FORD VIN DECODER

The complete **Ford VIN decoder** guide: read every character of a Ford or Lincoln VIN, find the **engine code** and **plant code**, decode an F-150, Super Duty or Mustang, get the build sheet and window sticker, and run a **Ford VIN check** before you buy.

Free	43	16
Ford VIN decoder at carcheckervin.com	Ford & Lincoln VINs decoded with NHTSA data	plant codes from Ford's own 2026 VIN filing

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ABOUT THIS FORD VIN DECODER GUIDE

A **Ford VIN decoder** reads the 17 characters on every Ford and Lincoln built since the 1981 model year and turns them into facts: the factory, the model year, the cab and drive, the engine, the weight class and the airbags. This guide shows you how to decode a Ford VIN by hand, position by position, and how to get more out of a free **Ford VIN lookup**.

It is published by **CarCheckerVIN (carcheckervin.com)**, which runs a free VIN decoder and sells vehicle history reports. Every Ford code in these pages comes from Ford's own VIN-decoding filings in NHTSA's Manufacturer Information Database: the model-year 2026 and 2018 VIN guides Ford filed (both compiled November 24, 2025) and its 2025 filing of November 20, 2023. The 43 example VINs were decoded in one batch with NHTSA's vPIC decoder in November 2026. Their check digits are valid; their serial numbers are illustrative.

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FREE FORD VIN DECODER

Decode a Ford VIN while you read

Paste any 17-character Ford or Lincoln VIN into **carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/ford** to see the year, model, trim, engine, drive type and assembly plant, plus a free preview of the vehicle's history records. No card, no sign-up. A full vehicle history report is $14.99.

How to use this guide

Buying a used Ford

Read Chapters 1, 12b, 14 and 15, then decode every truck or car on your list before you pay for a report.

Owner or mechanic

Chapters 4, 6, 7 and 13 cover engine codes, plant codes, the F-150 and the build sheet for ordering the right parts.

Truck or van buyer

Chapters 3b, 8 and 10 cover GVWR classes, Super Duty, Transit, Ranger, Maverick and Ford SUVs.

BUYER'S SHORTCUT

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

Decoding a Ford VIN is free. Learning what happened to that Ford since it left the plant is not. Here is where to do each.

OUR PICK

CarCheckerVIN · www.carcheckervin.com

- **Free Ford VIN decoder:** year, model, trim, engine, drive, plant
- **Free history preview** for the same VIN, 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, owners and NMVTIS title records
- Liens, impounds, insurance 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 Ford VIN free at carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/ford →

Every way to decode or check a Ford VIN, compared

Where	Cost	Best for
CarCheckerVIN Ford VIN decoder	Free; report $14.99	Ford specs plus a free preview of damage, auction and recall counts
NHTSA vPIC decoder	Free	Ford's own reported codes, plant and a check-digit verdict
NHTSA Manufacturer Information Database	Free	Ford's actual VIN key for each model year, as PDF sheets, for code-by-code checks
Marti Report (Marti Auto Works)	Paid	Ford production records; Marti says it is the only licensee for the 1967–2020 model years
Carfax	Report widely quoted at $44.99	Service history; often free on dealer listings
NICB VINCheck	Free, 5 searches per 24 hours	Stolen-not-recovered and insurer total-loss records

How to choose

- ☐ **Ordering parts?** A free decode is enough: note the engine code (position 8) and year (position 10).
- ☐ **Proving options?** You need a build record or window sticker (Chapter 13), not a decoder.
- ☐ **Buying?** Decode, run the free checks, then buy a report at **carcheckervin.com/vehicle-history-report**.
- ☐ **Several trucks?** Buy reports for the shortlist only; a 3-pack ($35.99) costs less than one Carfax. Dealers: **carcheckervin.com/dealers**.

CHAPTER 1

WHAT A FORD VIN DECODER READS

A **Ford VIN decoder** answers one question precisely: *what is this Ford, exactly as it left the plant?* It reads the code Ford itself filed with the federal government.

Ford VIN decoder, Ford VIN lookup or Ford VIN check?

Term	What it does	Example output
Ford VIN decoder	Translates the 17 characters with Ford's own coding	2026 F-150 XLT SuperCrew 4×4, 3.5L GTDI V6, built in Dearborn
Ford VIN lookup	Decodes the VIN and searches records tied to it	Specs plus recall, title and history summary
Ford VIN check	Looks for problems on record	Salvage brand, total loss, odometer issue, open recall
Vehicle history report	A dated timeline of the records	Titles, owners, mileage, liens, auctions, service

Where Ford's codes come from

The federal VIN rule, 49 CFR 565.16(c), makes every manufacturer send NHTSA "the information necessary to decipher" its VINs, at least 60 days before the first vehicle with that coding is offered for sale, and send amendments whenever the coding changes. NHTSA posts those filings in its Manufacturer Information Database and loads them into vPIC, the database behind its free VIN decoder.

Ford files each model year as a bundle of one-page "attachments": a World Manufacturer Identifier list, a restraints-and-brakes table, the check digit and model year, an assembly plant and serialization page, one generic format for cars and one for trucks, buses and MPVs, and then a sheet for every vehicle line. A new engine, trim or plant means a new sheet. NHTSA's database lists **50 Part 565 filings from Ford Motor Company** dated January 2023 through November 2026.

Why this matters: Ford's codes change from year to year, so a decoder has to match the VIN against the sheet for *its* model year. Old printed "Ford VIN charts" are where hand decodes go wrong (Chapter 4).

Where to find the VIN on a Ford or Lincoln



Dashboard
Read it through the windshield at the lower corner on the driver's side.



Driver's door jamb
The certification label (49 CFR 567.4) shows the VIN, build month and year, and GVWR.



Title & registration
Also on the insurance card. All of them must match the vehicle character for character.

Decode from the vehicle, not the ad. All locations: **carcheckervin.com/where-is-the-vin-number-on-a-car**.

CHAPTER 2

A FORD VIN, POSITION BY POSITION

Here is a 2026 Ford F-150 VIN decoded with Ford's own model-year 2026 sheets and confirmed by NHTSA's vPIC decoder: an XLT SuperCrew with four-wheel drive and the 3.5-liter GTDI V6, built in Dearborn, Michigan.



Position	Value	Ford's label for it	What Ford's 2026 sheets say it means
1–3	1FT	World Manufacturer Identifier	Ford Motor Company, USA; Truck – Completed Vehicle
4	F	Brake system / GVWR / restraint system	Hydraulic brakes, GVWR Class F (7,001–8,000 lb), front airbags plus side airbags in rows 1 and 2
5–7	W3L	Line, series, chassis, cab or body	Ford F-Series, F150 XLT, 4×4, SuperCrew
8	8	Engine type	3.5L GTDI V-6, gasoline, built by Ford
9	8	Check digit	Valid: vPIC returns “VIN decoded clean”
10	T	Vehicle model year	2026
11	F	Plant of manufacture	Dearborn: Dearborn, Michigan
12–17	A12345	Sequential vehicle identifier	The F-150 sheet assigns A00001–H99999; this serial is illustrative

What NHTSA’s decoder returned for the same VIN

2026 Ford F-150, trim XLT, body class Pickup, cab type Crew/SuperCrew, drive 4WD, 3.5 L six-cylinder V-shaped gasoline engine, engine model “GTDI”, turbo “Yes”, GVWR Class 2F (7,001–8,000 lb), plant Dearborn, Michigan. Ford's sheet and vPIC agree on every point.

Ford’s VIN in four sections

Positions 1–3 (WMI) name the Ford company and the vehicle type. **Positions 4–8** describe it: on a Ford truck that is the brake, weight and airbag code, a three-character line-series-cab code, and the engine code. **Position 9** is the check digit.

Position 10 is the model year and **position 11** the assembly plant. **Positions 12–17** are Ford's production sequence: six digits on cars, a letter plus five digits on most trucks and SUVs. Try your own Ford at carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/ford.

CHAPTER 2 CONT.

POSITIONS 1–3: FORD WMI CODES

The World Manufacturer Identifier names the Ford company behind the VIN and the type of vehicle. Here is every WMI on Ford's model-year 2026 and 2018 lists, exactly as Ford filed them.

