHAPTER 9

SUVS, CROSSOVERS, VANS, EVS & WORK TRUCKS

GM codes its SUVs, crossovers and vans as MPVs or trucks, so they follow the truck layout: weight and body in position 4, chassis in 5, series in 6. Here is what each family looks like in a decode.

Tahoe, Suburban & Yukon

All six of our full-size SUVs carry plant **R**, Arlington, Texas, and decoded as 4WD with GVWR Class 2F. Chevrolets start 1GN, the Yukons 1GK. Our 2021 Suburban LS (1GNSK**B**KD…) and LT (1GNSK**C**KD…) differ in position 6, the series. Yet B was LT on our 2015 Tahoe: series letters are reassigned by generation.

Crossovers

Traverse 2018: 1GN, plant J, Lansing Delta Township, LFY V6. **Blazer** 2019: 3GN, plant S, Ramos Arizpe, LGX V6. **Equinox**: 2020 was 2GN from CAMI in Ingersoll (plant 6, LYX); 2025 is 3GN from Mexico (LSD or LBD). **Terrain** 2018: 3GK, San Luis Potosí. **Trax** and **Trailblazer**: KL7 from GM Korea; GM's table gives Trax body style 58 (four-door utility) and Trailblazer 56 (four-door cab/utility, extended).

Bolt EV

Our 2020 Bolt EV LT (1G1FY6S0…L4) decoded as a battery electric hatchback built in Lake Orion, Michigan, with no engine RPO returned. EVs use the same 17-character layout; the decoder reports electrification level instead of an engine.

Express & Savana vans

Position	2025 code meanings (GM table)
3	C truck, B incomplete, A bus (Express); T, D, J for Savana
4	Class G 8,001–9,000 lb: W or Y · Class H: Z or 0 · Class 3: 3 · Class 4 (14,001–16,000): 6
5	G on an Express, 7 on a Savana
6	Series: A 2500 Cargo, G 3500 Cargo, R/S/T 3500 Cutaway 139, 159, 177 in. wheelbase
8	P LV1 4.3 L V6 · 1 LWN 2.8 L diesel · 7 L8T 6.6 L
11	1 Wentzville · N Springfield (Navistar)

Chevrolet Low Cab Forward

Position	2025 code meanings (GM table)
1–3	JAL (Isuzu Motors, Japan) or 54D (The Shyft Group, U.S.), incomplete vehicle
4	GVWR: B Class 3, C Class 4, E Class 5 (hydraulic); K Class 6, M Class 7 (air)
5 · 6	Series D 3500–4500, E 5500, F 6500XD/7500XD · cab J, S or W
8	D L8T 6.6 L gas · F LCB 6.7 L Cummins diesel · 6 I1B 5.2 L diesel
11 · 12	S Charlotte, Michigan or 7 Fujisawa, Japan · position 12 is a "model combination" code; 13–17 are the sequence

Note D: L8T on a Low Cab Forward, L84 on a Silverado.

ALL GM BRANDS

Decode any Chevrolet, GMC, Buick or Cadillac free at **carcheckervin.com/gm-vin-decoder**, or check a GM vehicle's gross vehicle weight rating at **carcheckervin.com/gvwr-by-vin**.

CHAPTER 10

THE SPID LABEL & RPO CODES

The VIN tells you what kind of GM vehicle you have. The **RPO codes** tell you how that one was built: GM's three-character option codes (RPO is short for Regular Production Option). You already met some: the engine RPOs such as L84 and LT2, and trim codes such as 1LT and 2LT.

Where GM puts the RPO list

Before the 2018 model year: the **Service Parts Identification (SPID) label**, which GM's TechLink describes as often located in the trunk or glovebox, listing the vehicle's VIN, RPO codes and other information that identifies its content.

From the 2018 model year: TechLink says much of that information moved to a **QR code on the certification label** of all Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet and GMC models, phased in over several months. The label is on the driver-side B-pillar, or the driver's door on a Corvette.



SPID label
Glovebox or trunk, before MY2018.



Certification-label QR
B-pillar (Corvette: door), from MY2018.

