Ford F-150 Maintenance Schedule

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The Ford F-150 Maintenance schedule is similar to pretty much any other truck out there. There are the basics that need to be done about every season and others that only need done once a year and then there are those that only need to be done every few years.

Service	Schedule	Cost
Oil & Filter Change	7,500 – 10,000 miles	$60 – $125
Tire Rotation	5,000 – 7,000 miles	FREE to $50
Breaks Inspection	7,500 – 10,000 miles	FREE – $100
Break Pads Replacement	7,500 – 10,000 miles	$200 – $500
Air Filter Replacement	15,000 – 30,000 miles	$20 – $30
Battery Replacement	3 – 5 years	$150 – $300
Transmission Fluid & Filter	30,000 – 60,000 miles	$450 – $700

Oil Change Schedule

Most F-150 models need an **oil change every 7,500 to 10,000 miles or every six months,** whichever comes first. If you use your truck for tough jobs like towing or driving off-road, you may need to change the oil more often. The truck's computer also has a system to tell you when to get an oil change based on how you drive.

Always use the type of oil Ford recommends for the F-150, which is usually synthetic oil. This oil lasts longer and is better for your engine than regular oil. Even if you don't drive much, you still need to change the oil twice a year. Oil can break down over time even if you don't use your truck a lot.

The cost of an oil change for a Ford F-150 can be from **$60 to $125**.

Oil Types

The gasoline powered F-150 trucks require the **SAE 5W-20 or SAE 5W-30 full synthetic oil**. The 5W-20 is the thinner oil that is better for colder climates an the 5W-30 is a little thicker consistency and is good for warmer climates.

The diesel-powered F-150 trucks require the Motorcraft SEA 5W-30 full synthetic oil.

Tire Rotation & Pressure Check

Keeping your Ford F-150's tires in good shape is important for safe driving and getting better gas mileage. **Rotate your truck's tires every 5,000 to 7,500 miles**. This helps all four tires wear down evenly. If you don't do this, some tires might wear out faster than others.

Each tire in the truck may wear down at a different rate based on what side of the truck is heavier when carrying a load in the bed, towing or even just carrying passengers. Even a driver by themselves can cause one side of the truck's tires to be worn out more than the other. Rotating them around helps mix up the wear and make the set last longer.

Checking the tire pressure is something you should do every month. The correct tire pressure keeps you safe and helps your tires last longer. You can find the PSI specification for your F-150's tires in the owner's manual or on a sticker inside the driver's door or on the tires themselves. If the pressure is too low or too high, your tires could get damaged, and your truck might not handle as well. Plus, if the pressure is just right, your truck will use less gas.

An average tire requires about 35 PSI of pressure, but some heavier duty tires require more. It is best to check the PSI specification on each tire.

The cost of a tire rotation can be from **$25 to $50**. But if you take the truck back to where you bought the tires **you can usually get the rotation for free**.

Breaks Inspection & Replacement

Brakes are a very important component on your truck to make sure it is in good working order. They should be checked every time you change your oil or rotate your tires. This way, you can catch any problems early. If your brakes squeak or it's harder to stop, you need to get them checked out right away.

Over time, brake pads wear down and need to be swapped out. For a Ford F-150, you'll likely need **new brake pads every 30,000 to 70,000 miles**, but how you drive can also affect that. If you drive a lot in the city or pull heavy things, you might need to replace them more often. Always use good-quality brake pads to keep your truck stopping on a dime and make them last longer.

A breaks inspection can cost from **$80 to $100**, and break pads and shoes replacement can cost **$200 to $500.**

Doing a full break job that includes replacing the calipers, rotors and pads is almost never necessary but is often pushed by the sales people because it has a large price tag. You can expect to spend $600 to $1200 for a full break job. Make sure you really need it before you shell out that kind of money.