WMI	Manufacturer, as Ford lists it	Vehicle type	Where you'll see it
1FA	Ford Motor Company, USA	Passenger car	Mustang, Focus, Taurus
2FA	Ford Motor Company, Canada, Ltd.	Passenger car	2026 Mustang GTD
3FA	Ford Motor Company, Mexico	Passenger car	Fusion, Fiesta (2018 list)
1LN	Ford Motor Company, USA	Lincoln passenger car	Continental, Town Car
3LN	Ford Motor Company, Mexico	Lincoln passenger car	MKZ (2018 list)
1FM	Ford Motor Company, USA	Multipurpose passenger vehicle	Explorer, Escape, Bronco, Expedition
2FM	Ford Motor Company of Canada, Ltd.	Multipurpose passenger vehicle	Edge
3FM	Ford Motor Company, Mexico	Multipurpose passenger vehicle	Bronco Sport, Mustang Mach-E
5LM	Ford Motor Company, USA	Lincoln MPV	Navigator, Aviator, Corsair, Nautilus
2LM	Ford Motor Company of Canada, Ltd.	Lincoln MPV	2018 and 2026 lists
1FT	Ford Motor Company, USA	Truck, completed vehicle	F-150, Super Duty, Ranger, Transit
3FT	Ford Motor Company, Mexico	Truck, completed vehicle	Maverick
1FB	Ford Motor Company, USA	Bus	Transit (some versions)
1FD	Ford Motor Company, USA	Incomplete vehicle	Super Duty chassis cabs, F-650/F-750
1FC	Ford Motor Company, USA	Basic (stripped) chassis	Econoline
1F6	Detroit Chassis LLC, USA	Basic (stripped) chassis	Motorhome and commercial chassis
5LD	Ford Motor Company, USA	Incomplete vehicle (limousine)	2018 and 2026 lists
2L1, 2LJ	Ford Motor Company of Canada, Ltd.	Incomplete limousine, hearse	2018 list
WF0, MAJ, NM0	Ford in Germany, India, Europe	Car, MPV, truck	WF0 and MAJ on the 2018 list; NM0 on both

Source: the “World Manufacturer Identifier” attachments in Ford's model-year 2026 and 2018 Part 565 filings. Ford's 2026 Transit sheet lists four WMIs for the van family: 1FB, 1FD, 1FM and 1FT. In the U.S., SAE International coordinates WMI assignments for NHTSA (49 CFR 565.16(a)).

Read the third character for the type

On Ford-brand WMIs the third character carries the vehicle type: 1FA car, 1FM MPV (SUVs and most vans), 1FT completed truck, 1FD incomplete vehicle such as a chassis cab, 1FC stripped chassis and 1FB bus. Lincoln WMIs swap the F for an L: 1LN and 3LN for cars, 5LM and 2LM for SUVs.

The first character isn’t always the build country

The 2026 Lincoln Nautilus carries 5LM, “Ford Motor Company, USA”, yet Ford's sheet and our vPIC decode place it at the **Hangzhou, China** plant. And a 2012 Mustang from Flat Rock decoded under 1ZV, which vPIC lists as Auto Alliance International, USA, while a 2015 Mustang from the same plant decodes under 1FA.

CHAPTER 3

POSITIONS 4–8: FORD CARS VS FORD TRUCKS

Characters 4 through 8 are where a Ford car and a Ford truck part ways. Ford files one generic format for passenger cars and one for trucks, buses and MPVs.

Ford's two generic formats

Position	Ford passenger car (Mustang, Fusion, Focus)	Ford truck, bus or MPV (F-150, Explorer, Transit)
4	Restraint system category	Brake system / GVWR / restraint system
5–7	Make, car line, series, body type	Make, line, series, chassis type, cab or body type, vehicle type
8	Engine type: displacement, cylinders, fuel, manufacturer	Engine type: displacement, cylinders, fuel, manufacturer
12–17	Numerical sequence (six digits)	Alphanumeric sequence (usually a letter and five digits)

Car: 2026 Mustang GT

1FA **6** **P8C** **F** 7T5123456

6 = restraint category (front, side and knee airbags) · **P8C** = Mustang GT coupe · **F** = 5.0L TIVCT V-8

Truck: 2026 F-150 XLT

1FT **F** **W3L** **8** 8TFA12345

F = hydraulic brakes, Class F GVWR, airbags · **W3L** = XLT 4×4 SuperCrew · **8** = 3.5L GTDI V-6

Patterns inside positions 5–7 (Ford's 2026 sheets)

Line	How the three characters are built	Examples from the sheet
F-150	Cab letter (F Regular, W SuperCrew, X SuperCab) + series digit + drive letter (mostly K 4×2, L 4×4)	F1K XL 4×2 Regular Cab; W3L XLT 4×4 SuperCrew; X2L STX 4×4 SuperCab
Super Duty	Cab letter + model digit (2 = F-250 … 6 = F-600) + chassis letter	W2B F-250 4×4 Crew Cab SRW; F3D F-350 4×4 Regular Cab DRW
Mustang	P8 + series and body letter	P8C GT coupe; P8F GT convertible; P8R Dark Horse coupe
Explorer	K7 (RWD) or K8 (4WD) + series letter	K8K ST-Line 4WD; K7H Platinum RWD
Bronco	E + series digit + body letter (A two-door, B most four-doors)	E9A Badlands 2-door; E9B Badlands 4-door; E0R Raptor

Escape (U0 4×2, U9 4×4) and Expedition (U1 standard, K1 MAX) follow the same idea; see Chapter 10.

Patterns are not a substitute for the sheet. The 2018 F-150 sheet used W1E for every 4×4 SuperCrew except the Raptor and Police; the 2026 sheet splits the same truck into W1L, W3L, W5L and more by series. Always decode against the model year.

POSITION 4: BRAKES, GVWR & AIRBAGS

On a Ford truck, SUV or van, the fourth character packs three facts into one: the brake system (hydraulic or air), the gross vehicle weight rating class, and the airbag layout. On a Ford car it is the airbag layout alone.

GVWR classes

Class	GVWR range	Class	GVWR range
A	3,000 lb or less	H	9,001–10,000 lb
B	3,001–4,000 lb	3	10,001–14,000 lb
C	4,001–5,000 lb	4	14,001–16,000 lb
D	5,001–6,000 lb	5	16,001–19,500 lb
E	6,001–7,000 lb	6	19,501–26,000 lb
F	7,001–8,000 lb	7	26,001–33,000 lb
G	8,001–9,000 lb	8	33,001 lb and over

Classes from 49 CFR 565.15, Table II. Ford's own table splits Class G into 8,001–8,500 lb and 8,501–9,000 lb, and lists air brakes only for Classes 6, 7 and 8.

F-150 position 4, 2026

Code	GVWR	Airbags
M	E: 6,001–7,000 lb	Front + side, row 1
N	F: 7,001–8,000 lb	Front + side, row 1
E	E: 6,001–7,000 lb	Front + side, rows 1–2
F	F: 7,001–8,000 lb	Front + side, rows 1–2
V	G: 8,001–8,500 lb	Front + side, rows 1–2
6	G: 8,501–9,000 lb	Front + side, rows 1–2

All six codes are hydraulic brakes with manual belts. The 2018 F-150 sheet used the first four.

Super Duty F-250 / F-350, 2026

B Class H (9,001–10,000 lb) and R Class 3 (10,001–14,000 lb) have front airbags and row-1 side airbags. 7 (Class H) and 8 (Class 3) add row-2 side airbags. Our 2026 F-250 Crew Cab decode, 1FT**7**W2BT…, came back from vPIC as GVWR Class 2H, 9,001–10,000 lb.

F-650 / F-750, 2026

Hydraulic brakes: N Class 6, P Class 7. Air brakes: W Class 6, X Class 7, Y Class 8. All five are restraint category 1: manual belts without airbags. A W, X or Y in position 4 tells you to expect an air-brake truck.

Why both formats exist: 49 CFR 565.15 makes trucks encode the chassis, cab type, brake system and GVWR, and MPVs the GVWR, while cars must encode body type and every restraint device; restraints are required for trucks and MPVs only up to 10,000 lb GVWR. The same rule makes position 7 a letter on cars and on trucks and MPVs up to 10,000 lb, which is how decoders tell 2010–2039 from 1980–2009.

On Ford cars: the restraint category

Ford's restraints table numbers airbag layouts from **1** (manual belts without air bags) to **19** (no restraints). Category 3 is belts with driver and passenger front airbags; 5 adds side airbags in rows 1 and 2; 6 adds side airbags in every row. Each car line's sheet then says which letter or digit it uses. On the 2026 Mustang, 6 means front airbags, side airbags in rows 1 and 2, and driver and passenger knee airbags; G is the same without the row-2 side airbags.

