

Truckers' Gear Guide



- ▶ **Shaking the Winter Blues**
- ▶ **Cool Tech for a Cool Ride**
- ▶ **Top Reasons to Attend a Trucking Trade Show**

More Inside

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ▶ **Shaking the Winter Blues**

 - ▶ **Cool Tech for a Cool Ride**

 - ▶ **Spring Ahead**

 - ▶ **Top Reasons to Attend a Trucking Trade Show**

 - ▶ **Cooking with RoadPro®**

 - ▶ **Buyer's Guide - Bluetooth® Headsets**

 - ▶ **Keeping It Fresh**

 - ▶ **The Best Part of Being a Trucker**

 - ▶ **Pro Driver Tip**

 - ▶ **Make-A-Wish Mother's Day Truck Convoy**
-



FAMILY OF BRANDS

Shaking the Winter Blues

Tips for Spring Cleaning Your Truck

By Sierra Sugar

You've kept your truck warm and cozy through all the wind, ice, and snow. At first it was your refuge from the cold. As the months of winter drag along the cozy confinement turns to a cluttered cabin fever. So, what do you do now that the weather is starting to warm?

Step 1: Re-evaluate and Remove Winter Clothes

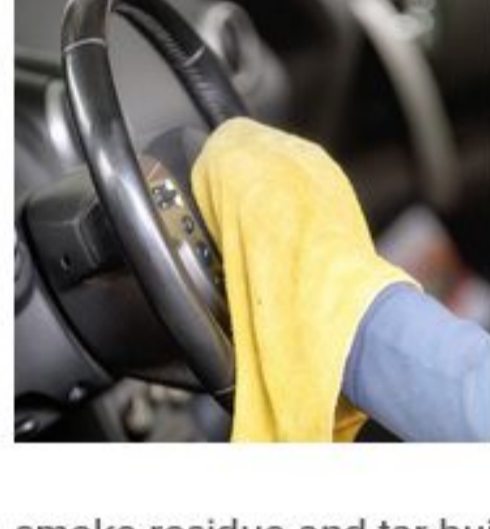
With warmer weather on the horizon, you may not need those two or three extra blankets. You find yourself not needing to wear thermal underwear or layers of clothes. Extra gloves, hats, hoodies, and jackets get shoved to the back of your limited cabinet or closet space. So now is a good time to go through your wardrobe.

- Empty all your clothing cabinets and closets.
- Remove all the heavy, bulky winter wear to make room for lighter clothing.
- Throw out anything with stains, rips, and holes.
- Use a damp cloth or a light spray cleaner with paper towels to wipe out the inside of your cabinets removing dust, pet and human hair, and dander, that has accumulated through the winter months.
- Wipe down the outsides and handles of the cabinets to remove grease, grim, and germs.
- Spray everything down with a light coating of disinfectant to kill any possible lingering winter cold and flu germs before placing your spring and summer clothes back in the cabinets.
- To help keep your clothes and cabinets smelling fresh and clean, place dryer sheets on the bottom of each cabinet before replacing your clothes in them.

Step 2: Restock Supplies

This is a good time to empty any food/pantry type cabinets, refrigerators, or coolers you may have in your truck.

- Throw away any opened, stale, or expired food items, broken dishes, warped or lidless plastic containers, and anything else that is no longer functional or that is damaged.
- Wipe down the insides and outsides all food cabinets and spray with disinfectant just as you did with your clothing cabinets.
- Defrost your freezer and wipe out your fridge if you have one.
- Any dishes, cook wear, appliances, and utensils should be taken inside to be washed or run through a dishwasher.
- Restock your food supplies and cooking items.
- Contact paper, plastic wrap, or aluminum foil on the shelves of your fridge and the bottom of your food cabinets helps make future clean up quicker.
- If you do have a fridge or freezer in your truck, a small opened box of baking soda will help keep food odors at bay.



Step 3: To the Windows to the Walls, It's Time to Clean them All

Hey! Ho! Oh wait... Sorry got lost in the music in my head. Back to business.

Dirt, dust, and grim accumulate on the walls of the truck, the ceiling of the cab, the divider and privacy curtains, and the floors. If you are a smoker, you would be surprised how much

smoke residue and tar build up around your window and over your head.

