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The Jeep Grand Cherokee is a range of mid-size SUVs introduced by American manufacturer Jeep in 1993. As of 2022, Jeep has sold over 5 million units. Thanks to its massive popularity and appeal, the Jeep has had a storied history and has seen five generations' worth of evolution. The following guide explores each generation to help you figure out which Jeep Grand Cherokee models are the best purchases and possible models and versions to avoid. We've previously covered 0-60 MPH times for Jeeps - including the Grand Cherokee. Best years for Jeep Grand Cherokee Expert ratings describe the 2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee as a mid-size SUV with roominess for the entire family as well as quite an adventurous streak. With several features like air suspension and a limited-slip differential, this model has the capacity to go off-roading. The following lists the top 5 best years for Jeep Grand Cherokees based on the fewest number of consumer-reported issues, overall least serious reported problems, and standard or optional features. 2020 The 2020 model of the Jeep Grand Cherokee consists of significant mechanical, exterior, and interior upgrades from the previous year. Additionally, a significant safety update made this Jeep model one of the safest of all time. As it is already two years out on the market, it is relatively more affordable than the newer models, giving drivers the best of affordability and quality. 2018 Like the 2020 class, the 2018 class is affordable yet does not skimp on the quality of the vehicle. A durable, off-roading machine, the 2018 vehicle has suspensions that allow it to ride smoothly in off-roading terrain. A rearview camera and parallel park assist, in addition to collision warning, also make it a relatively safe vehicle to drive in cities. 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While there were many problems with the model, it was also the first of its generation, meaning that it had a higher likelihood of experiencing issues. 1st Generation: 1993-1998 The very first generation of this legendary model introduced a 4.0L six engine that could hit 190 hp. It also included a four-speed automatic transmission with the manual transmission model being discontinued as a result of low demand in North America. The middle of this generation saw Jeep looking forward in its environmental consciousness by dropping the horsepower to 185bhp. 2nd Generation: 1999-2004 The next generation of the Jeep Grand Cherokee included a redesigned exterior that only shared 127 parts with its predecessor. The new V8 engine produced less torque, which made it have a more efficient fuel economy. 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(PS: We read ALL feedback) The information in this article is based on data from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recall reports, consumer complaints submitted to the NHTSA, reliability ratings from J.D. Power, auto review and rating sites such as Edmunds, specialist forums, etc. We analyzed this data to provide insights into the best and worst years for these vehicle models. The Jeep Grand Cherokee has been one of Jeep's most popular vehicles ever since its debut in 1993, selling over five million units in the United States alone. The truth is that the Grand Cherokee has made waves from the moment it crashed through the glass at Detroit's North American International Auto Show in January 1992. The Grand Cherokee has a large and diverse fan club, from vacation-loving families to hardcore off-road enthusiasts. Of course, like any long-running vehicle lineup, Jeep Grand Cherokee reliability ratings vary by model year. This guide compares new and old models to help you find the best option for your needs. Despite the Grand Cherokee's high sales numbers and glowing reviews from many owners, hard data on repairs over the years tells a slightly different story. On average, Jeep Grand Cherokees have a reliability rating of 3.5 out of 5.0. This rating puts the Grand Cherokee on the lower end of the midsize SUV category based on factors like repair frequency, costs, and breakdown severity. Repair severity: Grand Cherokees are slightly more likely to need serious repairs than other vehicle types, with severe issues showing up nearly 15% of the time. Annual repair costs: On average, Grand Cherokee owners spend about \$650 per year on vehicle maintenance and repairs, which is nearly \$100 more than comparable SUVs. Frequency of repair shop visits: Grand Cherokees are slightly less likely than other midsize SUVs to need repairs during the year. Keep in mind that average statistics don't tell the whole story. When buying a used vehicle, the previous owner's driving and maintenance habits can have a major impact on how frequently repairs are necessary. The Jeep Grand Cherokee has also offered a massive variety of trims over the years: Laredo, TSi, Limited, SRT8, Altitude, Overland, Summit, and many others. The differences can affect vehicle reliability significantly. After reviewing owner ratings, repair