What a scanned QR code shows

Any phone QR reader works; TechLink notes that free readers are common and GM recommends none in particular. GM lists the fields in this order: **VIN, model year, model, build month, year, engineering book, vehicle order number, three-character RPO codes sorted alphanumerically, and the paint code**. Commas separate the fields; spaces separate the RPO codes.

```
1GCUKDED1SZ104381, 2025, [model], [build month], [year], [engineering book], [vehicle order no.],
[RPO RPO RPO … L84 … RPO], [paint code]
```

Illustration of GM's field order using our example VIN; bracketed items are placeholders, not real data. GM's own 2017 sample scan includes RPOs such as 1LT and LLT among dozens of others.

Limits worth knowing

- **Up to 48 RPO codes** appear in the scan, and TechLink says it does not include every code shown in GM's Investigate Vehicle History screen.
- GM keeps RPO descriptions in its Service Information, under General Information.
- Paper SPID labels fade or go missing; the QR code survives as long as the door-pillar label does.

RPOs you can check against the VIN

- **Engine:** the engine RPO on the label should match the one your decoder returns from position 8 (L84 for D on a 2025 Silverado).
- **Trim:** GM's 2025 table names the Malibu LT "1LT" and the Premier "2LT"; the Equinox runs 1LS, 3LS, 1LT and 3LT; the Trax 1RS, 2RS and 1LT.
- **Look codes up by model and year,** never from a generic list.

CHAPTER 11

GM BUILD SHEET BY VIN

A **GM build sheet by VIN** answers one question: exactly how was this Chevrolet or GMC equipped at the factory? No single document holds it all; four records together come close.

Record	What it shows	How to get it
VIN decode	Line, series/trim, weight class, drive, engine RPO, year, plant	Free: **carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/chevrolet** or NHTSA vPIC
SPID label or certification-label QR	Up to 48 RPO codes, paint code, build month, engineering book, order number (QR); VIN and RPO codes (SPID)	On the vehicle: glovebox or trunk before MY2018; door-pillar QR from MY2018
GM dealer records	GM's own record of the RPO codes; TechLink says GM's Investigate Vehicle History screen lists more codes than the QR	Ask a GM dealer's service department with the full VIN
Window sticker (Monroney label)	Standard and optional equipment in plain words, option prices, total MSRP	Original paperwork, or a window sticker lookup by VIN

How to rebuild a GM build sheet, step by step

1. **Decode the VIN.** Confirm model year, line, series, engine RPO and plant.
2. **Read the RPO list on the vehicle.** Scan the certification-label QR code (2018 on) or photograph the SPID label (earlier).
3. **Translate the RPOs for that model and year.** Use GM service information or a reference for that exact vehicle; codes are not universal.
4. **Add the window sticker and, if one option matters, GM's record.** The sticker names packages and prices; a GM dealer's service department can check GM's record for that VIN.

The window sticker by law

The Automobile Information Disclosure Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. § 1231 et seq.) requires this price label, the Monroney label, on new cars offered for sale. Learn every line at **carcheckervin.com/monroney-label**.

What a build sheet can't show

Every record above describes the vehicle as built. None shows what happened afterward: salvage brands, rolled-back odometers, liens or auction sales. For that you need a vehicle history report.

GM BUILD SHEET

Start a GM build-sheet lookup at **carcheckervin.com/gm-build-sheet**, look up a window sticker at **carcheckervin.com/gm-window-sticker-by-vin** or **carcheckervin.com/chevrolet-window-sticker-lookup**, and use **carcheckervin.com/free-window-sticker-by-vin** for other makes.

Older GM vehicles may carry original factory paperwork or body tags in GM's older, year-specific formats: see Chapter 15 and **carcheckervin.com/classic-gm-vin-decoder**.

CHAPTER 12

CHEVY VIN LOOKUP: HISTORY, TITLE & RECALLS

A **Chevy VIN lookup** goes past decoding: it searches records about that one vehicle. A Silverado can decode perfectly and still carry a salvage brand, an open recall or a lien.