WHY IT MATTERS

The GVWR class decides towing limits, some registration fees and commercial rules, so check that position 4 agrees with the GVWR printed on the door-jamb label. vPIC reports it in its own format, such as “Class 2F: 7,001–8,000 lb” for a code Ford's sheet lists as Class F. The **GVWR by VIN** tool reads it for you.

CHAPTER 4

FORD ENGINE CODE BY VIN (POSITION 8)

On Ford's sheets, the 8th character is the engine code: displacement, cylinders, fuel and engine maker in one character. It is the most useful character for parts, and the easiest to misread.

F-150 engine codes: 2018 vs 2026

Code	2018 F-150 sheet (net hp as filed)	2026 F-150 sheet
P	2.7L-4V V-6 gasoline (325)	2.7L-4V V-6 gasoline
B	3.3L TIVCT V-6 gasoline (290)	–
G	3.5L GTDI V-6 gasoline (375; 450 on Raptor)	3.5L GTDI **High Output** V-6 gasoline
8	–	3.5L GTDI V-6 gasoline
D	–	3.5L HEV V-6 hybrid
5	5.0L-4V V-8 gasoline (395)	5.0L-4V V-8 gasoline
J	–	5.2L V-8 gasoline
1	3.0L-4V V-6 diesel	–
U, 7, M	–	Dual electric motors; the three codes differ by battery and charger

Super Duty F-250 / F-350

Code	2018 sheet	2026 sheet
6	6.2L V-8 gas (383)	–
A	–	6.8L V-8 gas
N	–	7.3L V-8 gas
T	6.7L V-8 diesel (440)	6.7L V-8 diesel
M	–	6.7L HO V-8 diesel

Mustang

Code	2018 sheet	2026 sheet
F	5.0L 4V V-8 (435)	5.0L TIVCT V-8
H	2.3L 4V I-4 (310)	2.3L 4V I-4
Z	5.2L TIVCT V-8 (526)	–
0	–	5.0L 4V V-8
J	–	5.2L OHC SC V-8

Same letter, different engine

On a 2018 F-150, G meant any 3.5L GTDI V6. On a 2026 F-150 it means only the High Output version; the standard 3.5L GTDI moved to 8. Yet on the 2018 Explorer and Edge sheets, 8 is a 3.5-liter V6 the sheets don't list as GTDI. Our decodes show the F-150's 3.5-liter V6 as T in 2013 (vPIC: 365 hp) and 8 in 2021 (vPIC: GTDI, 375 hp).

GTDI or EcoBoost?
Ford's sheets use both names: the 2026 Bronco Sport sheet lists its 2.0-liter as “GTDI”, the Maverick sheet calls a 2.0-liter “Ecoboost”.

FORD ENGINE CODE BY VIN

Decode the VIN, read position 8 *with* position 10, and confirm against the emissions label under the hood before ordering engine parts. Free at **carcheckervin.com/vin-lookup/engine**.

ENGINE CODES: SUVS, VANS, EVS & LINCOLN

Every Ford line has its own position-8 list. Here are the 2026 codes, and 2018 codes for common used Fords.

2026 engine codes by line

Line (2026)	Position 8 codes, as Ford filed them
Bronco / Ranger	H 2.3L EcoBoost I4 · P 2.7L EcoBoost V6 · R 3.0L EcoBoost V6
Bronco Sport	N 1.5L Dragon I3 · A 2.0L GTDI I4
Maverick	3 2.5L hybrid I4 · A 2.0L EcoBoost I4
Escape	N 1.5 Dragon GTDI · A 2.0L GTDI · Z 2.5L hybrid (HEV) · 1 2.5L plug-in hybrid (PHEV)
Explorer	H 2.3L TIVCT I-4 · B 3.3L Ti-VCT V-6 · W 3.3L Ti-VCT hybrid · C 3.0L GTDI V-6
Expedition	8 3.5L GTDI standard V6 · G 3.5L GTDI high V6 (both FFV/gasoline)
Transit	8 3.5L Cyclone V6 · G 3.5L EcoBoost V6 · M electric, 89 kWh · S electric, 91 kWh
Mustang Mach-E	7, U, X extended-range battery (NCM) with one or two drive units · 4, 5 standard-range battery (LFP)
F-650 / F-750	C, E, X 6.7L diesel V-8 (standard, medium, high) · N 7.3L V-8 gas/gaseous prep
Econoline, motorhome chassis	N 7.3L V-8 gasoline
Lincoln Navigator	G 3.5L GTDI high V6 · U 3.5L GTDI, listed as the China version
Lincoln Aviator	C 3.0L GTDI V-6
Lincoln Corsair	A 2.0L GTDI · Z 2.5L plug-in hybrid
Lincoln Nautilus	A 2.0L GTDI I4 · 4 2.0L GTDI hybrid (FHEV)

2018 engine codes for common used Fords

Line (2018)	Position 8 codes, as Ford filed them
Explorer	8 3.5L Ti-VCT V-6 · H 2.3L TIVCT I-4 · R 3.7 Ti-VCT V-6 · T 3.5 GTDI V-6
Escape	7 2.5L I-VCT I-4 · 9 2.0L I-4 · D 1.5L GTDI I-4
Edge	P 2.7L GTDI V-6 · 8 3.5L V-6 · 9 2.0L GTDI I-4
Fusion	7 2.5L I4 · D 1.5L I4 · P 2.7L V6 · U 2.0L hybrid · 9 2.0L GTDI I4
Focus	2 2.0L GDI I-4 · 4 electric · 9 2.0L GTDI I-4 · E 1.0L GTDI I-3

A pattern worth knowing

In 2018, 9 was a 2.0-liter four on six lines (Escape, Edge, Fusion, Focus, Continental, MKZ). In 2026 the 2.0-liter is A on five.

Electric Fords: battery and motor codes

On the Mach-E, the electric Transit and the electric F-150, position 8 describes the battery or motors instead. For our Mach-E, vPIC returned “BEV” with no displacement: correct, not an error.

CHAPTER 5

POSITION 9: THE CHECK DIGIT ON A FORD VIN

Every Ford sheet points position 9 back to the federal formula. A decoder recalculates it first: if the math fails, the VIN was mistyped or isn't genuine. Here it is on our 2026 Mustang GT example, `1FA6P8CF7T5123456`.

Letter values (49 CFR 565.15, Table III)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	7	9	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Digits keep their own value. I, O and Q never appear in a VIN, so they have no value.

Value × weight, position by position

Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
VIN	1	F	A	6	P	8	C	F	7	T	5	1	2	3	4	5	6
Value	1	6	1	6	7	8	3	6	–	3	5	1	2	3	4	5	6
Weight	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	10	0	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
Product	8	42	6	30	28	24	6	60	0	27	40	7	12	15	16	15	12

The result

Sum of the products: **348**. Divide by 11: 348 = 31 × 11 + **7**. The remainder, 7, must equal position 9, and it does: `1FA6P8CF`**7**`T5123456`. A remainder of 10 is written as **X**.

Now swap two digits

Type the last two characters the wrong way round, … 23465, and positions 16 and 17 contribute 18 + 10 instead of 15 + 12. The sum becomes 349, the remainder becomes 8, and the decoder flags the VIN. That is exactly the kind of slip the check digit exists to catch.

What a check digit can and can't prove

- **Typos:** almost any single wrong character changes the result.
- **Made-up VINs:** a random 17-character string fails about ten times in eleven.
- **Not cloning:** a VIN copied from a real Ford passes perfectly.
- **Not history:** a salvage-title truck has a valid check digit too.

Do it in a spreadsheet

Put each character's value in one row and the weights 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 10, 0, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 in the next, then use `=MOD(SUMPRODUCT(row1,row2),11)`. A result of 10 means X. Position 9 carries a weight of 0, so the check digit never counts toward itself.

AUTOMATIC

CarCheckerVIN's decoder validates the check digit before it decodes, and tells you when a Ford VIN doesn't add up so you can fix the typo: **carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/ford**. All 43 VINs in this guide pass; vPIC returned error code 0, "VIN decoded clean", for each one.

POSITION 10: THE FORD MODEL YEAR CHART

To find a Ford's year from its VIN, read the 10th character. Ford's "Check Digit & Model Year" attachment lists the codes from 2004 to 2039. The federal code list repeats every 30 years, and position 7 tells the cycles apart.

