



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

Auto Safety Hotline

## Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire

NATIONWIDE 1-800-424-9393  
DC METRO AREA (202) 366-0123  
INTERNET: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 758

Date Received

28-FEB-2001

Od\_or \_\_\_\_\_  
rt\_dt \_\_\_\_\_  
od\_rt \_\_\_\_\_  
ip\_lr \_\_\_\_\_

Reference No.

881752

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name and address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### VEHICLE INFORMATION

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vehicle Ident. No. (VIN)<br><small>(Location at bottom of<br/>windshield and driver's side)</small><br><b>1FAPP53U2XA267927</b>                                                                                                                                     | Vehicle Make<br><b>FORD</b>                                                                   | Vehicle Model<br><b>TAURUS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Vehicle Year<br><b>1999</b>                                                                  | Current Odometer Reading<br>_____                                                                                                            |
| Purchase Date<br><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Used                                                                                                                                                                          | Dealer's Name _____<br>City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Engine Size<br>(CID/CC/L) _____<br>No Cylinders _____                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Turbo<br><input type="checkbox"/> Diesel<br><input type="checkbox"/> Gas<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Injection |
| Transmission Type<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Manual<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatic                                                                                                                                                           | Antilock Brakes<br><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No | Restraint System<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> 3-Point Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Motorbelt<br><input type="checkbox"/> Driverside Airbag <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Point Bel<br><input type="checkbox"/> Passengerside Airbag | Cruise Control<br><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No | Drive Train<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Front<br><input type="checkbox"/> Rear<br><input type="checkbox"/> 4-Wheel                       |
| Vehicle Type<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Sport Util<br><input type="checkbox"/> Van <input type="checkbox"/> Truck<br><input type="checkbox"/> Minivan <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |                                                                                               | Body Style<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> 2-Door<br><input type="checkbox"/> 4-Door<br><input type="checkbox"/> Stationwagon<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pick Up Truck<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                      |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                              |

### FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

|                                           |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Component<br><b>06400000<br/>07300000</b> | Part Name(s)<br><b>FUEL:THROTTLE LINKAGES AND CONTROL<br/>POWER TRAIN:TRANSMISSION:AUTOMATIC</b> | Location<br><input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Right<br><input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear | Failed Part(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Original<br><input type="checkbox"/> Replacement |
| No of Failure                             | Date(s) of Failure(s) <b>01-APR-1999</b><br>Mileage at Failure(s) <b>41000</b>                   | Failed Part(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                               | NHTSA Previously<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                |

### APPLICATION INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies) on the back of this form)

|                                                                                  |                                                                                 |                           |                      |                          |                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Crash<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Fire<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Number of Persons Injured | Number of Fatalities | Estimated Property Damag | Reported to Police<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE(S), INCIDENT(S), INJURY(IES)