information, recalls, and historical data on vehicle complaints, we can confidently say that the Jeep Grand Cherokee is a reliable vehicle overall. Aside from a few problem years, the majority of Grand Cherokees offer good long-term performance, build quality, resale value, comfort, and owner satisfaction. The Grand Cherokee faces stiff competition in the mid-size SUV space. Even though it's a reliable vehicle, it doesn't "win" the category by any means. Here's how the Grand Cherokee compares to similar mid-size SUVs over the years: If you already own a well-maintained Grand Cherokee, you can feel good that your vehicle will probably reach 200,000 miles or more without slowing down. Based on user reports, Grand Cherokees generally last at least 150,000 to 200,000 miles with proper care. On the other hand, if you're looking for pre-owned vehicles or new mid-size SUVs, it can be worth exploring other options beyond Jeep. Several Kia, Toyota, Lexus, and Mazda mid-size SUVs will outperform the Grand Cherokee in 2024 and 2025. Looking at the Jeep Grand Cherokee's reliability by year on J.D. Power doesn't exactly inspire confidence. Many models sit in the low '70s, and the average is about 75/100. These numbers equate to an "average" score, not "great" or "excellent." That said, we take J.D. Power ratings for SUVs with a grain of salt because they only reflect surveys from the first three years of ownership – while the vehicle is still under warranty. We prefer to look at reliability reviews from owners who are still driving after five years or even 10 years have passed from the manufacturing date. Trusted vehicle seller Edmunds keeps a list of owner ratings for older Jeep Grand Cherokee models. Many of these models have dozens of 4-star ratings, though the average reliability score is usually 3.5/5.0 stars. Some Jeep and Chrysler model years have a reputation for transmission problems, but these issues don't appear to be a frequent issue with most model years. While the Wrangler and Gladiator pickups have faced occasional concerns, the Chrysler lineup draws the most attention. A class action lawsuit was settled for over \$100 million in 2014 and 2015 Fiat Chrysler vehicles related to the nine-speed automatic transmission. The Jeep Grand Cherokee wasn't included, but 2014 and 2015 Grand Cherokees also had hundreds of complaints for severe transmission issues at 10,000 to 30,000 miles. These problems range from rough shifting to complete transmission failure. J.D. Power named the 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee the most reliable with the greatest quality and reliability rating of 85/100. The model years with the fewest owner complaints include the 2003, 2009, and 2010 Grand Cherokees. Even after decades, some older Jeep Grand Cherokee model years are still beloved by off-road enthusiasts. These include the 2003 WJ with a 4.7-liter V8 and the 1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee ZJ with its 4.0-liter I6 AMC motor. The worst model years for the Jeep Grand Cherokee are a night and day difference. There was a huge spike in complaints for the 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2015 model years. The 2011 model year saw major complaints of engine problems and electrical issues related to the Jeep's Totally Integrated Power Module. TIPM failure persisted for several model years, showing up at 50,000 miles on average. Buying a vehicle that is past the manufacturer's warranty can be a stressful experience because you don't know what to expect. The good reliability rating for Jeep Grand Cherokee model years overall makes these vehicles a good investment for families, outdoor lovers, business owners, and others looking for a rugged but comfortable SUV. With a vehicle protection plan, you can feel less stressed thanks to long-term coverage for powertrain issues and unexpected repairs. Learn more about VPPs for the Jeep Grand Cherokee today. Attention Auto Dealer Finance Managers: Autopim! Ranked Among Top Five Extended Service Contract Companies in USA Today 2024 Guide! Partner with us for all your VSC, GAP and Ancillary product needs. Contact: Mike Jones (949) 309-2526. The Jeep Grand Cherokee is a range of mid-size SUVs introduced by American manufacturer Jeep in 1993. 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(PS: We read ALL feedback) The information in this article is based on data from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recall reports, consumer complaints submitted to the NHTSA, reliability ratings from J.D. Power, auto review and rating sites such as Edmunds, specialist forums, etc. We analyzed this data to provide insights into the best and worst years for these vehicle models. Automotive configuration This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourceed material may be challenged and removed. Find sources for severe transmission issues at 10,000 to 30,000 miles. These problems range from rough shifting to complete transmission failure. J.D. Power named the 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee the most reliable with the greatest quality and reliability rating of 85/100. The model years with the fewest owner complaints include the 2003, 2009, and 2010 Grand Cherokees. 