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

Never used in position 10: I, O, Q, U, Z and 0. The position-7 rule (49 CFR 565.15) covers cars, and MPVs and trucks with a GVWR of 10,000 lb or less: a digit in position 7 means 1980–2009, a letter means 2010–2039.

Four Fords from our decodes

VIN	7th	10th	Model year (vPIC)
1FAFP53U15G123456	3 (digit)	5	2005 Ford Taurus SE
1FTPW14V28FA12345	4 (digit)	8	2008 Ford F-150
1FTFW1ET9DFC10312	E (letter)	D	2013 Ford F-150
1FTFW3L88TFA12345	L (letter)	T	2026 Ford F-150 XLT

Model year vs. build date

The model year is Ford's designation, not the calendar. The door-jamb certification label must show the month and year of manufacture, defined as when work was completed at the place of main assembly (49 CFR 567.4). A 2027-model Ford can carry a 2026 build date.

Ford files years ahead

NHTSA's database shows Ford's first model-year 2027 VIN filing dated November 6, 2025, and a model-year 2028 filing already on record by October 22, 2026. New codes reach decoders as those filings are loaded.

vPIC's note on trucks: on 16 of the 17 pickups and vans we decoded, vPIC added "The Model Year decoded for this VIN may be incorrect" while still returning error code 0. The year matched position 10 every time.

CHAPTER 6

FORD PLANT CODES & SERIAL NUMBERS

The 11th character names the assembly plant in Ford's own letters. These are the **Ford plant codes** on Ford's 2026 plant attachment, with the lines each 2026 sheet assigns to them.

11th	Plant, as Ford lists it	2026 lines built there (per Ford's sheets)
B	Oakville: Oakville, Ontario	Super Duty F-250 to F-600
D	Ohio Assembly: Avon Lake, Ohio	Super Duty F-250 to F-600, F-650/F-750, Econoline
E	Kentucky Truck: Louisville, Kentucky	Super Duty, Expedition, Lincoln Navigator
F	Dearborn: Dearborn, Michigan	F-150
G	Chicago: Chicago, Illinois	Explorer, Lincoln Aviator
H	Multimatic: Ontario, Canada	Mustang GTD
J	Hangzhou: Hangzhou, China	Lincoln Nautilus
K	Kansas City: Claycomo, Missouri	F-150, Transit
L	Michigan Assembly: Wayne, Michigan	Bronco, Ranger
M	Cuautitlan: Cuautitlan, Mexico	Mustang Mach-E
N	Chicago SHO Center, Chicago, Illinois	Listed; no 2026 line sheet uses it
R	Hermosillo: Hermosillo, Mexico	Bronco Sport, Maverick
U	Louisville Assembly Plant: Louisville, Kentucky	Escape, Lincoln Corsair
W	Rouge Electric: Dearborn, Michigan	F-150 (electric drive codes on the same sheet)
0	Detroit Empowerment Zone: Detroit, Michigan*	Motorhome and commercial stripped chassis (WMI 1F6)
5	Flat Rock Assembly Plant: Flat Rock, Michigan	Mustang

* Detroit Chassis LLC and MSX International (Ford's note). Plant page dated May 21, 2025.

Codes that have come and gone

Ford's 2018 plant page also listed C Chennai, India; 1 Valencia, Spain; and 4 Saarlouis, Germany. Valencia and Saarlouis were still on the 2025 list filed in November 2023 but are gone from the 2026 list, while J Hangzhou was added. Our older decodes add Y Wixom, Michigan (2005 Town Car) and G Chicago (2005 Taurus), the letter Chicago still carries.

Positions 12–17: Ford's serial

The 2026 page assigns cars six digits, **100001–699999**, and trucks, MPVs, buses and incomplete vehicles a letter plus five digits: **A00001–J99999** for Ford division and **L00001–L99999** for Lincoln. In 2018, Lincoln cars used **600001–799999**, and the Transit Connect and EcoSport used plain digits. The 2026 Nautilus from Hangzhou uses **000001–999999**.

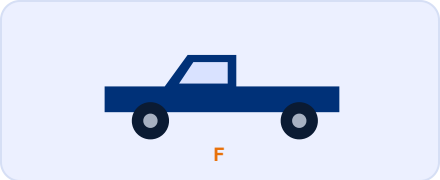
Why the plant matters

Some recalls and parts depend on the plant, and it must agree with the window sticker's final assembly point. An F-150 can be F, K or W; a Super Duty E, D or B. A truck or SUV serial starting with L marks a Lincoln division vehicle.

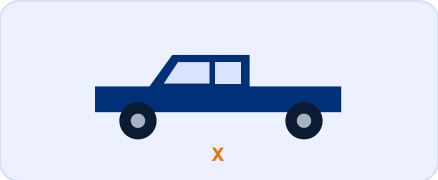
CHAPTER 7

F-150 VIN DECODER

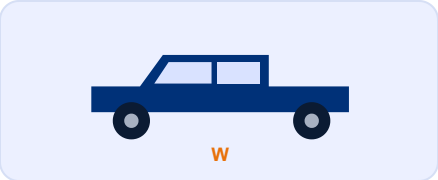
An **F150 VIN decoder** reads the cab, series, drive and engine from positions 5–8. The cab letter W appears on every SuperCrew we decoded, 2008 to 2026; the rest has changed.



F = Regular Cab
One row of seats, two doors. 2026: F1K, F1L.



X = SuperCab
Extended cab with a short rear seat. 2026: X1K to X3L.



W = SuperCrew
Four full doors. 2026: W1B to W7L, plus Raptor and Police.

F-150 positions 5–7: 2018 vs 2026

Truck	2018 sheet	2026 sheet
Regular Cab 4×2 / 4×4	F1C / F1E	F1K / F1L (XL)
SuperCab 4×2	X1C	X1K XL, X2K STX, X3K XLT
SuperCab 4×4	X1E	X1L XL, X2L STX, X3L XLT
SuperCrew 4×2	W1C	W1K XL, W2K STX, W3K XLT, W5K Lariat, W6K King Ranch, W7K Platinum
SuperCrew 4×4	W1E	W1L XL, W2L/W3J STX, W3L XLT, W4L Tremor, W5L Lariat, W6L King Ranch, W7L Platinum
Raptor	X1R / W1R	W1R (SuperCrew only)
Hybrid, PRO, Police	W1P (Police)	W1G/W1F XL Hybrid 4×2/4×4, W1B PRO 4×4, W1P Police 4×4

F-150s decoded, 2008 to 2026

VIN	Year & trim	What vPIC returned
1FTPW14V28FA12345	2008	Crew cab pickup, 4WD, 5.4 L V8 flex-fuel, SOHC; Dearborn, MI
1FTFW1ET9DFC10312	2013	Crew cab pickup, 4WD, 3.5 L V6 gasoline, 365 hp; Dearborn, MI
1FTEW1EP6JFA12345	2018	Crew cab pickup, 4WD, 2.7L-4V V6, 325 hp, GVWR Class 2E; Dearborn, MI
1FTFW1E84MFA12345	2021	Crew cab pickup, 4WD, 3.5 L GTDI V6, 375 hp, turbo; Dearborn, MI
1FTFW5L51TKB23456	2026 Lariat	SuperCrew, 4WD, 5.0 L V8 gasoline, Class 2F; Claycomo, Kansas City, MO
1FTFW1RG3TFC34567	2026 Raptor	SuperCrew, 4WD, 3.5 L GTDI V6, “High Output”; Dearborn, MI
1FTMF1KP8TKA45678	2026 XL	Regular cab, 4×2, 2.7 L V6, Class 2E, row-1 side airbags; Claycomo, MO
1FTFW1FD3TFD56789	2026 XL	SuperCrew, 4WD, 3.5 L V6, strong hybrid (HEV); Dearborn, MI

Plants: F Dearborn and K Kansas City (2018), plus W Rouge Electric (2026). Decode free at carcheckervin.com/ford-f150-vin-lookup.

CHAPTER 8

FORD TRUCK VIN DECODER: SUPER DUTY TO TRANSIT

A **Ford truck VIN decoder** reads more than a car decoder: cab, wheel setup, weight class, brakes, and whether the truck left the plant complete or as a chassis.

SUPER DUTY F-250 TO F-600

Super Duty: cab, model, then chassis

Position 5 is the cab (`F` Regular, `W` Crew, `X` SuperCab), position 6 the model (`2` F-250, `3` F-350, `4` F-450, `5` F-550, `6` F-600) and position 7 the chassis: in 2026 `A` 4×2 SRW, `B` 4×4 SRW, `C` 4×2 DRW, `D` 4×4 DRW, with `E`–`H` repeating them (marked incomplete vehicles on the 2018 sheet). `1FT` is a completed truck, `1FD` an incomplete one. Plants: `E`, `D` and (2026) `B`. Our 2020 and 2026 F-250 decodes both read `W2B` with `T`, the 6.7-liter diesel.

