

OVERALL SCORE

87

✓ CR Recommended

2023 Subaru Forester

CR MPG Overall 28 / City 20 / Hwy 38 mpg
#1 of 20 Compact Sport-Utility Vehicles

✓ HIGHS

- Fuel economy
- Great visibility
- Roomy interior
- Easy controls

✗ LOWS

- Engine noise
- No standard blind spot warning

ROAD TEST

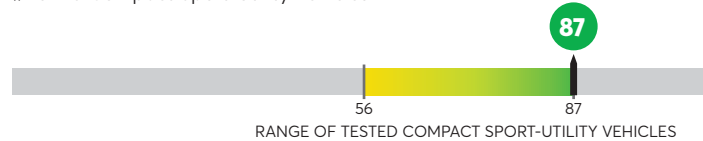
90/100

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

4/5

PREDICTED OWNER SATISFACTION

4/5



Road Test Results

Performance

Acceleration	3/5
0 to 60 mph (sec.)	9.2 sec
Transmission	4/5
Braking	5/5
Emergency Handling	3/5

Comfort/Convenience

Ride	4/5
Noise	3/5

Front Seat Comfort	4/5
Rear Seat Comfort	5/5
Interior Fit & Finish	4/5
Trunk/Cargo Area	3/5

Fuel Economy & Emissions

Fuel Economy	4/5
CR's Overall Mileage	28 mpg
CR's City Mileage	20 mpg
CR's Highway Mileage	38 mpg
Annual Fuel Cost	\$1,715
Greenhouse Gas	6/10
Smog Rating	7/10

Survey Results



Reliability History

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

Owner Satisfaction

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Driving Experience	80/100						
Comfort	80/100						
Value	62/100						

CR Road Test Results

The Subaru Forester is a smart, well-executed small SUV that boasts a roomy interior, great fuel economy, and a comfortable ride.

Beneath the boxy design, this SUV is a sensible, no-nonsense vehicle. The ride is comfortable and supple, the steering is responsive, and handling is secure.

The standard 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine is adequately powerful but it doesn't make the Forester quick. Sprinting from 0-60 mph takes 9.2 sec—which puts it on the slow side compared to other small SUVs. In the real world, however, the Forester has enough power to pass and merge successfully. The continuously variable transmission (CVT) is unobtrusive, but drivers still hear a pronounced engine buzz under acceleration.

Fuel economy is impressive at 28 mpg overall, which is one of the best in this class.

The Forester is adept at absorbing road imperfections, making it one of the better riding SUVs in the category. And yet, it benefits from responsive handling with contained body roll and fairly quick steering when rounding corners.

The spacious interior has controls that are easy to use, plenty of headroom, and some of the best visibility of any new vehicle.

The driving position helps provide a commanding view of the road ahead. Most versions come with a power seat that is comfortable and supportive, thanks in part to its adjustable lumbar support.

As is often true for Subaru, the controls are simple to reach and use. The latest infotainment system is intuitive and is compatible with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

On the utility front, the split rear seat folds nearly flat, leaving a slightly inclined surface for cargo. Opening the power liftgate exposes a wide, square-shaped space that can swallow a fair amount of bulky warehouse-store items or stack a pile of folding tables and chairs. There's even enough space with the rear seat folded down to fit a bicycle with both wheels on.

The Forester falters only when it comes to refinement. Despite upgraded soft-touch surfaces and additional padding, some interior materials look cheap. But what the SUV lacks in panache it makes up for in practicality.

Forward collision warning (FCW), automatic emergency braking (AEB), lane departure warning (LDW), and lane keeping assistance (LKA) come standard. Note that BSW only comes on Sport and higher trims.

Best Version to Get

The Premium trim is a good place to start since it comes with a power driver's seat, rear air vents, sunroof, and the All-Weather package (which brings heated front seats). We'd also get blind spot warning option.

For additional convenience and luxury items such as leather upholstery, bigger infotainment screen, and dual-zone automatic climate control, the Limited trim is the way to go.

Notable changes:

The Forester was all new for 2019. We're pleased to see that Subaru's Eyesight suite of advanced safety features is now standard on all trims. Updates for 2020 include a standard rear-seat reminder system, and new functions added to the lane keeping assistance feature.

A mild freshening for 2022 includes a revised exterior and the addition of an off-road oriented Wilderness trim with additional ground clearance and all-terrain tires.

Updates for 2023 include standard "Automatic Emergency Steering" on models equipped with blind spot warning, lane keeping assistance, and rear cross traffic warning.

To read the full road test go to <https://www.consumerreports.org/cars/subaru/forester/2023/road-test-report>