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PARENTING

Ryder Toys All Wheel Drive Buggy review

WE TRIED THE CADILLAC OF KID CARS





Written and Tested by Sarah Kovac, disabled editor covering adaptive products. Updated September 12, 2024

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Ryder All Wheel Drive Buggy

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Kid cars were by far the most coveted toys of my childhood. What kid doesn't want the power and independence of their very own car? So when I became a parent, I wasn't surprised to find my own kids pining after the wind in their hair and a steering wheel in their hands.

When we got the chance to try out the Ryder, my 14-, 11-, and 7-year-old kids were ecstatic. Heck, being under the weight limit myself, I was excited to live out my childhood kid car dream, albeit just a few years too late.

Suffice it to say, my family pushed this little buggy to its limits.

Our impressions were overall very positive, but we also found a drawback or two.

What we like about the Ryder All Wheel Drive Buggy

Bells and whistles

What doesn't it have?

Adjustable leather seats? Check. Touchscreen music and video player? Check. Rubber tires? Headlights? A remote control? Check, check, and check, respectively.

It blows every other kid car I've seen out of the water. There was clearly a lot of care put into the design of this buggy, and the result is a luxury feel.

One of our favorite features has been the remote control. All of my kids (and the neighborhood kids who flocked to our yard after we got this) are old enough to drive the buggy on their own. But oh, the chaotic fun that ensued once Big Brother (a gamer) grabbed the remote while Little Sister was in the car.



My son immediately went for the remote, which looks like an XBox controller.

When they weren't driving each other around the yard, my kids often opted to sit in the buggy and control it using the remote instead of the steering wheel. I could only shrug.

The dash has a couple of fans that do next to nothing, but the stereo system isn't half bad. There's no earth-shaking bass, but it's plenty loud enough for me to hear from inside the house. The included music is too juvenile for my kids-it's really more geared toward toddlers. However, we were able to connect a phone to the car via Bluetooth, so they were able to cruise the yard belting out vintage Taylor Swift.

Higher weight limit

The All Wheel Drive Buggy's weight limit is 150 pounds. That means that all three kids could ride and so could I. Ideally, we would have stayed below the limit, but the big kids of course wanted the younger ones as passengers.

I would guess there were times that the weight of the kids in the buggy neared 200 pounds, and it didn't bog down. Of course this would cause wear and tear if done too often, so I don't recommend it.



We became very popular with the neighborhood kids.

Durability

Another thing I wouldn't recommend is that you store the buggy like we did. Having every good intention, I bought a generic cover for it, since we have to park it outside. After about a month of me sprinting frantically outside in the rain to cover it when the kids forgot, I kind of gave up. You know what happened? Nothing.

The seats are fine. The electronics in the dash are fine. Even the remote is fine. (You should definitely cover it. But if you don't, it will probably be fine.)

In the months we have had this little car, it's seen the kind of abuse only a herd of neighborhood children can inflict. And it's fine.

What we don't like about the Ryder

Assembly was frustrating

Toy assembly jobs are Dad Domain, and as my husband actually assembles machinery all day every day, I thought he'd have this vehicle assembled in a snap. Nope. It was a frustrating project that spanned a couple of afternoons. Word to the wise: Go straight to YouTube for assembly help with this.



It was worth the effort.

One example of confusing instructions: Turn the vehicle upside down. Then attach the front right wheel. Well, what would be the front right wheel is now on the left, according to the diagram... We weren't sure which wheel it meant. Other parts wouldn't snap in easily and popped back out. The windshield frame lasted about a week, but after one side kept detaching, it was removed and never touched again. Just mentally prepare yourself before unboxing. It probably won't be a smooth experience.

Should you get the Ryder?

If you want to get your kid the best of the best? Yes!

Ryder All Wheel Drive Buggy



This car comes loaded with features, and the higher weight limit means your kid can use it for years. Read Our Review

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This is the best of the best when it comes to ride-on toys. I hesitate to even call it a toy, because it's much more than that. You're going to pay a price for the features and quality, to be sure, but it will absolutely wow your kid(s). Just be ready for enough juice boxes for the whole neighborhood.

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