Five checks every used Chevy or GMC deserves

Check	Where	Cost	What it tells you
Decode	carcheckervin.com or NHTSA vPIC	Free	Whether the VIN is valid and matches the truck in front of you
Open recalls	nhtsa.gov/recalls	Free	Unrepaired safety recalls on that VIN; repairs are free at franchised dealers
Theft & total loss	NICB VINCheck	Free	Stolen-not-recovered and salvage/flood total-loss records from participating insurers
Title history	An NMVTIS report	Varies	Current title state and brand, brand history, last titling odometer, junk and salvage records
Full history	CarCheckerVIN report	$14.99	Title brands, odometer readings, owners, liens, total-loss records, auction sales with photos, service records

Recalls by VIN

NHTSA's recall lookup searches by VIN or plate. It doesn't show recalls more than 15 years old (unless the maker provides more), it leaves out some small and ultra-luxury makers, and a brand-new recall may not be loaded yet. Repairs are free at franchised dealers. Check by VIN, not by model: a recall may not cover every truck of a model year. Use **carcheckervin.com/recall-check**, **/chevrolet-recall-check** or **/gmc-recall-check**.

NICB VINCheck

Free, five searches per 24 hours per IP address. Participating insurers write 92.49% of U.S. earned premium. NICB itself says VINCheck is not a full vehicle history report.

Title records and NMVTIS

The National Motor Vehicle Title Information System is run by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, which lists approved data providers at vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov. DOJ notes consumers can't get NMVTIS reports from Carfax, DMVDesk or Experian, whose NMVTIS access is for dealers.

Odometer readings

NHTSA estimates more than 450,000 vehicles are sold each year with false odometer readings. Federal odometer law (49 U.S.C. Chapter 327) gives a buyer three times actual damages or $10,000, whichever is greater, plus attorney's fees, when intent to defraud is proven.

CHEVY VIN LOOKUP

Decode free, preview free, then decide

Enter the VIN at **carcheckervin.com/chevy-vin-lookup** for the decoded specs and a free preview. The full report ($14.99, from $9 in packs) adds NMVTIS title records, title brands (salvage, junk, rebuilt, flood, lemon buyback), odometer readings, owner count, liens and impounds, total-loss records, auction sales with photos, service records, recalls and market value, ready in under a minute.

CHAPTER 13

CARFAX CHEVY VS CARCHECKERVIN

"**Carfax Chevy**" usually means you want a Carfax report on a Chevrolet or GMC, or want to know whether you need one. Carfax treats a Silverado like any other VIN; the question is what you're paying for.

CARFAX · CHEVROLET & GMC

What Carfax offers on a Chevy

A VIN-keyed history report, widely quoted at **$44.99**, strongest on service records. Many dealers include a free Carfax on listings (the dealer pays). AAA Premier members get one free a year by phone; Classic and Plus members get a discount that varies by club. Carfax also searches by plate. Founded in 1984 in Virginia, it's part of Mobility Global.

CARFAX BUYBACK GUARANTEE

Read the fine print

Pays when a report missed a DMV-issued title brand. It doesn't cover accidents, has deadlines, and caps the payout.

Carfax vs CarCheckerVIN vs free tools

	Carfax	CarCheckerVIN	Free tools
Price	Widely quoted at $44.99	$14.99; $9 each in a 10-pack	Free
Decodes GM specs	Identifies the vehicle in the report	Yes, free, with history preview	NHTSA vPIC
Title brands	Yes	Yes, plus NMVTIS title records	Partial (NICB total losses)
Best known for	Service records	Price; auction sales with photos	Recalls, theft check

A money-saving order

1. **Decode every truck free;** drop any that don't match the ad.
2. **Run the free checks:** NHTSA recalls and NICB VINCheck.
3. **Buy $14.99 reports** on your top picks. A 3-pack ($35.99) costs less than one Carfax; a 5-pack ($54.99), less than two.
4. **Ask the dealer for its free Carfax,** then get an inspection.

Model guides

See **the Silverado** and **Tahoe** Carfax alternatives, **the Carfax VIN decoder**, **Carfax VIN check**, **how much is a Carfax report** and **how to get a free Carfax report**.

CARFAX ALTERNATIVE

Compare at **/alternatives-to-carfax** and **/cheap-carfax**. Refer a friend, get a free report: **/refer**.

CHAPTER 14

SPOT A MISMATCHED CHEVY OR GMC

GM trucks wear a lot of badges: 4×4, Duramax, High Country, ZR2, Denali, AT4. Badges unbolt; the VIN doesn't. Compare the two and a decoder becomes a fraud check.