WHEN DRIVING AT VERY LOW SPEED VEHICLE WILL DROP TO LOW GEAR AND SURGE FORWARD..DEALER CANNOT REMEDY PROBLEM. \*AK

COPIES OF REPORTS - FREE -

The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

| DOT Auto Safety Hotline                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                   | FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 758                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>U.S. Department of Transportation<br/>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ)</b></p> <p>NATIONWIDE 1-888-DASH-2-DOT<br/>1-888-327-4236<br/>www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline</p>                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)</p> <p>[Redacted] 677352</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Date Received 28-FEB-2001</p> <p>Od_or _____<br/>rt_dt _____<br/>od_rt _____<br/>up_ltr _____</p> <p>Reference No. 881752</p>                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name and address to the vehicle manufacturer.</p> <p>Signature of Owner [Redacted] Date 3/19/2001</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Work Number [Redacted]</p> <p>Home Number [Redacted]</p>                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>VEHICLE INFORMATION</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Vehicle Ident. No. (VIN) [Redacted]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Vehicle Make FORD                                                                                                                                 | Vehicle Model TAURUS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Vehicle Year 1999                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Current Odometer Reading 45,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Purchase Date April 2000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Dealer's Name Jones Ford Rivers Ave. H. Remont Rd.                                                                                                | Engine Size (CID/CYL) 3.0 lt.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Turno Diesel Gas Fuel Injection                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Used                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | City N. Charleston State S.C. Zip Code [Redacted]                                                                                                 | No Cylinders 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Transmission Type <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Antilock Brakes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                               | Restraint System <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-Point Bel. <input type="checkbox"/> Motorbelt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Driverside Airbag <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Point Belt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passengerside Airbag | Cruise Control <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                |
| Drive Train <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Wheel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Vehicle Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Van <input type="checkbox"/> Minivan <input type="checkbox"/> Other | Sport Ult. Truck Motorcycle                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Body Style <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Door <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4-Door <input type="checkbox"/> Stationwagon <input type="checkbox"/> Pick Up Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <p><b>FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Component 06400000 07300000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Part Name(s) FUEL:THROTTLE LINKAGES AND CONTROL POWER TRAIN:TRANSMISSION:AUTOMATIC                                                                | Location <input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Right <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear                                                                                                                        | Failed Part(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement                                                                                                  |
| No. of Failures Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Date(s) of Failure(s) 01-APR-1999<br>Mileage at Failure(s) 41000<br>Vehicle Speed at Failure(s) 01-25 mph approx. CAN OCCUR AT ANY LOW SPEED      | Failed Part(s) Available? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                                                             | NHTSA Previously Contacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>APPLICATION INCIDENT INFORMATION</b></p> <p>(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies) on the back of this form)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Crash <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                                                          | Number of Persons Injured                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Number of Fatalities                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Estimated Property Damage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                   | Reported to Police <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE(S), INCIDENT(S), INJURY(IES)</b></p> <p>WHEN DRIVING AT VERY LOW SPEED VEHICLE WILL DROP TO LOW GEAR AND SURGE FORWARD. DEALER CANNOT REMEDY PROBLEM. *AK (Shift to higher gear give itself gas with no driver input.)</p> <p>Transmission snaps at low speed shifts pops loudly and bangs</p> <p>(electrical problems.) Periodically wipers activate for no reason</p>                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>The Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579) This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.</p> |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

CONTINUE ON BACK IF NEEDED

U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Information Management Staff NSA-10.01  
400 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY NATL HWY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 73173 WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590  
Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



U.S. G.P.O. 1992-623-807 / 80365

(Numerous near accidents)

Since date of purchase veh. exhibited defect while in low speed (as low as few miles an hour will suddenly give itself gas lurch forward and shift itself to a higher gear. Can or will happen at any time with no warning. Even, happened in U-turns or circling maneuvers, rush hour conditions and at (no gas for idling in rush hour traffic). Almost constant need to keep foot on brake. If you shift to (D) from (OD) overdrive better, but still surges unexpectedly, dealer's son and 2 mechanics initially pronounced veh. operation (abnormal) later recanted and insisted no problem after numerous half hearted attempts to remedy. Trans. shift linkage came apart after dealer began tinkering with veh. - veh. remained parked in rear of dealership for extended period on (1) week visit.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| FOLD TO SHOW RETURN ADDRESS (no stamp needed) Fasten with tape or staple and mail                                                                                                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INFORMATION ON TIRE FAILURE(S) (IF APPLICABLE)                                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TIRE IDENTIFICATION NO.:                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| D O T                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MANUFACTURER/TIRE NAME                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SIZE                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * The identification number consists of 7 to 10 letters and numerals following the letters DOT. It is usually located near the rim flange on the side opposite the whitewall or on either side of a blackwall tire. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

WPS 37610  
\$8.95 U.S. \$9.95 CAN.  
MAR.  
2001

# CONSUMERGUIDE®

**Buy with  
confidence,  
save money**

The Smart Shopper's Guide to

# USED CARS

## & TRUCKS

*SAVE \$\$\$*



- Price ranges
- Drive reviews
- Specifications
- Photographs
- Plus points
- Minus points

**Easy-to-use  
ratings and  
evaluations**

**Here are the  
best values  
in used cars,  
minivans,  
pickup trucks  
and SUVs**

- Safety recalls
- Trouble spots
- Repair costs
- Crash tests
- Rating charts
- Best Buys
- Model changes
- Fuel economy
- Much more!