RANGER

Ranger: R4 plus series

The 2026 sheet uses `R4B`/`R4P` XL 4×2/4×4, `R4G`/`R4H` XLT, `R4J`/`R4K` Lariat and `R4L` Raptor, all SuperCrew, with engines `H`, `P` and `R` and plant `L` (Wayne, Michigan). A 2019 Ranger we decoded (`1FTER4FH…`) came back as a 2.3-liter 4WD crew cab from Wayne.

MAVERICK

Maverick: a Mexican-built truck under 3FT

All 2026 versions are SuperCrews coded `W8` plus a series letter: `W8A`/`W8B` XL FWD/AWD, `W8H`/`W8J` XLT, `W8S` Lariat, `W8N` Tremor, `W8P` Lobo Premium and `W8T` Lobo. Engine `3` is the 2.5L hybrid and `A` the 2.0L EcoBoost; plant `R` is Hermosillo.

TRANSIT

Transit: the code includes roof and wheelbase

Ford's 2026 Transit sheet ties each positions-5–7 code to a series, drive, body, GVWR, roof height and wheelbase. `R1X` is a Transit 250 RWD cargo van, high roof, 9,070 lb, 148-inch wheelbase; `X2Y` a 350 RWD passenger van with a low roof; `W5Z` a 350 RWD chassis cab; `R5P` a 250 RWD cutaway. Our decode of `1FTBR1X83TKA12345` returned exactly that: a 250 high-roof cargo van, RWD, GVWR 9,070 lb, 148-inch wheelbase, from Claycomo, Missouri.

MEDIUM DUTY & CHASSIS

F-650/F-750, Econoline and motorhome chassis

The F-650 and F-750 are incomplete vehicles (`1FD`) from Ohio Assembly (`D`); position 4 reveals air or hydraulic brakes. Ford's 2026 Econoline sheet lists only cutaway and stripped-chassis versions (`E3F`, `E3K`, `E4F`, `E4K`) with the 7.3L V8. Motorhome chassis carry `1F6` and plant `0`; the VIN describes the chassis, not the coach.

Look up any Ford truck at **carcheckervin.com/ford-vin-lookup**.

CHAPTER 9

FORD MUSTANG VIN DECODER

A **Ford Mustang VIN decoder** answers the question every Mustang buyer asks: is it really a GT? Positions 5–8 code the series, body and engine.

2026 Mustang (Ford's sheet)

5–7	Series & body
P8C	GT coupe
P8F	GT convertible
P8T	I4 coupe
P8U	I4 convertible
P8R	Dark Horse coupe
P8G	Performance coupe

Engines: F 5.0L TIVCT V-8, H 2.3L 4V I-4, 0 5.0L 4V V-8, J 5.2L OHC SC V-8. Plant 5, Flat Rock. Serials 100001–599999.

2018 Mustang (Ford's sheet)

5–7	Series & body
P8C	GT coupe
P8F	GT convertible
P8T	I4 coupe
P8U	I4 convertible
P8J	Shelby coupe

Engines (net hp as filed): F 5.0L 4V V-8 (435), H 2.3L 4V I-4 (310), Z 5.2L TIVCT V-8 (526). Restraint code 6 for coupes; T for convertibles and the Shelby GT350R.

Mustangs decoded

VIN	Decoded as	Notes from the vPIC decode
1ZVBP8CFXC5123456	2012 Mustang GT coupe	5.0 L V8, 412 hp; manufacturer Auto Alliance International, Flat Rock
1FA6P8CF1F5123456	2015 Mustang GT coupe	5.0 L V8; same plant, now under WMI 1FA
1FA6P8CF7T5123456	2026 Mustang GT	5.0 L V8, engine model TIVCT; knee airbags front row
1FA6P8THXT5234567	2026 Mustang I4	2.3 L four-cylinder
1FA6P8R02T5345678	2026 Mustang Dark Horse	5.0 L V8 (engine code 0)

The GT badge test

Badges unbolt; VINs don't. A "GT" whose VIN reads P8T with H in position 8 left Flat Rock as a 2.3-liter four-cylinder. That may be an honest owner's mod, but it is not a factory GT and shouldn't be priced as one.

Mustang GTD

The 2026 GTD has its own sheet: WMI 2FA (Canada), plant H (Multimatic, Ontario), engine J 5.2L Predator V8, series P9L, P9M, P9N and P9P, and serials 200001–249999.

Mach-E and classic Mustangs

The Mustang Mach-E is filed as an MPV under 3FM, built in Cuautitlan (M), with codes such as K4S GT AWD. Pre-1981 Mustangs predate the 17-character VIN: start at **carcheckervin.com/classic-mustang-vin-lookup**. For any 1981-and-later Mustang, use **carcheckervin.com/ford-mustang-vin-decoder**.

CHAPTER 10

BRONCO, EXPLORER, ESCAPE & OTHER FORD SUVS

Ford files its SUVs in the truck-and-MPV format, so position 4 carries the GVWR class and positions 5–7 the line, series, drive and body. Here is what each 2026 sheet uses, and how our decodes came back.

Line	WMI & plant	Positions 5–7 on the 2026 sheet	Our decode
Bronco	`1FM · L Wayne`	E6A/E6B Base 2-/4-door, E9B Badlands, E0R Raptor, E4D Heritage	Badlands 4-door, 2.7 L EcoBoost V6, 4WD
Bronco Sport	`3FM · R Hermosillo`	R9B Big Bend, R9C Outer Banks, R9D Badlands, R9G Heritage	Big Bend, 1.5 L three-cylinder (Dragon), 4WD
Explorer	`1FM · G Chicago`	K7 RWD / K8 4WD + D Active, G ST, H Platinum, K ST-Line, J Tremor; K8A Police	ST-Line 4WD, 2.3 L I4, Class 1D
Escape	`1FM · U Louisville`	U0G/U9G Active, U0M/U9M ST-Line, U9J Platinum, U0E PHEV	Active 4×2, 1.5 L Dragon GTDI, turbo
Expedition	`1FM · E Kentucky Truck`	U1 standard / K1 MAX + G XL, J Active 4×4, P King Ranch, M Platinum, R Tremor	Platinum 4×4, 3.5 L GTDI-High, flex-fuel
Mustang Mach-E	`3FM · M Cuautitlan`	K1R/K1S Select, K3R/K3S Premium, K4S GT (R = RWD, S = AWD)	Premium AWD, battery electric, NCM battery

Bronco: doors in position 7

On the 2026 Bronco sheet the last character of the series code separates two-door (A) from most four-door versions (B), so E9A and E9B are the same Badlands trim with different bodies. The Raptor (E0R) and Heritage (E4D) have their own letters. Every 2026 Bronco code is 4×4, built in Wayne, with serials from A19950 up.

Explorer: a generation shows in the code

We decoded a 2016 Explorer XLT (1FM5K8D8…, 3.5 L V6, 4WD) and a 2020 Explorer XLT (1FMSK7DH…, 2.3 L I4, RWD, 10-speed automatic). Both from Chicago, with almost nothing in common after the WMI.

Escape and Edge

A 2017 Escape SE decoded as a 1.5-liter GTDI ("Sigma") with 4WD from Louisville Assembly (U), the same plant letter the 2026 Escape uses. A 2019 Edge SEL AWD decoded under 2FM from Oakville, Ontario (B): the Canadian WMI and the Canadian plant agree.

Expedition vs Expedition MAX

The 2026 sheet gives the long-wheelbase MAX its own prefix, K1, against U1 for the standard SUV, so the VIN proves which body you're looking at. Our 2018 Expedition XLT decode (1FMJU1JT…) came back with the 3.5 L GTDI and a 10-speed automatic.

FORD SUV VIN LOOKUP

Decode any Bronco, Explorer, Escape or Expedition free at **carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/ford**, then preview its title, odometer and auction records before you buy.

CHAPTER 11

LINCOLN VIN DECODER

Lincoln is filed inside Ford's own VIN guides, with the same structure. A **Lincoln VIN decoder** reads the same positions; the WMIs, series codes and serials differ.