Six badge-versus-VIN checks

1. **4x4 badge → position 5.** On a 2025 Silverado expect K (A is 4×2); on a 2025 Sierra expect U (H is 2WD). Older trucks: decode and read the drive type.
2. **Diesel badge → position 8.** A 2025 Silverado or Sierra 1500 diesel should show 8 (LZ0); a 2025 HD diesel, Y (L5P).
3. **Trim badge → position 6.** On a 2025 Silverado 1500 4×4, J is High Country and H is ZR2; on a 2025 Sierra 1500 4WD, G is Denali and E is AT4.
4. **"Heavy duty" claims → position 4.** On 2025 trucks, HD models use the Class H and Class 3 codes (0–5) and 1500s use letters (N, P, R, U, V).
5. **Every VIN agrees.** Dashboard plate, certification label, QR-code scan (2018 on), title and registration must all match, character for character.
6. **The check digit passes.** A VIN copied straight from the vehicle that fails the check digit is a serious red flag on a North American GM.

What a decoder can't catch

Cloning: a stolen truck wearing a real VIN copied from a legal twin decodes perfectly. **Title washing and rollbacks** leave the VIN untouched. Only history records, hidden VIN locations and an inspection expose them.

The five-second fix list

Count to 17. Replace O with 0 and I with 1 (neither letter is allowed). Read the VIN from the truck, not the ad. Decode with a second tool if the first one balks.

Decoder error messages, captured from our batch

Code	vPIC message	What happened and what to do
0	"VIN decoded clean. Check Digit (9th position) is correct"	48 of our 50 test VINs (47 appear in this guide). All good.
8	"No detailed data available currently"	A 2020 Corvette VIN with a 2015-style series letter. The make and year decoded; nothing else. Recheck positions 4–8.
4, 14	"VIN corrected, error in one position only... multiple matches found" and "Unable to provide information for some of the characters... based on the manufacturer submission"	A 2018 GMC Canyon VIN with an engine character that isn't among the codes vPIC holds for that model and year. vPIC marked position 8 with "!" and listed the valid options: 1, A, B, C, G, H, J, L, N, P, R and Y.

One clean decode, a 2018 Colorado, returned an engine name we couldn't confirm, so we left it out of the examples.

CHAPTER 15

CLASSIC GM VINS & BULK DECODING

Two kinds of reader outgrow a standard decoder: owners of pre-1981 Chevrolets and GMCs, whose serials predate the 17-character VIN, and dealers or fleets who decode dozens of trucks at a time.

Classic Chevy & GM serials

The 17-character VIN became mandatory with the 1981 model year under 49 CFR Part 565. Earlier Chevrolet and GMC serial numbers are shorter and follow GM's own year-specific formats, so a modern decoder can't read them and a chart for one year can mislead you on another.

1. Record every number on the vehicle: the serial plate, body or trim tag, and engine and transmission stampings.
2. Use a decoding reference for that exact division and year: factory literature or a marque club.
3. Cross-check: serial, tags and drivetrain stampings should tell one consistent story.
4. For a valuable car, get documentation or an expert inspection before you pay a premium.

Start at **carcheckervin.com/classic-chevy-vin-decoder**, **/classic-gm-vin-decoder** or, for pickups, **/classic-truck-vin-decoder**.

Clones and tributes

Valuable classics get copied: a base car dressed as a rarer version. Tags can be reproduced. If the serial, tags and drivetrain don't agree, or the paperwork is missing, price the car as what it can prove it is.

Decode GM VINs in bulk

NHTSA's free vPIC API decodes the same GM data as its website. Its batch method, `DecodeVINValuesBatch`, takes up to **50 VINs per request**; every example in this guide came from one such call. NHTSA's notes:

- Send the model year with each VIN when you can; NHTSA recommends it.
- Partial VINs work: use "*" for unknown characters. The 9th digit isn't required.
- Results come as JSON, XML or CSV.
- Traffic is under automated rate control; for heavy use, download NHTSA's standalone vPIC databases.

What one decode record looks like

```
VIN: "1GCUKDED1SZ104381"
ModelYear: "2025"  Make: "CHEVROLET"
Model: "Silverado"  Series: "1500"  Trim: "LT"
DriveType: "4WD/4-Wheel Drive/4x4"
EngineModel: "L84"  DisplacementL: "5.3"
GVWR: "Class 2F: 7,001 - 8,000 lb"
PlantCity: "FORT WAYNE"  PlantState: "INDIANA"
ErrorCode: "0"
```

Excerpt of our batch response. Each record has 154 fields; this one filled 55. GVWR text shortened.

