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2006 Dodge Durango Combines Increased Fuel Efficiency, Added Safety Features And Conveniences With "Right Size" Suv Formula

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- Multi-Displacement System (MDS) standard with Dodge Durango's 5.7-liter HEMI® V-8 engine provides up to 20 percent fuel economy improvement
- Electronic Stability Program (ESP) and roll-sensing side-curtain air bags add to Dodge Durango's Five-Star safety rating
- Power rear liftgate, remote start and three-passenger third-row seat provide more convenience

The 2006 Dodge Durango adds several state-of-the-art technologies and conveniences, setting itself apart, again, from the crowded SUV market. The 2006 Dodge Durango offers all the power, capability and style with advances in fuel efficiency and safety-including Chrysler Group's Multi-Displacement System (MDS) and Electronic Stability Program (ESP)-that customers expect from a modern SUV.

"The 2006 Dodge Durango once more sets new standards for comfort, efficiency and safety, while living up to the 'utility' promise of sport-utility vehicles," said Darryl Jackson, Vice President-Dodge Marketing, Chrysler Group. "With best-in-class power, the ability to tow 8,950 lbs., seating for eight passengers and a host of new technologies and amenities, the Dodge Durango offers the ultimate combination of features in the right-size SUV."

A significant contributor to Dodge Durango's improved fuel efficiency is MDS technology, which is now standard on the 2006 Dodge Durango's 5.7-liter HEMI® V-8 engine. Customers will experience estimated fuel economy gains of up to 20 percent under various driving conditions.

The 2006 Dodge Durango also features a Clean Fuel option for 3.7-liter V-6 and 4.7-liter V-8 engines, which provides fleet customers the adaptability of operating their Durango on ethanol, gasoline or any mixture of the two. In addition, Variable Line Pressure (VLP) has been added to the four-speed automatic transmission, which is mated with the 3.7-liter V-6, resulting in improved fuel economy and smoother shifts.

Also new for the 2006 Dodge Durango is a power rear liftgate, three-passenger third-row 60/40 seat, remote start, Tip Start, two new 18-inch wheel options and standard 17-inch aluminum wheels.

The 2006 Dodge Durango is available in three trim levels: SXT (replaces ST), SLT and Limited. In addition, the Adventurer package, introduced in 2005, is also available for 2006.

Multi-Displacement System

With the 5.7-liter HEMI V-8, the Dodge Durango is the most powerful large SUV on the market. For 2006 that esteemed power is available with maximum fuel economy through Chrysler Group's Multi-Displacement System.

"The Multi-Displacement System incorporated with the Dodge Durango's HEMI engine turns off four of the eight cylinders when the engine is under a light load-such as cruising down the highway-to conserve energy," said Mike Donoughe, Vice President-Body-on-Frame Product team, Chrysler Group. "The most amazing attribute to this system is how invisibly it operates. The HEMI can transition from eight cylinders to four in 40 milliseconds. Dodge Durango customers will now realize the fuel-efficiency benefits of MDS without sacrificing power and torque."

MDS seamlessly alternates between smooth, high-fuel economy four-cylinder mode when less power is needed, and eight-cylinder mode when more power from the 5.7L HEMI engine is in demand. The system deactivates the valve lifters. This keeps the valves in four cylinders closed, resulting in no combustion.

Durango customers receive the powerful benefit of the HEMI engine with the fuel economy that they-until now-could only expect from a smaller, less powerful engine.

Electronic Stability Program

New on the 2006 Dodge Durango is Chrysler Group's Electronic Stability Program, a feature available on all of Chrysler Group's 2006 SUVs. ESP aids the driver in maintaining vehicle directional stability by providing oversteer and understeer control, to maintain vehicle behavior on road surfaces.

To optimize overall driving performance, ESP helps the driver maintain directional stability in rain, snow, ice or on dry pavement. The standard Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) is equipped with electronic sensors that help to prevent wheel lockup, and provides excellent stability and maneuverability during braking on virtually every type of road surface.

The Perfect Blend of Size and Power

The 2006 Dodge Durango has the interior room, towing and hauling capability of a large SUV, but achieves the fuel efficiency, performance and handling of smaller full-size SUVs. With more cargo room than Chevrolet Tahoe, Ford Expedition and Toyota Sequoia, the 2006 Dodge Durango is the "right size" SUV.

The 2006 Dodge Durango's standard powertrain is the 3.7-liter Magnum® V-6 that develops 210 horsepower (157 kW) and 235 lb.-ft. of torque (319 Nom). The 230 horsepower (175 kW) 4.7-liter Magnum V-8 engine is standard on all four-wheel drive Dodge Durangos. With 290 lb.-ft. of torque (393 Nom), the 4.7-liter provides smooth and responsive performance.

The award-winning HEMI's 335 horsepower (257 kW) and 370 lb.-ft. of torque (509 Nom) provides more than ample power for towing and hauling, and is mated to a five-speed automatic transmission. The 5.7-liter HEMI V-8 engine is available on the 2006 Dodge Durango SLT, Adventurer and Limited models. "With a powerful V-6 Magnum engine as standard, an optional 4.7-liter Magnum V-8 and the class-leading HEMI V-8, the 2006 Dodge Durango has a lineup of engines that can't be matched," said Donoughe. "Unsurpassed in acceleration and towing, the 2006 Dodge Durango gives our customers exactly what they want."

2006 Dodge Durango models with either the 4.7-liter V-8 or 5.7-liter HEMI V-8 offer a "Tow/Haul" transmission feature that provides crisp shifts and reduces gear searching when towing by holding the lower gear longer. The system will also select a lower gear under downhill conditions to utilize the engine's braking capability.