Lincoln WMIs

WMI	Ford's listing
1LN	Ford Motor Company, USA · passenger car
3LN	Ford Motor Company, Mexico · passenger car
5LM	Ford Motor Company, USA · MPV
2LM	Ford Motor Company of Canada · MPV
5LD	Ford Motor Company, USA · incomplete (limousine)

Lincoln serials

Lincoln SUVs carry a serial starting with **L**: L00001–L99999 on the 2026 page (J00001–L99999 in 2018). Lincoln cars used **600001–799999** in 2018. The exception is the China-built 2026 Nautilus, with 000001–999999.

2026 Lincoln lines

Line	Start & plant	Positions 5–7	Position 8
Navigator	5LMJJ · E	J2 Navigator / J3 Navigator L: J2L/J3L Reserve, J2T/J3T Black Label	G 3.5L GTDI high; U 3.5L GTDI China
Aviator	5LM5J · G	J6W/J6X Base RWD/AWD, J7W/J7X Reserve, J9X Black Label, J0W/J0X Livery	C 3.0L GTDI V-6
Corsair	5LM?J · U	J1C/J1D Premiere 4×2/4×4, J2C/J2D Reserve, J5D Grand Touring	A 2.0L GTDI; Z 2.5L PHEV
Nautilus	5LMPJ · J	J8J Premiere, J8K Reserve, J9J Black Label (all AWD)	A 2.0L GTDI; 4 2.0L hybrid

2018 Lincoln cars

The 2018 **Continental** starts 1LN6L9 and was built at Flat Rock (5), with series such as L9P/L9V Premier FWD/AWD and L9A/L9B Black Label, and engines K 3.7L, P 2.7L GTDI, C 3.0L GTDI and 9 2.0L GTDI. The 2018 **MKZ** starts 3LN6L5, from Hermosillo (R).

Lincolns decoded

VIN	Decoded as	Engine, drive & plant (vPIC)
1LNHM81W25Y123456	2005 Town Car Signature	4.6 L V8, 239 hp; Wixom, Michigan
5LMJJ2LT1KEL12345	2019 Navigator Reserve	3.5 L GTDI V6, flex-fuel, 4WD; Kentucky Truck
5LMJJ2LG6TEL12345	2026 Navigator Reserve	3.5 L GTDI-High V6, flex-fuel, 4WD; Louisville, KY
5LM5J7XC3TGL12345	2026 Aviator Reserve	3.0 L GTDI V6, AWD; Chicago Assembly
5LMPJ8KAXTJ123456	2026 Nautilus Reserve	2.0 L I4, AWD; Hangzhou, China

Decode a Lincoln free at **carcheckervin.com/vin-check/lincoln** and check its open recalls at **carcheckervin.com/lincoln-recall-check**.

CHAPTER 12

43 FORD VINS, DECODED: THE 2026 MODELS

We built 23 model-year 2026 VINs straight from Ford's 2026 sheets, then ran them, with 20 older Fords and Lincolns, through NHTSA's vPIC decoder in one batch in November 2026. Every one came back “VIN decoded clean”. Serials are illustrative; check digits are valid.

VIN	Year, make, model, trim	Engine & drive	Body · plant
1FTFW3L88TFA12345	2026 Ford F-150 XLT	3.5 L V6 gas, 4WD	Pickup · Dearborn, MI
1FTFW5L51TKB23456	2026 Ford F-150 Lariat	5.0 L V8 gas, 4WD	Pickup · Claycomo, MO
1FTFW1RG3TFC34567	2026 Ford F-150 Raptor	3.5 L V6 gas, 4WD	Pickup · Dearborn, MI
1FTMF1KP8TKA45678	2026 Ford F-150 XL	2.7 L V6 gas, 4×2	Pickup · Claycomo, MO
1FTFW1FD3TFD56789	2026 Ford F-150 XL	3.5 L V6 gas hybrid, 4WD	Pickup · Dearborn, MI
1FT7W2BT4TED12345	2026 Ford F-250 (SRW)	6.7 L V8 diesel, 4WD	Pickup · Louisville, KY
1FTER4HHXTLE12345	2026 Ford Ranger XLT	2.3 L I4 gas, 4WD	Pickup · Wayne, MI
3FTCW8H38TRA12345	2026 Ford Maverick XLT	2.5 L I4 gas hybrid, FWD	Pickup · Hermosillo, Mexico
3FTTW8SA3TRB23456	2026 Ford Maverick Lariat	2.0 L I4 gas, AWD	Pickup · Hermosillo, Mexico
1FTBR1X83TKA12345	2026 Ford Transit 250 High Roof	3.5 L V6 gas, RWD	Cargo van · Claycomo, MO
1FA6P8CF7T5123456	2026 Ford Mustang GT	5.0 L V8 gas	Coupe · Flat Rock, MI
1FA6P8THXT5234567	2026 Ford Mustang I4	2.3 L I4 gas	Coupe · Flat Rock, MI
1FA6P8R02T5345678	2026 Ford Mustang Dark Horse	5.0 L V8 gas	Coupe · Flat Rock, MI
1FMEE9BP3TLB23456	2026 Ford Bronco Badlands	2.7 L V6 gas, 4WD	SUV · Wayne, MI
3FMCR9BNXTRE12345	2026 Ford Bronco Sport Big Bend	1.5 L I3 gas, 4WD	SUV · Hermosillo, Mexico
1FMUK8KH9TGA12345	2026 Ford Explorer ST-Line	2.3 L I4 gas, 4WD	SUV · Chicago, IL
1FMCU0GNXTUA12345	2026 Ford Escape Active	1.5 L gas, 4×2	SUV · Louisville, KY
1FMJU1MG3TEA12345	2026 Ford Expedition Platinum	3.5 L V6 flex-fuel, 4WD	SUV · Louisville, KY
3FMTK3SU7TMA12345	2026 Ford Mustang Mach-E Premium	Battery electric, AWD	SUV · Cuautitlan, Mexico
5LMJJ2LG6TEL12345	2026 Lincoln Navigator Reserve	3.5 L V6 flex-fuel, 4WD	SUV · Louisville, KY
5LM5J7XC3TGL12345	2026 Lincoln Aviator Reserve	3.0 L V6 gas, AWD	SUV · Chicago, IL
5LMCJ2DA5TUL12345	2026 Lincoln Corsair Reserve	2.0 L gas, 4WD	SUV · Louisville, KY
5LMPJ8KAXTJ123456	2026 Lincoln Nautilus Reserve	2.0 L I4 gas, AWD	SUV · Hangzhou, China

“SUV” = vPIC body class “Sport Utility Vehicle/Multipurpose Vehicle”. Louisville, KY appears for both Kentucky Truck (Expedition, Navigator, F-250) and Louisville Assembly (Escape, Corsair), which Ford codes E and U. Blank details were not returned by the decoder.

Ford's sheets and vPIC agreed 23 times out of 23. For every 2026 VIN, the model, drive, engine family and plant vPIC returned matched what Ford's sheet says the characters mean, and nothing contradicted it. Decode yours the same way at **carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/ford**.

OLDER FORDS DECODED & WHAT THEY TEACH

Most buyers decode something older. These 20 VINs, 2005 to 2022, went through the same vPIC batch.

