

OVERALL SCORE

84

✓ CR Recommended

2020 Subaru Forester

CR MPG Overall 28 / City 20 / Hwy 38 mpg
#1 of 16 Compact Sport-Utility Vehicles

✓ **HIGHS**

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

✗ **LOWS**

- Engine noise

ROAD TEST

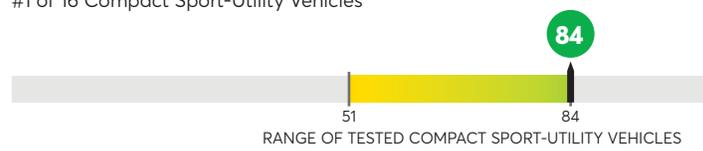
90/100

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

3/5

PREDICTED OWNER SATISFACTION

5/5



Road Test Results

Performance

Acceleration		3/5
0 to 60 mph (sec.)	9.2 sec	
Transmission		4/5
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	\$1,030	
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

Survey Results

Reliability History



Owner Satisfaction



WORSE BETTER

CR Road Test Results

The updated Subaru Forester is a smart, well-executed small SUV that boasts a roomy interior, great fuel economy, and plenty of standard safety equipment.

Beneath the familiar exterior design, Subaru has made a lot of improvements without altering the SUV's sensible, no-nonsense character. The ride is comfortable and supple, the steering is responsive, and there's little body lean around corners.

The standard 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine is a little more powerful, but that doesn't make the Forester any quicker. 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) has been refined to be less obtrusive, but drivers still hear a pronounced engine buzz under acceleration.

Fuel economy is impressive at 28 mpg overall, tying the Honda CR-V EX for the best mileage of any small SUV that isn't a diesel or a hybrid.

Ride and handling have also improved. 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 less body roll and quicker steering than the previous version 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 responds quickly. It is also compatible with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

On the utility front, the split seats fold 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. 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.

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.

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.

To read the full road test go to <https://www.consumerreports.org/cars/subaru/forester/2020/road-test>