- Use your air hose to blow out dust from your dash, under your seats, etc... Working back to front, blow all the dust up and out of the doors.
- Working from top to bottom, wipe down everything with a damp cloth and a cleaning spray that cuts greasy residue. Alternatively, you can use a solution of water and white vinegar. Vinegar kills germs, is safe if it splashes on fabric, is less irritating to skin, and is pet safe.
- Wipe down your steering wheel, door handles, and window and lock controls.
- Use glass cleaner or vinegar to clean all your windows and mirrors

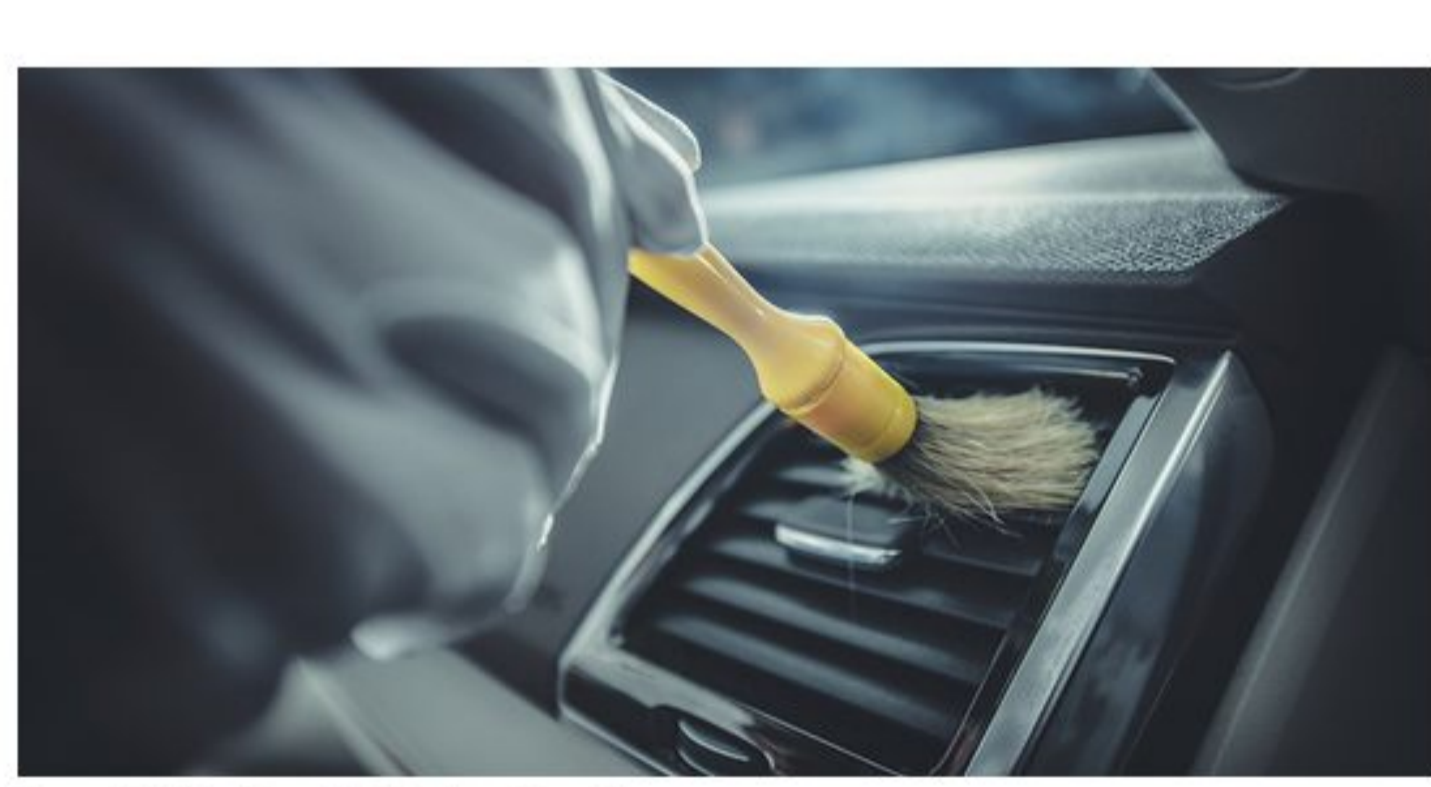
Step 4: Now it's time to work on the floors.

Working top to bottom is key to avoid dirtying areas you've already cleaned once. After all the cabinets, windows, and walls, etc... have been cleaned, we move to the floors.