# FORD

excitement behind the wheel of a seemingly sedate midsize sedan. SHO is the way to go. Acceleration rivals that of the world's leading sports sedans.

Variable-assist power steering was modified in 1992, resulting in a less precise feel at highway speed. Also on the downside, Taurus tires thump loudly over bumps.

Head room is ample all around, and sedans have a deep, wide trunk. Analog gauges are clearly marked, but the stereo sits low and has small, poorly marked controls.

**VALUE** We rank the early '90s Taurus/Sable among the most impressive domestic cars: solid, roomy, great to look at, and a joy to drive.

## RATINGS

| 1994 Ford Taurus LX sedan 3.8 liter |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Performance.....                    | 4  |
| Economy.....                        | 2  |
| Ride.....                           | 3  |
| Noise.....                          | 3  |
| Room.....                           | 4  |
| Cargo Capacity.....                 | 4  |
| Insurance Costs.....                | 5  |
| Total.....                          | 25 |

## NHTSA CRASH TEST RESULTS

| 1994 FORD TAURUS |  | 4-DOOR SEDAN |
|------------------|--|--------------|
| Driver           |  | ★★★★         |
| Passenger        |  | ★★★★         |

## SPECIFICATIONS

|                          | 4-door sedan | 4-door wagon |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Wheelbase, in.           | 106.0        | 106.0        |
| Overall length, in.      | 192.0        | 193.1        |
| Overall width, in.       | 70.7         | 70.7         |
| Overall height, in.      | 54.1         | 55.5         |
| Curb weight, lbs.        | 3118         | 3265         |
| Cargo volume, cu. ft.    | 18.0         | 83.1         |
| Fuel capacity, gals.     | 16.0         | 16.0         |
| Seating capacity         | 6            | 6            |
| Front head room, in.     | 38.3         | 38.5         |
| Max. front leg room, in. | 41.7         | 41.7         |
| Rear head room, in.      | 37.6         | 38.1         |
| Min. rear leg room, in.  | 37.7         | 36.9         |

Powertrain layout: transverse front-engine/front-wheel drive

## ENGINES

|                      | 4-cyl V4 | 4-cyl V6 | 4-cyl V6 | 4-cyl V6 | 4-cyl V6 |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Size, liters/cu. in. | 2.5/153  | 3.0/182  | 3.0/182  | 3.2/195  | 3.8/232  |
| Horsepower           | 90-105   | 140      | 220      | 220      | 140      |
| Torque (lb.-ft.)     | 130-140  | 160-155  | 200      | 215      | 215      |

## EPA city/highway mpg

|                  |       |       |       |       |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 5-speed OD man.  |       | 18/26 |       |       |
| 3-speed auto.    | 21/27 |       |       |       |
| 4-speed OD auto. |       | 20/30 | 18/26 | 19/28 |

## EPA city/highway mpg (CG observed)

|                  |  |  |  |      |
|------------------|--|--|--|------|
| 4-speed OD auto. |  |  |  | 17.9 |
|------------------|--|--|--|------|