Advanced Maintenance for Long-Term Health

There are more advanced things that should be checked out on regular basis that may require taking the truck to a mechanic. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

Air Filters

To make sure your Ford F-150 can breathe well, you need to swap out the air filter regularly. Think of the air filter as your truck's lungs. It keeps dust and dirt from getting into the engine. A clean filter means your engine runs better and lasts longer. **Change the air filter every 15,000 to 30,000 miles**, but if you're often driving on dirt roads or in dusty places, you might need to do it more.

An air filter can cost about **$20-$30** and can be replaced at home to save money. Usually this part is included or added as an low-price add-on when doing an oil change or other service.

The Battery

Your Ford F-150's battery is like its heartbeat, so checking it is part of good truck care. Usually, a truck battery will work well for **about three to five years.** But it's smart to check the battery every oil change to make sure it's still strong. If the engine sounds like its having a hard time starting, especially int eh winter, the battery might be getting weak. If it's old or tests show it's low, it's time for a new one.

The battery can cost from **$150 to $300** depending on brand name, quality and where you buy it.

Transmission Fluid & Filter

Your Ford F-150's transmission is what shifts the gears smoothly, so keeping the fluid clean is a big deal. Old fluid or a dirty filter can cause gear shifting problems and even damage your transmission. Most F-150 trucks need their transmission fluid changed and a new filter **every 30,000 to 60,000 miles**. But, if you tow a lot or drive in really hot or cold places, check it more often.

The cost of the transmission fluid and filter replacement can cost from **$450 to $700**.

Seasonal Maintenance Tips

Getting your Ford F-150 ready for winter is a smart thing to do for peace of mind. **Before winter starts**, do the following:

- Check your **antifreeze** to make sure it's full and ready to handle the freeze.
- Your **battery** can get weak in the cold, so test it to make sure it won't let you down.
- Put on **winter tires** if you drive in snow or ice a lot. They grip the road better to keep you safe.
- Check or replace your **windshield wipers** and don't forget to put in **wiper fluid** that won't freeze!
- You can also change the **engine oil** to the (SAE 5W-20) thinner type that is good for colder temperatures.

CAUTION: Never open your radiator cap when the engine is hot. Wait at least 15 minutes after shutting off the engine before opening the cap.

When it gets hot, your F-150 needs different care. Hot temperatures can make engines overheat. Before summer starts, do the following:

- Make sure your **cooling system** works good—check the coolant and look for leaks.
- You can also change your **engine oil** to a thicker type (SAE 5W-30) that's right for hot weather. This helps keep your engine cool.
- Check your **air conditioner** to make sure it keeps the cabin comfy.
- Also, look at your **tires** again. Hot roads can make tire pressure go up, so keep an eye on that pressure gauge.

In spring and fall, it's time to check everything over. Look for any problems from the winter cold or summer heat. This includes the following:

- Checking your **brakes**.
- Check the **fluids**.
- Check the **undercarriage** for rust or damage.
- Make sure your **headlights and taillights** work.
- Replace any old **wipers**.

These seasons are a good time to clean up your F-150 too. Wash off any salt from winter roads or dirt from summer trips. This will keep your truck looking good and stop rust or other damage.

How to Save on Ford F-150 Maintenance

Saving money on your Ford F-150 maintenance costs starts with **doing some easy jobs yourself**. Simple things like changing your air filters, checking tire pressure, and doing oil changes can be done at home with a few tools and instructions. You'll spend less cash on service fees **and learn about how your truck works**, making you ready for quick fixes on the go.

For the bigger jobs, find a mechanic you can trust who knows F-150s. Mechanics who know your truck type **can do the work faster and better**, which keeps costs down.

It's a fact that if you take your truck to the Ford dealer service department, you can spend significantly more money than if you take it to a local mechanic. But that also comes with some peace of mind which is knowing that they specialize in Ford trucks and the work comes with a guarantee.

Taking the truck to a local mechanic can be cheaper but only do that if you have vetted that mechanic and know that they knows what they're doing and can provide some guarantees on their work.

Also, keep an eye out for **deals or service specials at local dealerships**. And **don't forget about your warranty** – it might cover some repairs, so always check if you can use it to pay for stuff on your truck. All this can help keep more money in your pocket while keeping your F-150 in top shape.