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With a vehicle protection plan, you can feel less stressed thanks to long-term coverage for powertrain issues and unexpected repairs. Learn more about VPPs for the Jeep Grand Cherokee today. Attention Auto Dealer Finance Managers: Autopim! Ranked Among Top Five Extended Service Contract Companies in USA Today 2024 Guide! Partner with us for all your VSC, GAP and Ancillary product needs. Contact: Mike Jones (949) 309-2526. The Jeep Grand Cherokee is a range of mid-size SUVs introduced by American manufacturer Jeep in 1993. As of 2022, Jeep has sold over 5 million units. Thanks to its massive popularity and appeal, the Jeep has had a storied history and has seen five generations' worth of evolution. The following guide explores each generation to help you figure out which Jeep Grand Cherokee models are the best purchases and possible models and versions to avoid. We've previously covered 0-60 MPH times for Jeeps - including the Grand Cherokee. Best years for Jeep Grand Cherokee Expert ratings describe the 2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee as a mid-size SUV with roominess for the entire family as well as quite an adventurous streak. With several features like air suspension and a limited-slip differential, this model has the capacity to go off-roading. The following lists the top 5 best years for Jeep Grand Cherokees based on the fewest number of consumer-reported issues, overall least serious reported problems, and standard or optional features. 2020 The 2020 model of the Jeep Grand Cherokee consists of significant mechanical, exterior, and interior upgrades from the previous year. Additionally, a significant safety update made this Jeep model one of the safest of all time. As it is already two years out on the market, it is relatively more affordable than the newer models, giving drivers the best of affordability and quality. 2018 Like the 2020 class, the 2018 class is affordable yet does not skimp on the quality of the vehicle. A durable, off-roading machine, the 2018 vehicle has suspensions that allow it to ride smoothly in off-roading terrain. A rearview camera and parallel park assist, in addition to collision warning, also make it a relatively safe vehicle to drive in cities. A 3.2L V6 transmission and 271hp at 6,500RPM make the vehicle quite powerful as well. 2011 2011 saw Jeep being incredibly ambitious with its Grand Cherokee's driving abilities. Whether the driver was comfortable off-roading or driving in the city, the 2011 model of the vehicle had them covered. Additionally, this version of the Grand Cherokee was more spacious than previous models and had a rear-seat DVD entertainment system, perfect for families. This model was powerful with a 3.6L V6 engine with a trim that could perform 290lb-ft of torque at 6400 rpm. 2010 The 2010 model of the Jeep Grand Cherokee included a 5.7L HEMI V8 engine trim that could hit 236lbft of torque at 4000rpm. 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The next five are the Jeep Grand Cherokees, which have seen the most issues and pose a high risk to individual safety. 2015 The 2015 model of the Jeep Grand Cherokee faced a plethora of transmission problems. Drivers would not be able to start the vehicle and would have to deal with a burning smell inside the vehicle as a result. This required owners to replace the transmission and update software, issues that could be costly to fix. 2014 The 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee faced many issues including transmission, electronic software, and alternator problems. More specifically, shifting and locking gears made it tough to park, while software problems resulted in multiple failed units. The Jeep Grand Cherokee was also prone to stalling, which could have resulted in collisions on busy city roads. 2013 Like the model that would come after it, the 2013 version of the Jeep Grand Cherokee also faced many issues that resulted in an engine that would stall. More specifically, it was due to a wireless control module fault. Additionally, drivers would have to endure uncomfortable temperatures within the car due to a temperature recirculation issue that would cause AC problems. 2012 The 2012 version of the Grand Cherokee experienced faulty electrical systems that could result in ignition switch locking that could be problematic for drivers and result in a hard start. Other issues included malfunctioning navigation systems that led to traction, climate, and AC problems that would be both dangerous to drive with as well as costly to repair. 2011 A total of 741 complaints makes this one of the worst-performing Jeep Grand Cherokees of all time. TIPM issues included faulty engine mechanics that resulted in the engine failing to start for several owners. Additional interior styling and electrical wiring malfunctions also caused issues for vehicle owners. While there were many problems with the model, it was also the first of its generation, meaning that it had a higher likelihood of experiencing issues. 