FOR DEALERS & FLEETS

Paste or drop a list of VINs on the **carcheckervin.com** homepage to decode and preview several trucks at once. For inventory volumes: wholesale report pricing, bulk API access and white-label reports at **carcheckervin.com/dealers**.

REFERENCE

CHEVY & GM VIN DECODER GLOSSARY

Book
GM's engineering "book" letter for a vehicle line. On cars it's usually VIN position 4 (Malibu: Z).

Certification label
The label on the driver-side B-pillar of GM models (driver's door on a Corvette). From model year 2018 it carries a QR code with RPO codes.

Chassis code
Position 5 on GM trucks and SUVs: shows 2WD or 4WD where both exist (2025 Silverado A/K, Sierra H/U).

Check digit
Position 9, calculated from the other 16 characters; X stands for a remainder of 10.

Duramax
GM's name in its VIN standard for the L5P 6.6 L turbo-diesel V8 (VIN code Y on 2025 HD trucks).

Engine RPO
The three-character code for an engine, such as L84, L87 or LZ0. GM prints it beside each position-8 code.

GVWR class
Gross vehicle weight rating band, such as Class 2F (7,001–8,000 lb). Coded in position 4 on GM trucks.

Incomplete vehicle
A vehicle that needs further manufacturing, such as a body, before it's complete. GM gives these their own third character (B for Chevrolet, D for GMC).

Investigate Vehicle History
The GM screen TechLink says lists more RPO codes than the certification-label QR code.

MID
NHTSA's Manufacturer Information Database, where GM's VIN standard is published.

Model year
Position 10. S = 2025, T = 2026. Not the build date.

MPV
Multipurpose passenger vehicle: how vPIC classifies SUVs and crossovers such as the Tahoe and Equinox.

Low Cab Forward
Chevrolet's medium-duty truck line in GM's standard, coded under the JAL and 54D WMIs.

Plant code
Position 11. GM lists plant codes by the region in position 1, so the same character can mean two plants.

POMS
GM's Production Order Management System; its VIN standard says the check digit is calculated by POMS.

Restraint code
Position 7: a letter tied to a three-character restraint description such as AY0 or AYF.

RPO code
GM's three-character Regular Production Option code for an option, engine, trim or component.

Sequence number
Positions 12–17: the number assigned in production. Illustrative in this guide's examples.

Series
The trim level: position 5 on GM cars, position 6 on GM trucks and SUVs.

SPID label
Service Parts Identification label, often in the trunk or glovebox of pre-2018 GM vehicles, listing the VIN and RPO codes.

VDS
Vehicle Descriptor Section: positions 4–8 plus the check digit.

VIS
Vehicle Identifier Section: positions 10–17.

vPIC
NHTSA's Product Information Catalog and Vehicle Listing: the decoding database, website and free API.

WMI
World Manufacturer Identifier, positions 1–3, assigned to GM by SAE (1GC, 1GT, 1G1…).

Window sticker
The Monroney label required on new cars by the Automobile Information Disclosure Act of 1958.

QR code
The square barcode on 2018-and-later GM certification labels: VIN, build data, up to 48 RPO codes and paint code.

ANSWERS

CHEVY VIN DECODER FAQ

Is a Chevy VIN decoder free?

Yes. CarCheckerVIN and NHTSA's vPIC both decode Chevrolet and GMC VINs free from GM's own filed data. Only history reports cost money.

How do I decode a Chevy VIN?

Enter all 17 characters at carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/chevrolet, or read it by hand: 1–3 maker and type, 4–8 vehicle details, 9 check digit, 10 year, 11 plant, 12–17 sequence.

What do 1G1, 1GC and 1GN mean?

A U.S.-built Chevrolet car, truck and MPV (SUV) respectively. U.S.-built GMC trucks start 1GT; our Yukons start 1GK.

Why does my Chevy VIN start with 2G or 3G?

Its VIN is coded to Canada (2) or Mexico (3), such as a Silverado from Oshawa (2GC) or Silao (3GC).

How can I tell a 4x4 Silverado from the VIN?

Position 5. On 2025 Silverados K is 4×4 and A is 4×2; on 2025 Sierras U is 4WD and H is 2WD. For other years, decode and read the drive type.