## Built in USA

## RETAIL PRICES

|                 | GOOD          | AVERAGE     | POOR        |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1990 Taurus     | \$1,100-1,800 | \$600-1,200 | \$100-200   |
| 1990 Taurus SHO | 1,900-2,600   | 1,300-1,900 | 400-700     |
| 1991 Taurus     | 1,500-2,300   | 900-1,700   | 200-400     |
| 1991 Taurus SHO | 2,500-3,200   | 1,800-2,400 | 500-900     |
| 1992 Taurus     | 2,000-3,000   | 1,400-2,300 | 400-700     |
| 1992 Taurus SHO | 3,200-4,000   | 2,500-3,200 | 900-1,400   |
| 1993 Taurus     | 2,600-4,000   | 1,900-3,300 | 600-1,300   |
| 1993 Taurus SHO | 4,100-5,000   | 3,400-4,200 | 1,300-1,800 |
| 1994 Taurus     | 3,300-4,900   | 2,600-4,100 | 1,000-1,700 |
| 1994 Taurus SHO | 5,300-6,200   | 4,500-5,400 | 1,900-2,500 |
| 1995 Taurus     | 4,300-6,000   | 3,600-5,200 | 1,400-2,300 |
| 1995 Taurus SHO | 6,800-7,800   | 5,800-6,800 | 2,600-3,200 |

## AVERAGE REPLACEMENT COSTS

|                                |       |                            |     |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-----|
| A/C Compressor .....           | \$455 | Automatic Transmission or  |     |
| Alternator .....               | 440   | Transaxle .....            | 930 |
| Radiator .....                 | 525   | Brakes .....               | 230 |
| Timing Chain or Belt .....     | 210   | Shocks and/or Struts ..... | 495 |
| Constant Velocity Joints ..... | 505   | Exhaust System .....       | 365 |

## TROUBLE SPOTS

• **Engine noise.** The motor mounts are prone to wear out prematurely so Ford has issued a voluntary recall (number 92M77) to replace the right

front and right rear mounts. The coverage is 6 years or 60,000 miles (1992-93).

• **Hard starting.** If the engine does not start or cranks for a long time then stalls, the idle air control valve may be sticking. (1995-96)

• **Tire wear.** Premature tire wear and cupping is caused by rear wheel misalignment (1990-95)

• **Blower motor.** Squeaking or chirping blower motors are the result of defective trash holders. (1990-94)

• **Oil leak.** Ford extended the warranty on the 3.8-liter Taurus to 71,000.000 and may compensate owners for repairs related to head gasket failures. (1994-95)

## RECALL HISTORY

**1990-91:** Front brake rollers on cars sold in 14 northeastern and Great Lakes states may suffer severe corrosion, resulting in reduced braking effectiveness. **1991-95 w/3.8-liter engine in 23 states:** Water can accumulate within speed-control conduit, if cable has frozen, throttle can stick and not return to idle. **1992 wagon:** Children can accidentally lock themselves in footwell area of rear-facing third seat or in storage compartment in wagons that lack optional third seat; self-latching assembly should be replaced with a unit that can be closed only with a key. **1992 wagon:** Secondary liftgate latch mechanism on some cars may not function, possibly allowing liftgate to open while car is in motion. **1992-93:** On cars sold in 14 Midwestern and Northeastern states, body mounts at rear subframe corners (which support engine/transmission) may detach due to corrosion, allowing subframe to drop; could result in clunking noise or altered steering-wheel alignment or, if both corners drop, could make steering very difficult. **1992-95 w/3.0- or 3.8-liter engine, in AK, IA, MN, NE, ND, or SD:** During high winds, heavy snow and low temperatures, engine fan may become blocked or frozen; can cause smoke/flame. **1993:** Controllers intended for rear-drive vehicles (instead of front-drive) may have been installed in a few cars with optional antilock braking. **1993-94:** Headlights can flash intermittently as a result of a circuit-breaker opening. **1995:** On some cars, retainer that holds master cylinder pushrod to brake pedal arm is missing or not fully installed; can result in loss of braking. **1990-95 sold or registered in 24 states or D.C.:** Rear lower subframe mount plate nut can experience corrosion cracking if subjected to long-term exposure to road salt; can result in fracture. **1993 in 21 states:** Front coil springs can fracture as a result of corrosion in combination with small cracks.

