



BUDGET & PLANNING

5-Year Total Cost of Ownership Worksheet

Compare up to three vehicles by what they will really cost you, not by what the sticker says.

A NOTE FROM OUR TEAM

Two vehicles with the same price can cost you thousands of dollars apart over five years. We've watched it happen from the dealership side of the desk more times than we can count. This worksheet puts your finalists side by side, line by line, so the right choice becomes obvious before you sign anything.

— The Auto Advocate Team

The price tag is only the first number. Over five years, a vehicle also costs you what it loses in value, the interest on the loan, insurance, fuel, maintenance, repairs, taxes and fees, and tires. Professional cost-to-own tools, like Edmunds' *True Cost to Own*, use these same categories over five years. Here you'll run them yourself, with your own quotes, on the exact vehicles you're considering.

1 What It Really Costs to Drive

AAA's 2026 *Your Driving Costs* study puts the average new vehicle at **\$12,863 a year** to own and operate, based on five years and 75,000 miles. The biggest single cost isn't fuel. It's depreciation.

\$4,422

DEPRECIATION PER YEAR

\$2,098

INSURANCE PER YEAR

\$1,184

FINANCE PER YEAR

86¢

PER MILE AT 15K / YR

AAA 2026 COST PER MILE BY VEHICLE TYPE

CATEGORY	PER MILE
Small sedan	61.73¢
Medium sedan	70.37¢
Subcompact SUV	71.68¢
Compact SUV	77.80¢
Midsize pickup	87.26¢
Medium SUV	96.32¢
Half-ton pickup	\$1.10

GAS VS. HYBRID VS. ELECTRIC (PER MILE)

CATEGORY	GAS	HYBRID	EV
Medium sedan	70.5¢	68.0¢	91.1¢
Compact SUV	77.7¢	74.7¢	79.3¢
Medium SUV	96.2¢	91.3¢	95.5¢
Pickup truck	\$1.108	\$1.074	\$1.161

At 15,000 miles a year, as reported by Kelley Blue Book from AAA's 2026 study. AAA found EV charging cost 66% to 70% less than gas, yet in three of these four classes the EV still cost more per mile, largely from faster depreciation. Hybrids had the lowest cost per mile in every class shown.

AAA averages for new, top-selling models: 5-year loan with 15% down, full-coverage insurance, regular gas averaging \$4.152/gal. Use them as a sanity check on your own numbers, not a substitute.

2 Your Finalists

DETAIL	VEHICLE A	VEHICLE B	VEHICLE C
Year, make, model, trim			
New or used (miles if used)			
Out-the-door price	\$	\$	\$
Amount financed / APR / term			
Combined MPG (or kWh/100 mi)			
Your miles per year (same for all three)			

3 The Five-Year Side-by-Side

Fill in five-year totals. Section 4 tells you exactly how to estimate each line.

5-YEAR COST	VEHICLE A	VEHICLE B	VEHICLE C
1. Depreciation	\$	\$	\$
2. Financing interest	\$	\$	\$
3. Insurance	\$	\$	\$
4. Fuel or charging	\$	\$	\$
5. Scheduled maintenance	\$	\$	\$
6. Repairs (outside warranty)	\$	\$	\$
7. Taxes & fees (purchase + 5 yrs of registration)	\$	\$	\$
8. Tires	\$	\$	\$
Total 5-Year Cost of Ownership	\$	\$	\$
Per month (<i>total ÷ 60</i>)	\$	\$	\$
Per mile (<i>total ÷ 5 years of miles</i>)	\$	\$	\$

4 How to Estimate Each Line

1. Depreciation

Price paid minus what it's worth in five years. AAA measures it as purchase price minus estimated trade-in value after 5 years and 75,000 miles. Our shortcut: look up today's trade value on the same model that's five years old with similar miles. That's the real-world answer.

2. Financing interest

Monthly payment × number of payments, minus the amount financed. If you pay cash, enter \$0, but remember that cash has value sitting elsewhere, too.

3. Insurance

Get an actual quote on each vehicle (by VIN if you can) and multiply the annual premium by five. Similar vehicles can quote very differently.

4. Fuel or charging

Use **Worksheet No. 04, The Fuel Cost Calculator**. Annual cost × 5. Use the fuel grade the manual specifies.

5. Scheduled maintenance

Price the owner's-manual schedule for five years at your miles using **Worksheet No. 06, Maintenance & Repair Planner**. Ask whether any maintenance is included with the purchase, and get it in writing.

6. Repairs

Check when the factory warranty ends, in years *and* miles. Any years you'll own it past coverage need a repair reserve (No. 06, Section 4). Used vehicles need more.

7. Taxes & fees

Sales or excise tax, title, and registration vary by state and vehicle. Get current figures from Service Oklahoma or your state's motor vehicle agency, then add annual registration $\times$ 5.

8. Tires

Price the exact tire size on each vehicle and estimate how many sets you'll buy in five years. NHTSA says tires should be replaced at 2/32" of tread, and some manufacturers recommend replacing tires six to 10 years old regardless of tread.

FROM THE INSIDE

The lower payment and the lower cost are often two different vehicles. A longer term or a higher-depreciating model can produce the friendlier monthly number while costing more over five years. Manufacturers also commonly offer a choice between a cash rebate and a special low APR on the same vehicle. Run both through this worksheet: the rebate lowers the price you finance, while the special rate lowers line 2. The right pick depends on your numbers, not the salesperson's.

5 Read Your Results

Lowest 5-year total _____ Difference vs. next _____ Per month _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Every vehicle uses the same miles per year | ☐ The winner's monthly cost fits Line H in No. 02 |
| ☐ Insurance figures are real quotes | ☐ I know which line drives the difference |
| ☐ I compared my per-mile cost to AAA's for that class | ☐ I'd still be happy driving the winner for five years |

MAKE YOUR FINALISTS COST LESS**You picked the smartest vehicle. Let's make sure you pay a smart price for it.**

Your TCO numbers move with the price, the rate, and your trade. With the Buyer Brief, we research the current rebates and incentivized rates on your finalists, give you dealer-grade bookouts and a Carfax on your trade, and help with used-car offers or locating the unit, so the vehicle that wins on paper also wins at the table.

Buyer Brief \$99

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THE DEALERSHIP HAS EXPERTS. NOW YOU DO, TOO.

SOURCES

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 Kelley Blue Book, AAA: Hybrids Come Out on Top in 2026 Ownership Cost Study: kbb.com/car-news/aaa-hybrids-come-out-on-top-in-2026-ownership-cost-study
 Edmunds, What is True Cost to Own (TCO)? help.edmunds.com/hc/en-us/articles/206102997
 Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, How do I compare auto loan offers?: consumerfinance.gov/ask-cfpb/how-do-i-compare-auto-loan-offers-en-753
 NHTSA, Tires: nhtsa.gov/equipment/tires

This worksheet is an educational planning tool, not legal, tax, or financial advice. Verify all figures with your lender, insurer, and the dealership before you sign.