VIN	Year, make, model, trim	Engine & drive	Body · plant
1FAFP53U15G123456	2005 Ford Taurus SE	3.0 L V6	Sedan · Chicago, IL
1LNHM81W25Y123456	2005 Lincoln Town Car Signature	4.6 L V8 gas	Sedan · Wixom, MI
1FTPW14V28FA12345	2008 Ford F-150	5.4 L V8 flex-fuel, 4WD	Pickup · Dearborn, MI
3FADP4BJ9BM123456	2011 Ford Fiesta SE	1.6 L I4 gas	Sedan · Cuautitlan, Mexico
1ZVBP8CFXC5123456	2012 Ford Mustang GT	5.0 L V8 gas	Coupe · Flat Rock, MI
1FTFW1ET9DFC10312	2013 Ford F-150	3.5 L V6 gas, 4WD	Pickup · Dearborn, MI
1FADP3F25EL123456	2014 Ford Focus SE	2.0 L I4 gas	Sedan · Wayne, MI
1FA6P8CF1F5123456	2015 Ford Mustang GT	5.0 L V8 gas	Coupe · Flat Rock, MI
1FM5K8D8XGGA12345	2016 Ford Explorer XLT	3.5 L V6 gas, 4WD	SUV · Chicago, IL
1FMCU9GD6HUA12345	2017 Ford Escape SE	1.5 L I4 gas, 4WD	SUV · Louisville, KY
3FA6P0HD0HR123456	2017 Ford Fusion SE	1.5 L I4 gas, FWD	Sedan · Hermosillo, Mexico
1FTEW1EP6JFA12345	2018 Ford F-150	2.7 L V6 gas, 4WD	Pickup · Dearborn, MI
1FMJU1JT5JEA12345	2018 Ford Expedition XLT	3.5 L V6 gas, 4WD	SUV · Jefferson County, KY
1FTER4FH2KLA12345	2019 Ford Ranger	2.3 L gas, 4WD	Pickup · Wayne, MI
2FMPK4J91KBA12345	2019 Ford Edge SEL	2.0 L I4 gas, AWD	SUV · Oakville, Canada
5LMJJ2LT1KEL12345	2019 Lincoln Navigator Reserve	3.5 L V6 flex-fuel, 4WD	SUV · Jefferson County, KY
1FMSK7DH0LGA12345	2020 Ford Explorer XLT	2.3 L I4 gas, RWD	SUV · Chicago, IL
1FT7W2BT8LEC12345	2020 Ford F-250 (SRW)	6.7 L V8 diesel, 4WD	Pickup · Jefferson County, KY
1FTFW1E84MFA12345	2021 Ford F-150	3.5 L V6 gas, 4WD	Pickup · Dearborn, MI
3FTTW8E39NRA12345	2022 Ford Maverick	2.5 L gas hybrid, 4×2	Pickup · Hermosillo, Mexico

1. Year, model and plant always came back

All 43 decodes returned them. If an ad says 2014 and position 10 says D, it's a 2013.

2. Trim is sometimes missing

Six returned no trim: the 2013, 2018 and 2021 F-150s, 2019 Ranger, 2022 Maverick and 2026 F-250. The window sticker fills the gap.

3. Blank isn't broken

The 2026 Escape had no cylinder count, the 2005 Taurus no fuel type, the Mach-E no engine (correctly).

4. vPIC adds details the sheet doesn't

Some came with curb weights, horsepower or a transmission (the 2020 Explorer and 2018 Expedition: 10-speed automatic). Confirm extras before you pay for parts.

5. Same plant, different spelling

vPIC printed "FLATROCK" (2026) and "FLAT ROCK" (2015), and "LOUISVILLE" or "JEFFERSON COUNTY" for Kentucky Truck. Ford's pages use both too.

CHAPTER 13

FORD BUILD SHEET & WINDOW STICKER BY VIN

The 17 characters stop at the engine. Paint, options and packages live in Ford's build records, so proving how a Ford was ordered takes a **Ford build sheet by VIN** or a **Ford window sticker by VIN**.

Where each Ford detail actually lives

Detail	In the VIN?	Best source
Cab, drive, body	Yes (positions 5–7)	Any Ford VIN decoder
Engine	Yes (position 8)	Decoder, then the emissions label under the hood
GVWR class, airbags	Yes (position 4)	Decoder; door-jamb certification label
Options & packages	No	Window sticker or build record
Paint & interior colors	No	Door-jamb labels, build record, a Ford dealer's parts desk
Build month & year	No	Door-jamb certification label (49 CFR 567.4)

The window sticker

Federal law, the Automobile Information Disclosure Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. § 1231 et seq.), requires a price label, the **Monroney label**, on new cars offered for sale. It lists the factory options with their prices and the total suggested price, which makes it the cleanest proof of how a Ford was equipped. For a recent Ford, a **Ford window sticker by VIN** lookup recreates that label: try carcheckervin.com/ford-window-sticker-by-vin.

The build record

For older Fords, the build record is the authority. Marti Auto Works describes itself as the only licensee to Ford Motor Company's entire production database for the **1967–2020** model years, and its Marti Report reflects how Ford originally built one serial number. Options are listed as Ford recorded them, not dealer add-ons. More at carcheckervin.com/ford-build-sheet.

The door-jamb certification label

49 CFR 567.4 requires a permanent label on the hinge pillar, door-latch post or door edge next to the driver, showing the manufacturer, month and year of manufacture, GVWR and axle ratings, the VIN and the vehicle type. Use it to cross-check position 4 (GVWR class) and position 10 (year vs build date).

How to get a Ford window sticker or build sheet by VIN

1. **Decode first** to confirm the year, line, cab and engine at carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/ford.
2. **Recent Ford or Lincoln:** run a window sticker lookup, or ask the selling dealer for the original label.
3. **1967–2020 Ford-built collectible:** order a Marti Report for the options Ford recorded.
4. **Compare line by line**: the sticker's engine, cab and drive must match positions 5–8, and its options must match the truck in front of you.

Pre-1981 Fords predate the 17-character VIN; start at carcheckervin.com/classic-ford-vin-decoder.

CHAPTER 14

FORD VIN CHECK BEFORE YOU BUY

A perfect decode proves a VIN is a real Ford code. It says nothing about floods, rolled-back odometers or liens. A proper **Ford VIN check** adds four free lookups and one report.

1. **Decode and match.** Year, cab, drive, engine and plant must match the truck, the door label and the ad. A mismatch ends the deal or starts hard questions.
2. **Check open recalls.** NHTSA's lookup at nhtsa.gov/recalls searches by VIN or plate, and recall repairs are free at franchised dealers. It doesn't show recalls more than 15 years old unless the maker offers more, and very new recalls may not be loaded yet. Shortcut: **carcheckervin.com/ford-recall-check** or **carcheckervin.com/recall-check**.
3. **Run NICB VINCheck.** Free at nicb.org/vincheck, five searches per 24 hours. It shows stolen-not-recovered and salvage or flood total-loss records from participating insurers, which write 92.49% of U.S. earned premium. NICB says it is not a full history report.
4. **Look at NMVTIS title records.** The DOJ's National Motor Vehicle Title Information System shows the current title state and brand, brand history, the last odometer reading at titling, and total-loss, junk and salvage records.
5. **Buy a full report on the finalists.** CarCheckerVIN's $14.99 report covers title records and state title brands (salvage, junk, rebuilt, flood, lemon buyback), NMVTIS title records, odometer readings, owner count, insurance total-loss records, lien history and impound information, auction sales with photos, service records, open recalls, factory specs and a market value estimate.

Ford-specific signals a decode can reveal

Built as a police vehicle

Ford's sheets give police versions their own series codes: `W1P` on the 2018 and 2026 F-150 and `K8A` on the 2026 Explorer. If positions 5–7 decode to a Police series, that is how the vehicle left the plant, whatever the badges say now.

Built for livery work

The 2026 Aviator sheet lists `J0W/J0X` Livery, and the 2018 Continental sheet L9U/L9H Livery. Those codes mean it was built as a livery model, whatever it wears now.

Finished by someone else

A `1FD` (incomplete vehicle) or `1FC` (stripped chassis) WMI means Ford built it as an incomplete vehicle or bare chassis for a body builder to finish. The VIN decodes the Ford part only; ask for the body builder's paperwork.

Mileage that doesn't fit

NHTSA estimates that more than 450,000 vehicles are sold each year with false odometer readings. Federal odometer disclosure doesn't apply to vehicles 20 years old or older, or to model year 2010 or older, so older trucks rely even more on recorded mileage history.

FORD VIN CHECK

Decode free and preview the history at **carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/ford**. If the preview shows damage or auction records, the $14.99 report shows the details, plus title brands, odometer readings and liens. Refer a friend and you get a free report: **carcheckervin.com/refer**.

CHAPTER 15

CARFAX FORD: THE CARFAX VIN DECODER & REPORT VS ALTERNATIVES

Here is how Carfax handles a Ford VIN ("**Carfax Ford**"), what it costs, and when a cheaper report or a free tool does the job.

CARFAX VIN DECODER & REPORT

What Carfax does with a Ford VIN

Carfax's VIN lookup confirms the vehicle and leads into its paid vehicle history report, which is widely quoted at **$44.99** for a single report. Its strength is service and maintenance records, which matter on high-mileage F-150s and Super Duty diesels. Many dealers include a free Carfax on their listings (the dealer pays). AAA Premier members get one free Carfax a year by phone; Classic and Plus members get a discount that varies by club. Carfax, Inc. was founded in 1984 in Virginia and is part of Mobility Global.

CARFAX BUYBACK GUARANTEE

What the guarantee covers

It pays when a Carfax report missed a DMV-issued title brand. It does not cover accidents, has deadlines, and payouts are capped. See **carcheckervin.com/carfax-vin-check**.