## 1996-99 FORD TAURUS



1997 Ford Taurus SHO 4-door sedan

**FOR** Dual airbags • Optional antilock brakes • Acceleration (LX SHO) • Steering/handling • Passenger and cargo room

**AGAINST** Transmission performance (G, GL) • Rear visibility • Ride (SHO)

**THE BASICS** America's best-selling car earned its first full overhaul for 1996, adopting a stunning shape. So did the similar Mercury Sable. Both mid-sizes were larger and more rounded than their 1986-95 predecessors. Wheelbase grew by 2.5 inches, to 108.5, while overall length increased more than five inches on the sedan and nearly six on the station wagon.

Both the 4-door sedan and 4-door wagon came in GL and deluxe LX trim. The GL held an overhead-valve 3.0-liter V6 engine, rated at 145 horsepower. The LX got a new dual-cam 3.0-liter Duratec V6, which produced 200 horsepower. Both used a 4-speed automatic transmission.

Dual airbags were standard; antilock all-disc brakes optional on all models. An oval "integrated control panel" on the dashboard con-

tained radio and

A low-budget C same engine as sedan, holding a dard antilock bra

**1997** Only a ha Mach Audio Syn

**1998** G and G arrived for 98. more powerful V

**1999** All mode bucket seats we a no-charge op

Taurus for 2000

**EVALUATION** less-potent G-C refined, and po

lacking, howev ing. The LX tr

Not only is rougher, and is slow lo

ing in the SH, simply have before much

Steering is and comman

what, but the stiff on rough

and road noi

The mode

terns is easy many look a

pad gets pa

Interior st

rear, where however, w

trunk is no enjoys a ch

trunk of the

**VALUE** T able to dr remained a

**RATINGS** Performance Economy Ride Noise

**NHTSA** 1995 FORD T

Driver Passenger

**SPECIF** Wheelbas

Overall ke

Overall w

Overall h

Curb wei

Cargo vol

Fue. cap

Seating

Front he

Max. fr

Rear he

Min. re

0 miles.

time than

ar wheel

result of

Taurus to  
lead gas-

and Great  
d braking  
can occur  
can stick  
ock them-  
partment  
should be  
2 wagon:  
tion. pos-  
s. On cars  
rear sub-  
ch due to  
ng nose or  
uld make  
K. LA, MN,  
paratures,  
ake flame.  
ont-drive)  
k braking.  
ult-break-  
r cylinder  
n result in  
J.C.: Rear  
cracking if  
ture. 1993  
orrosion in

turned radio and climate controls.

A low-budget G sedan joined during the 1996 model year, with the same engine as the GL. So did a new high-performance SHO sedan, holding a 235-horsepower, 3.4-liter dual-cam V8 and standard antilock braking.

**1997** Only a handful of changes marked the '97 models. Mainly, a Mach Audio System replaced the former JBL setup as an option.

**1998** G and GL editions were gone, and an SE sedan and wagon arrived for '98, as Taurus gained a more assertive front end. The more powerful V6 engine was now optional on the LX and SE.

**1999** All models got revised instrument cluster graphics and front bucket seats were standard on LX and SE (a front bench remained a no-charge option). Sluggish sales prompted Ford to rethink the Taurus for 2000, with a more conventional shape.

**EVALUATION** An LX accelerates with greater authority than its less-potent G/GL siblings. That 200-horsepower engine is smooth, refined, and potent at higher engine speeds. Low-speed torque is lacking, however, so you must floor the throttle to achieve brisk passing. The LX transmission shifts smoothly.

Not only is the G/GL V6 engine less powerful, but it's noisier, rougher, and slower. Its transmission often stumbles, shifts roughly, and is slow to downshift for passing. Low-speed power also is lacking in the SHO's V8, though it's plenty potent at higher speeds. You simply have to wait until engine speed reaches 3000 rpm or so before much happens.

