# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

# 2008 Ford SD F-250 4X4

# SuperCab Lariat 142" SB Styleside 6.4 V8 Diesel

BY KATHLEEN CARR

just won't do it. You need something on the order of a double cappuccino to get the job done something with more kick, more they pulled it off. muscle. For pickup truck buyers the Ford F-250 Super Duty.

For most folks, a half-ton pickup truck, such as Ford's own F-150, is more than adequate, easily handling the occasional hauling and towing chores Joe Suburbanite may throw at it. Transporting goods from Home Depot, moving the kid to college and towing a pair of jet skis or snowmobiles aren't a problem for a half-tonner. But for equestrians, owners of large boats and pickup is a must. Ford's entry in compromising capability. this class is the 2008 F-250 Super Duty.

one. But its graceful malevolence Sometimes, a regular coffee (if you can say that about a really big pickup). Ford calls the effect they were working to achieve, "tough luxury," and it's fair to say

More than just the aggressive, needing a similar boost, there's in-your-face looks, the freshened front end styling brings a functional advantage. The higher hood, bigger grille and redesigned front bumper all allow more cool air to reach the radiator.

The 2008 Ford F-250 Super Duty has been fully redesigned. Under the skin, a number of major upgrades take place. Ford says the chassis is stronger than before and now has a new type of resistance. The rear suspension ditional diesel fuel. those who tow trailers that re- has also been tweaked to im-

For power, there's an updated version of the PowerStroke There's no mistaking this thing diesel engine. It now displaces step that makes getting into the as the new styling job has inin your rearview mirror; in fact, 6.4 liters and makes an impresit makes a Chevy Suburban seem sive 350 horsepower and 650 small as you follow close behind pound-feet of torque. This en- -here are some of the high points gripe we had was a vertically-



## This is not your Grandpa's truck anymore!

Specifications: 6.4-liter, 350-hp @ 650 lb-ft. torque Power Stroke diesel V-8 Engine; Torqshift 5speed automatic transmission; \$51,040.MSRP

telescoping/folding side mirrors close and easy to operate. and a unique, drop-down tailgate

gine runs on ultra-low sulfur die- of the interior features of the Fsel fuel, which is better for the Series SuperCab. With the 40/60 environment because it produces split-bench front seat, driver and door as standard equipment, on coating for improved corrosion fewer tailpipe emissions than tra- passenger have individually re- the passenger's side, for access clining backrests. The driver is to the back seat. Also new this year are higher- faced with comprehensive, semble rolling condos, a 3/4-ton prove ride and handling without grade cabin materials, a standard clearly-legible instrumentation, dard, but neither side-nor side-MP3 audio jack, available power and everything that needs to be is

> The view outward is superb, cluded a low beltline and big Let's talk about "tough luxury" windows all around. The only

narrow inside rear-view mirror. All SuperCabs include a third

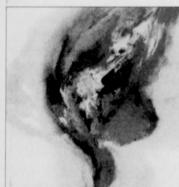
Antilock disc brakes are stancurtain airbags are available. Power-adjustable pedals are optional on XLT and Lariat models (equipped with automatic transmission), as are rear parking sensors.

It is first and foremost a heavyduty work truck, a vehicle for the real world where the big Ford truck works for you. It's a little bit of a contradiction in terms to think of "truck" in the same sentence with "cutting edge, aerodynamic styling," but with the new Ford F-Series, we think it works.

It is not a pickup for poseurs for people who want to look cool in a big truck that has the ride and gentle manners of a limousine. Nor is it meant for daily commuting between genteel suburbs and gentrified city centers. The F-250 Super Duty Supercab is a four-wheel-drive workhorse. It hauls manure as opposed to producing it in wordprocessing machines.

There's a lot to like about it in addition to the look. The interior is extraordinary, the new V8s are silky and strong, the ride and drive is exceptional and it's full to the brim with worthwhile features. We don't see how you could go wrong unless you are looking for a fuel-efficient workhorse; if so keep on looking. Ruggedness and durability are premium truck qualities; this truck earns its keep.

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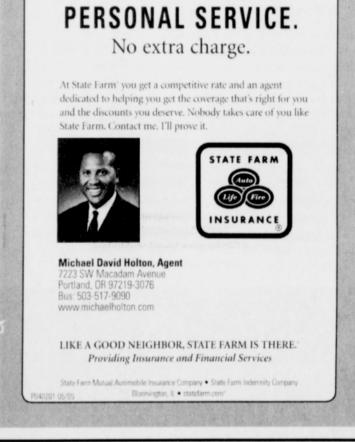








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