Carfax vs CarCheckerVIN vs free tools, for a Ford

	Carfax	CarCheckerVIN	Free tools (NHTSA, NICB)
Ford VIN decode	Leads into the report	Free, with a free history preview	vPIC decodes free
Price	Widely quoted at $44.99	$14.99; 3 for $35.99; 5 for $54.99	Free
Best at	Service history	Title brands, NMVTIS records, odometer, liens, auction photos	Recalls; insurer theft, total-loss flags

A 3-pack at CarCheckerVIN ($35.99) costs less than one Carfax; a 5-pack ($54.99) costs less than two.

A Ford buyer's sequence that saves money

1. **Decode every Ford free** and drop any that don't match the ad; run NHTSA recalls, NICB and the free history preview.
2. **Buy a $14.99 report** on the two or three that pass, and ask the dealer for its free Carfax.
3. **Inspect the winner** with an independent mechanic; add a paid Carfax only if service records matter to you.

CARFAX ALTERNATIVE

F-150 shoppers: **carcheckervin.com/ford-f150-carfax-alternative**. Also: **how much is a Carfax report**, **how to get a free Carfax report**, **Carfax VIN decoder** and **alternatives to Carfax**.

REFERENCE

FORD VIN DECODER GLOSSARY

Build record / Marti Report
Ford's production record for one vehicle. Marti Auto Works licenses Ford's database for the 1967–2020 model years.

Cab code
Position 5 on F-150 and Super Duty VINs: F Regular Cab, X SuperCab, W SuperCrew or Crew Cab.

Certification label
The door-jamb label required by 49 CFR 567.4: manufacturer, build month and year, GVWR, GAWR, VIN, vehicle type.

Check digit
Position 9; calculated from the other 16 characters to catch typos.

DRW / SRW
Dual or single rear wheels, as Ford's Super Duty and Transit sheets mark them.

EcoBoost
Ford's name for its turbocharged gasoline engines; some sheets list them as GTDI instead.

Engine code
Position 8 on Ford and Lincoln VINs. The same letter can mean different engines in different years.

FFV
Flexible-fuel vehicle; Ford lists some 3.5L GTDI engines as "FFV/Gasoline".

GTDI
The label Ford's sheets use for its turbocharged direct-injection gasoline engines; vPIC reports them with turbo "Yes".

GVWR class
Gross vehicle weight rating band (Class A to 8) set by 49 CFR 565.15; encoded in position 4 on Ford trucks and SUVs.

HEV / PHEV / FHEV
Hybrid, plug-in hybrid and full hybrid, as Ford labels engine codes such as Z, 1 and 4.

Incomplete vehicle (IV)
A chassis another company finishes; Ford uses WMI 1FD.

MID
NHTSA's Manufacturer Information Database, where Ford's VIN filings are posted.

Model year
Position 10; Ford's designation, which can differ from the build date.

Monroney label
The federally required new-car window sticker, with options and the total suggested price.

MPV
Multipurpose passenger vehicle: how Ford files SUVs and most vans (WMI 1FM, 2FM, 3FM, 5LM).

Part 565
49 CFR Part 565, the federal VIN rule; 565.16 requires makers to file their decoding keys.

Plant code
Position 11; F Dearborn, K Kansas City, E Kentucky Truck, 5 Flat Rock and so on.

Restraint category
Ford's numbered airbag layouts, 1 (belts, no airbags) to 19 (no restraints).

Sequential vehicle identifier
Positions 12–17: six digits on Ford cars, a letter and five digits on most trucks and SUVs.

Series code
Positions 5–7 on Ford VINs: line, series, body or cab, and often drive.

SuperCab / SuperCrew
Ford's extended-cab and four-door crew-cab names for the F-150; Super Duty uses Crew Cab.

vPIC
NHTSA's Product Information Catalog and Vehicle Listing: the free decoder and API built on maker filings.

WMI
World Manufacturer Identifier, positions 1–3: 1FA, 1FM, 1FT, 3FT, 5LM and others.

Ford VIN in one line

```
WMI(1-3) · GVWR/airbags(4) · line-series-cab(5-7) · engine(8) · check(9) · year(10) · plant(11) · serial(12-17)
```

ANSWERS

FORD VIN DECODER FAQ

Is a Ford VIN decoder free?

Yes. Decoding uses the codes Ford files with NHTSA. CarCheckerVIN and NHTSA's vPIC both decode Fords free; only history reports cost money.

How do I decode a Ford VIN?

Enter all 17 characters at carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/ford, or read it by hand: 1–3 WMI, 4 GVWR and airbags, 5–7 line and series, 8 engine, 9 check digit, 10 year, 11 plant, 12–17 serial.

What does a Ford VIN starting with 1FT mean?

Ford Motor Company, USA, completed truck: F-150, Super Duty, Ranger and some Transits. 1FA is a U.S. car, 1FM an SUV or MPV, 3FT a Mexican-built truck such as the Maverick.

Which digit is the Ford engine code?

The 8th. Read it together with the model year, because Ford reuses letters: G is any 3.5L GTDI on a 2018 F-150 but only the High Output version in 2026.

How do I find my Ford's year from the VIN?

Read the 10th character and use the chart on page 12: J is 2018, L 2020, R 2024, T 2026.

What does the 11th digit mean on a Ford?

The plant. F is Dearborn, K Kansas City, E Kentucky Truck, U Louisville Assembly, G Chicago, L Michigan Assembly in Wayne, 5 Flat Rock.

Why does my Ford decode show no trim?

Some patterns don't carry it: six of our 43 decodes came back without a trim. Use the window sticker.

Where is the VIN on a Ford F-150?

On the dashboard at the lower driver's-side corner of the windshield, on the driver's door-jamb label, and on the title and registration.

Can I find my Ford's paint code by VIN?

Not from the 17 characters. Check the door-jamb labels, the build record or window sticker, or give the VIN to a Ford dealer's parts desk.

How do I use an F-150 VIN decoder?

Position 5 is the cab (F, X or W), 6 the series and 7 the drive on recent trucks, 8 the engine. Decode free at carcheckervin.com/ford-f150-vin-lookup.

Can I get a Ford build sheet by VIN?

For 1967–2020 models, Marti Auto Works sells Marti Reports from Ford's production database. For recent Fords, a window sticker lookup shows options and prices.

Does a Lincoln VIN decode the same way?

Yes. Lincoln is in Ford's own filings, with WMIs 1LN, 3LN, 5LM and 2LM and SUV serials that start with L.

Can a Ford VIN decoder show accidents or title problems?

No. A decoder shows factory specs. Title brands, insurance total-loss records and mileage come from a history report.

How do I check a Ford for recalls by VIN?

Use NHTSA's free lookup at nhtsa.gov/recalls or carcheckervin.com/ford-recall-check. Recall repairs are free at franchised dealers.

Is there a Carfax for Ford?

Carfax reports cover Fords like any other make and are widely quoted at $44.99. CarCheckerVIN's Ford report is $14.99.

Can I decode a pre-1981 Ford?

Not with a 17-character decoder. Older Fords need a classic decoder: carcheckervin.com/classic-ford-vin-decoder.

Why does my 2012 Mustang start with 1ZV?

vPIC lists 1ZV as Auto Alliance International, USA, at Flat Rock. Our 2015 decode and Ford's 2018 and 2026 sheets use 1FA.

What is the 4th digit on a Ford truck VIN?

Brake system, GVWR class and airbags in one code. On a 2026 F-150, F means hydraulic brakes, Class F (7,001–8,000 lb) and side airbags in rows 1 and 2.

FREE FORD VIN DECODER

Decode any Ford in seconds.

Year, model, trim, engine and plant for any Ford or Lincoln, free, plus a free preview of the vehicle's history. Full report $14.99.

carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder/ford →

Scan to decode a Ford VIN free

Sources

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- NHTSA vPIC decoder and API (vpic.nhtsa.dot.gov); 43 VINs decoded and Ford filing list retrieved Nov 2026
- 49 CFR Part 565, §§ 565.15–565.16, VIN requirements (ecfr.gov)
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- Automobile Information Disclosure Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. § 1231 et seq.)
- Marti Auto Works (martiauto.com)
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- U.S. DOJ / BJA, NMVTIS (vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov)
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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

VIN decoder
Ford VIN lookup
F-150 VIN lookup
Recall check
Ford recall check
Ford window sticker
Ford build sheet
Carfax VIN check
Vehicle history report

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