Steering is light and precise. Both models come with good grip and commendable composure. Ride quality has improved somewhat, but the suspension does not absorb bumps well and feels too stiff on rough roads. Beware. The SHO's ride is stiff at all times. Wind and road noise have been reduced compared to previous Tauruses.

The modern-looking control panel for the climate and audio systems is easy to see and reach, but buttons are overly abundant and many look alike. With optional automatic air conditioning, that control pad gets packed full.

Interior space is better all around than before, especially in the rear, where leg room has grown substantially. Sitting three across, however, will crowd everyone—in both front and rear. The sedan trunk is roomy—wide, deep, and reaching well forward. The driver enjoys a clear view to the front and sides, but it's difficult to see the trunk of the sedan.

**VALUE** Though not perfect, Taurus is roomy, well-built, and enjoyable to drive. Prices went up for this generation, but Tauruses remained a good value and an excellent choice, new or used.

## RATINGS

1996 Ford Taurus GL sedan

|                  |   |                      |    |
|------------------|---|----------------------|----|
| Performance..... | 3 | Room.....            | 4  |
| Economy.....     | 2 | Cargo Capacity.....  | 4  |
| Ride.....        | 4 | Insurance Costs..... | 5  |
| Noise.....       | 4 | Total.....           | 26 |

## NHTSA CRASH TEST RESULTS

1996 FORD TAURUS

4-DOOR SEDAN

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Driver.....    | 4 |
| Passenger..... | 4 |

## SPECIFICATIONS

|                              | 4-door sedan   | 4-door wagon   |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wheelbase, in.....           | 108.5          | 108.5          |
| Overall length, in.....      | 187.5          | 198.6          |
| Overall width, in.....       | 73.0           | 73.0           |
| Overall height, in.....      | 55.1           | 57.8           |
| Curb weight, lbs.....        | 3026           | 3480           |
| Cargo volume, cu ft.....     | 15.8           | 81.3           |
| Fuel capacity, gals.....     | 16.0           | 16.0           |
| Seating capacity.....        | 6 <sup>1</sup> | 8 <sup>2</sup> |
| Front head room, in.....     | 39.2           | 39.3           |
| Max. front leg room, in..... | 42.6           | 42.6           |
| Rear head room, in.....      | 36.2           | 38.9           |
| Min. rear leg room, in.....  | 38.9           | 38.5           |

1, 5 with front bucket seats; 2, 6 without optional third row seat

Powertrain layout: transverse front-engine/front-wheel drive

## ENGINES

|                          | ohv V6  | dohc V6 | dohc V8 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Size, liters/cu. in..... | 3.0/182 | 3.0/181 | 3.4/207 |

|                        | ohv V6 | dohc V6 | dohc V8 |
|------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| Horsepower.....        | 145    | 200     | 235     |
| Torque (lbs./ft.)..... | 170    | 200     | 230     |

## EPA city/highway mpg

|                           |       |       |       |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 4-speed OD automatic..... | 20/28 | 19/28 | 17/26 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|

## EPA city/highway mpg (CG observed)

|                           |      |      |      |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|
| 4-speed OD automatic..... | 18.3 | 17.1 | 16.5 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|

## Built in USA

## RETAIL PRICES

|                       | GOOD          | AVERAGE       | POOR          |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1996 Taurus.....      | \$5,700-8,000 | \$4,900-7,200 | \$2,500-4,000 |
| 1996 Taurus SHO.....  | 10,000-11,000 | 9,000-10,000  | 5,000-5,500   |
| 1997 Taurus.....      | 7,000-9,500   | 8,100-8,500   | 8,200-4,500   |
| 1997 Taurus SHO.....  | 11,500-13,000 | 10,500-12,000 | 6,200-7,500   |
| 1998 Taurus.....      | 8,700-10,700  | 7,700-9,600   | 4,500-5,500   |
| 1998 Taurus SE-0..... | 13,500-15,900 | 12,300-13,800 | 7,700-9,000   |
| 1999 Taurus.....      | 13,500-12,500 | 9,600-11,200  | 6,000-7,000   |
| 1999 Taurus SHO.....  | 13,500-17,500 | 14,000-16,000 | 9,000-10,500  |