Interior Roominess and Flexibility

The 2006 Dodge Durango interior is simple, roomy and user-friendly with a functional, yet elegant design. With best-in-class cargo capacity, offering a best-in-class 68.4 cu. ft. of cargo room with the third-row seats folded, Dodge Durango easily surpasses other full-size SUVs, with a more than 20 cu. ft. advantage over Ford Explorer.

Dodge Durango's flat load floor, created by folding down the second- and third-row seats, provides an enormous 102.4 cu. ft. of total cargo volume. Additionally, the distance between the wheelhouses in the rear cargo area is 48 inches wide-enough to transport standard 48-inch sheets of plywood.

With a new innovative 60/40 split third-row seat that boasts seating for three adults, Dodge Durango improves flexibility without losing capability. The second- and third-row seats feature ample leg, shoulder and hip room, and second-row seats include their own climate controls and a DVD entertainment system, as well as reclining seat backs.

A new power rear liftgate opens with the touch of a button to provide easy loading and unloading of gear. The rear doors open 84 degrees to provide passengers with easy entry and exit.

Smooth Ride

The 2006 Dodge Durango features a smooth and quiet ride, with precise handling-benefits of the Dodge Durango's torsionally stiff hydroformed frame and independent front suspension with rack and pinion steering.

"The Dodge Durango features a fully hydroformed frame and chassis that is unique to Durango," said Donoughe. "We have delivered an exceptional-handling SUV that delivers a refined driving experience, whether it's during a trip to the grocery store or a family vacation. In the crowded SUV market, the 2006 Dodge Durango's smooth ride truly distinguishes itself from the pack."

Dodge Durango's smooth ride is also the result of a unique rear suspension with coil springs and a solid rear axle that delivers durability, payload and best-in-class towing capability. A Watt linkage system is fitted to the rear axle, centering the axle and reducing rear-end skate over rough surfaces. The rear suspension supports a Gross Vehicle

Weight Rating (GVWR) of 6,600 lbs. and towing capacity of 8,950 lbs.

Five-Star Safety Rating

The Dodge Durango was awarded a Five-Star frontal impact rating by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 2005. New for 2006 is a roll-sensing side-curtain air bag system that uses sensors to keep side-curtain air bags deployed longer in rollovers.

The Dodge Durango's hydroformed and fully boxed frame provides excellent crash protection. In addition, octagonal front frame rail tips with patented crush initiators are designed to consistently absorb frontal impacts.

Standard on the 2006 Dodge Durango is an advanced air bag system that includes dual-stage front air bags and an occupant-sensing system for the passenger-side front air bag. All seats in the Dodge Durango feature three-point shoulder belts, including a center-mounted, three-point shoulder belt incorporated into the second-row seating area.

Dodge Durango SXT

For 2006, Dodge Durango SXT replaces the ST and includes standard features such as power mirrors, air conditioning, illuminated entry, front and rear power outlets, bucket seats, a second-row 40/20/40 folding seat, AM/FM stereo radio with in-dash CD and four speakers, speed control, steering column tilt, power windows, four-wheel disc brakes with ABS, Tip Start, a full-size spare tire, 17-inch cast-aluminum wheels, power door locks and remote keyless entry.

Optional features for the Dodge Durango SXT include running boards, rear air conditioning and heating controls, third-row bench, six-disc in-dash CD stereo radio, Skid Plate Group, roll sensing side curtain air bags, ESP and Trailer Tow Group.

Dodge Durango SLT

In addition to the standard equipment offered on the Dodge Durango SXT, the 2006 Dodge Durango SLT features fog lamps, woodgrain instrument panel, power driver seat and a 160-amp alternator.

Optional equipment includes power liftgate, power sun roof, overhead console with mini-trip computer, HomeLink® universal transceiver, power-adjustable pedals, leather front bucket seats, third-row three-passenger rear seat, heated front seats, SIRIUS Satellite Radio, eight premium speakers, a rear-seat video system, steering wheel-mounted audio controls, full-time four-wheel-drive shift-on-the-fly two-speed electronic transfer case, 17-inch chrome-clad aluminum wheels, security alarm, Sentry Key® engine immobilizer and Interior Convenience Group.

Dodge Durango Limited

In addition to the standard equipment offered on the Dodge Durango SLT, the 2006 Dodge Durango Limited is a premium model and includes heated auto-dimming side mirrors, power liftgate, premium instrument panel bezel, air conditioning with automatic temperature control, luxury floor mats, memory system for radio, driver seat, mirrors, air conditioning and adjustable pedals, auto-dimming rearview mirror, front heated bucket seats with premium leather, a second-row reclining 40/20/40 folding seat, power front passenger seat, AM/FM stereo radio with six-disc in-dash CD and MP3 player, eight premium speakers with subwoofer, steering wheel-mounted audio controls, Electronic Stability Program (ESP), 18-inch cast aluminum wheels, security alarm and Sentry® Key engine immobilizer.

Optional equipment for the 2006 Dodge Durango Limited includes AM/FM stereo radio with navigation system and six-disc in-dash CD/DVD player, UConnect™ hands-free communications system with Bluetooth™ wireless technology and 18-inch chrome-clad aluminum wheels.

Dodge Durango Adventurer

The 2006 Dodge Durango Adventurer is designed for the outdoor enthusiast and includes standard features including a cargo management system, reversible rubber slush mats, cargo mat with integrated bin liner, Thule® roof rack and satin silver tubular side steps.

A new color for the 2006 Dodge Durango is Inferno Red Crystal Pearl, which replaces Deep Molten Red Pearl. The 2006 Dodge Durango is built at the Newark Assembly Plant in Newark, Del.

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