1st Generation: 1993-1998 The very first generation of this legendary model introduced a 4.0L six engine that could hit 190 hp. It also included a four-speed automatic transmission with the manual transmission model being discontinued as a result of low demand in North America. The middle of this generation saw Jeep looking forward in its environmental consciousness by dropping the horsepower to 185bhp. 2nd Generation: 1999-2004 The next generation of the Jeep Grand Cherokee included a redesigned exterior that only shared 127 parts with its predecessor. The new V8 engine produced less torque, which made it have a more efficient fuel economy. The intake manifold included a redesign that was able to add horsepower while maintaining adherence to strict EPA regulations. 3rd Generation: 2005-2010 The next generation of the Jeep Grand Cherokee saw a revised headlight redesign which included HID (high-intensity discharge) headlamps with automatic light leveling. This version also saw a more refined 4.7L V8 engine that could hit 305hp and 334lbft of torque. 4th Generation: 2011–2020 As we noted earlier, the 2011 model kicked off the fourth generation of the Jeep Grand Cherokee with a plethora of problems and issues. Not to be deterred, however, Jeep doubled down on making improvements that resulted in the 2020 model, one of the best-performing off-roading vehicles on the market. The engine included a European-manufactured 3.0L turbocharged diesel V6 that could hit 406lbft of torque, more powerful than any other Jeep Grand Cherokee to come out to market. 5th Generation: 2021-Present The current generation of Jeep Grand Cherokee has five trim levels that are powered by a 3.6L V6 engine that produces 290hp and 257 lbft of torque at the base level. Overland and Summit trim levels have a 5.7 L HEMI V8 engine that can produce 357 hp and a whopping 390 lbft of torque. Which Jeep Grand Cherokee generation should you buy? While the fourth generation saw a great improvement in the Grand Cherokee, the current generation builds upon that and is the most complete of any that has ever gone out on the market. What year is the most reliable Jeep Grand Cherokee? The most reliable Jeep Grand Cherokee is the 2020 model. This is likely because it caps off a generation that started with various issues. Jeep looked for ways to correct these issues resulting in an incredibly reliable off-roading vehicle. What are the most common problems with Jeep Grand Cherokees? We have a full list of problems with each Jeep Grand Cherokee. Thousands of units were recalled due to transmission problems that resulted in the vehicle being stuck in park despite the driver shifting gears. This resulted in many reports of vehicles rolling away from drivers after they had exited the vehicle. Engine stalling comes from a TIPM (totally integrated power module) issue that left many drivers stalled in the middle of busy intersections which could have proved fatal. These were mainly from early in the fourth-generation model, which, as we mentioned earlier, was beset with issues from the get-go. The alternator failure would result in loud whining sounds, burning odors coming from the engine, and electrical system power failures. This could result in fatal crashes as well as be costly to repair and replace as it is a crucial part of the underlying transmission system. How many miles will a Jeep Grand Cherokee last? The Jeep Grand Cherokee can typically last 200,000 miles before needing to be upgraded to another model. We have a full article here on how long each Jeep last. What are the closest competitors to the Jeep Grand Cherokee? Competitors include: Honda CRV Mazda CX-5 Subaru Forester How long do the transmissions normally last on these models? The Honda CRV can last anywhere from 120,000 to 180,000 miles, while the Mazda CX-5 has a lifetime mileage of roughly 150,000 miles. The Subaru Forester transmission can last up to 300,000 miles. Was this article helpful? Did you find wrong information or was something missing? We would love to hear your thoughts! (PS: We read ALL feedback) The information in this article is based on data from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recall reports, consumer complaints submitted to the NHTSA, reliability ratings from J.D. Power, auto review and rating sites such as Edmunds, specialist forums, etc. We analyzed this data to provide insights into the best and worst years for these vehicle models. Automotive configuration This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourceed material may be challenged and removed. Find sources for severe transmission issues at 10,000 to 30,000 miles. These problems range from rough shifting to complete transmission failure. J.D. Power named the 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee the most reliable with the greatest quality and reliability rating of 85/100. The model years with the fewest owner complaints include the 2003, 2009, and 2010 Grand Cherokees. 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