

Repair or Replace a Work Pickup?

Record the real truck, mechanic findings and quotes before comparing costs.

1 Identify the truck and the decision

VIN / year / make / model

Mileage / typical work / annual miles

Repair diagnosis and estimate ID

Repair quote including tax (\$)

Estimated shop downtime (days)

Independent second opinion (date)

2 Safety first - do not use unsafe equipment

☐ Qualified mechanic assessed critical systems

☐ NHTSA open-recall search reviewed by VIN

☐ Diagnosis confirmed, not only an error code

☐ Safe return-to-service conditions documented

3 Collect comparable keep and replacement facts

KEEP THE PRESENT TRUCK

Written repair now (\$)

Sale price if kept until horizon (\$)

History: future service budget (\$)

Forecast downtime / year (days)

REPLACE IT

Written out-the-door purchase (\$)

Written trade/sale offer on old truck (\$)

Loan APR / term / payoff needed

Replacement inspection / history verified

Do not compare a single repair invoice to a monthly loan payment.

The comparison must cover the same years and work. A financed replacement needs interest, payoff and end-sale math. Never add full purchase price on top of all loan principal payments.

Keep unresolved safety concerns outside the financial "winner".

Two-Year Cost and Decision Sheet

Write cash costs as positive amounts and vehicle sale proceeds as negative amounts.

4 Use the same horizon, mileage and service level

CATEGORY	KEEP	REPLACE
Immediate confirmed repair (\$)		
Replacement out-the-door purchase (\$)		
Existing truck sale proceeds now (minus \$)		
Later repairs / planned maintenance (\$)		
Fuel for both options (\$)		
Insurance, fees and other differences (\$)		
Lost job contribution OR substitution (\$)		
End-of-period truck resale (minus \$)		
Financing costs / payoff handled separately		
TOTAL comparable net cash cost (\$)		

5 Check confidence, fit and next step

- ☐ Both trucks meet the real job, load and safety needs
- ☐ All inputs are based on written quotes / work history
- ☐ Resale and repair assumptions stress-tested

Largest unknown or missing independent check

Decision: keep / replace / obtain more evidence - why