Which digit is the engine on a Chevy VIN?

The 8th. GM pairs each code with an engine RPO: on a 2025 Silverado D is the L84 5.3 L V8 and L the L87 6.2 L V8.

How do I find the year from a Chevy VIN?

Read the 10th character with the chart on page 11. S is 2025; T is 2026.

Is a GMC VIN decoder different?

No. GMC uses the same GM tables; the brand character (T instead of C), drive letters and series codes differ.

Can I see RPO codes by VIN?

Not from the 17 characters. Scan the certification-label QR code (2018 on), read the SPID label (earlier), or ask a GM dealer.

Where is the SPID label on a Chevy?

Often in the trunk or glovebox on pre-2018 GM vehicles. From model year 2018 much of the same data is in the QR code on the driver-side B-pillar label.

Can I get a GM build sheet by VIN?

Piece it together: the decode, the RPO list on the vehicle, the window sticker and GM's dealer record. Start at carcheckervin.com/gm-build-sheet.

How do I decode a Corvette VIN?

Corvettes start 1G1Y; position 5 is the series, 8 the engine (LT2 = 4 on our 2020 cars), and plant 5 is Bowling Green, Kentucky.

How do I decode a Camaro VIN?

Look at position 8: our SS Camaros decoded with V8 codes (J, 7), the LT models with V or X. Our 2010 cars start 2G1 (Oshawa), our 2017–2019 cars 1G1 (Lansing).

Does a Chevy VIN decoder show the exact trim?

On recent GM trucks, yes: each series has its own code. On some older vehicles vPIC returns no trim at all.

Can I find the paint code by VIN?

Not in the VIN. The paint code is in the certification-label QR code on 2018-and-later GMs.

Does Carfax work on Chevy trucks?

Yes, like any VIN. A report is widely quoted at $44.99 and often free from dealers; CarCheckerVIN's report is $14.99.

Can I check Chevy recalls by VIN?

Yes, free at nhtsa.gov/recalls or carcheckervin.com/recall-check. Recall repairs are free at franchised dealers.

Can a Chevy VIN decoder show if a truck is stolen?

No. Run NICB's free VINCheck, which shows stolen-not-recovered records from participating insurers.

FREE CHEVY VIN DECODER

Decode any Chevy or GMC in seconds.

Year, model, trim, engine, drive and plant, free, plus a free preview of the vehicle's history. Full report $14.99.

carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/chevrolet →

Scan to decode a Chevy VIN free

Sources

- General Motors LLC, 2025 Vehicle Identification Numbering Standard (May 9, 2024), NHTSA Manufacturer Information Database (vpic.nhtsa.dot.gov/mid)
- NHTSA vPIC VIN decoder and API (vpic.nhtsa.dot.gov); 50 VINs batch-decoded Nov 2026
- 49 CFR Part 565, Vehicle Identification Number requirements
- GM TechLink, "SPID Label Content Now Included with Certification Label," Mid-May 2017
- GM TechLink, "QR Code on Certification Label Offers More RPO Codes," 2018 (gm-techlink.com)
- Automobile Information Disclosure Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. § 1231 et seq.)
- NHTSA recalls (nhtsa.gov/recalls); NICB VINCheck (nicb.org/vincheck)
- U.S. DOJ / BJA, NMVTIS (vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov); 49 U.S.C. Chapter 327
- Carfax price: independent pricing listings, 2026
- CarCheckerVIN prices: carcheckervin.com/pricing, Nov 2026

How we made this guide: written by CarCheckerVIN with AI assistance, from the public sources listed above; figures, prices and links checked November 2026.

More free tools at carcheckervin.com

Chevy VIN lookup
GMC VIN decoder
GM VIN decoder
GM build sheet
Corvette VIN lookup
Camaro VIN lookup
Recall check
VIN decoder (all makes)
Vehicle history report

General information, not legal advice. Decoded data is manufacturer-reported; GM codes change by model and year, and record coverage varies by vehicle. Chevrolet, GMC, Corvette, Camaro and Silverado are trademarks of General Motors; Carfax is a trademark of Carfax, Inc.; other names are trademarks of their owners. CarCheckerVIN is independent and not affiliated with them. © 2026 CarCheckerVIN

CarCheckerVIN