## AVERAGE REPLACEMENT COSTS

|                                          |       |                               |    |
|------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|----|
| A/C Compressor.....                      | \$440 | Clutch Pressure Plate.....    | N  |
| Alternator.....                          | 350   | Bearing.....                  | N  |
| Radiator.....                            | 585   | Constant Velocity Joints..... | 60 |
| Timing Chain or Belt.....                | 350   | Brakes.....                   | 28 |
| Automatic Transmission or Transaxle..... | 1,115 | Shocks and/or Struts.....     | 60 |
|                                          |       | Exhaust System.....           | 41 |

## TROUBLE SPOTS

- **Suspension noise.** The sway bar links wear prematurely causing clunking noise. Revised parts are available. (1996-97)
- **Vehicle noise.** Rattling and buzzing from under the car is common due to loose heat shields on the catalytic converter and/or muffler. (1996-97)
- **Dashboard lights.** The check engine light comes on for a variety of reasons including bad gasoline, a wobbling accessory drive pulley, bad spark plugs. (1996-97)
- **Steering problems.** The power steering gets harder to turn when decelerating from about 50 miles per hour or when shifting from reverse to drive requiring replacement of the control module and/or transmission range sensors. (1996)
- **Water leak.** Water leaks onto the front floor because of poor sealing the cabin air filter cowl inlet. (1996-98)
- **Tire wear.** Rear tires wear prematurely due to incorrect rear alignment (toe and camber). (1996-97)
- **Automatic transmission.** Vehicles with the AX4S automatic transmission may shift harshly from first to second gear. (1996-97)
- **Air conditioner.** The air conditioning may not cool properly because the lines leak at the spring-lock couplings. Larger O-rings are available. (1996-97)

## RECALL HISTORY

1996 w/AX4S automatic transaxle: "Park" pawl shaft was improperly positioned; pawl may occasionally fail to engage when selector lever placed in "park" position, allowing vehicle to roll if parking brake has not been applied. 1996: Automatic-transmission "park" pawl shaft may not be free to rotate; vehicle could then roll as if in neutral, with shift lever in "park" position. 1996: Vacuum diaphragm in fuel pressure regulator was damaged during manufacture; if it tears or ruptures, liquid fuel could be released from cleaner assembly or exhaust system. 1996: Brake fluid indicator can malfunction. 1996-97: "Park" pawl adjustment bracket has sharp edge, which can cause pawl to hang up and not engage gear; vehicle can then move, even though indicator shows "Park." 1999: Retainer clip can disengage from accelerator cable and fall into pedal arm pivot area; engine may not return to idle, and insulator could interfere with cable. 1998-99 w/airbag: seat tracks: Front seatbelt buckle attaching stud may have been improperly heat-treated, resulting in cracks. 1999 w/"California" emissions package: Incorrect transmission oil cooler line was installed, which contacts ABS module bracket and, over time, can wear and develop a leak. 1997: Headlamp aiming instruction in owner's manual is not sufficiently clear. 1997: Seatbelt retractor may have incorrectly formed pin shaft that could, in some circumstances, prevent seatbelt webbing from being extracted. 1997: w/AX4S automatic transaxle: Low/intermediate servo cover can separate while vehicle is moving, allowing transmission fluid to contact the hot catalytic converter.

eration (LX).

• Rear visibility

its first full over-  
-nilar Mercury  
ed than their  
s, to 108.5,  
n the sedan

and deluxe  
line, rated at  
Duratec V6,  
d automatic

optional on all  
board con-

R GUIDE

CONSUMER GUIDE

Prices are accurate at time of publication