- RoadPro makes a 12-volt handheld vacuum that is great for cleaning the floors.
- Vacuum your mattress (after it has been stripped of bed linens) to remove dust, dander, dead skin, etc...
- Sprinkle a little baking soda all over your mattress. Let it sit while you're cleaning other areas. Then vacuum it up. It'll help remove any odors from your mattress. If you have cloth seats in your truck, repeat this same process with your seats.
- After the floors have been vacuumed and/or swept, give them a good mopping with any cleaning solution you like, such as pine cleaner, bleach water, or vinegar and water. Vinegar is also safe for those of you that have wooden or laminate floors in your truck.
- Place a few dryer sheets on your mattress before putting your sheets on the bed. If you use covers over your seats, place a dryer sheet on the seat before reapplying the seat cover.



RoadPro®
12-Volt Wet/Dry Canister Vacuum



Step 5: The Devil is in the Details.

There is cleaning, and there is detailing. If the rest of your truck is clean, but your dash area is not detailed, your truck will still not feel clean.

- There are special detailing brushes you can purchase, but almost any small brush (paint brush, art brush, even a cotton swab) can be used to get into the tight crevices.
- Wipe everything down with a damp cloth, a spray cleaner, vinegar (can you tell I like vinegar as a natural cleaner), or any special polish you like. Which you use will largely depend on whether you have a lot of chrome on your dash, wood grain, or other material.
- Don't forget to change the filters in all of your vents, especially those up under the dash. You've had your truck closed up with the heater running all winter. All those smells, odors, dust, and pet hair have accumulated on your filters. To help keep your truck smelling fresh and odor free, place dryer sheets inside your vents up against the backside of the filters so airflow holds the dryer sheet in place against the filter.
- Make sure to throw out all trash such as dirty paper towels, empty cleaning bottles, or other items after you're done with your spring cleaning.

Having your truck cleaned can go a long way to getting out of the cabin fever funk. It can improve your mental well-being, decrease stress, and just help you feel better overall. So, whether you're on your 34 at a truck stop or on home time, it is easy to get you and your truck, your home away from home, out of the winter blues rut with a little spring cleaning. ■



Sierra Sugar is a blogger and writer with a passion for trucking, travel, adventure, tiny living, and cooking. Involved in the trucking industry for nearly four years, she has experienced living on the truck 24/7 for 3 of those years with her husband, Allen Wilcher, a 30-year veteran truck driver who currently hauls for the entertainment industry. For more on Sierra visit her website or follow her on Facebook or Twitter

Website: <http://www.SweetLifeOfSierraSugar>

[Facebook.com/SierraSugar](https://www.facebook.com/SierraSugar)

Twitter: @SierraSugar



GARMIN.

STAY CONNECTED, ALERT AND ON TRACK



LEARN MORE

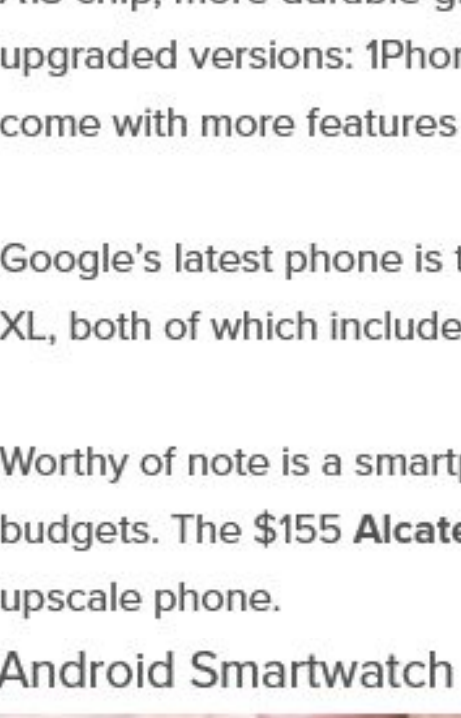


Cool Tech for a Cool Ride

By David Hollis, Editor, Truckers News

Day to day life on the road is not getting any less demanding. As 2020 begins to unwind even the best of truckers have days when they appreciate all the help they can get. Luckily there's no shortage of gear, gadgets and goodies available to enhance truckers' driving days and nights. Some are essential to the central mission of getting from point "A" to point "B" in a safe and expeditious way. Among the coolest equipment available are also items to make the trip easier and more enjoyable. Some even make it fun.

Smartphones



Samsung Galaxy S10 Lite

Among the coolest gear not just nice to have, but essential to the trucking life are the newest generation of smartphones. Most major manufacturers have new models available and among them are:

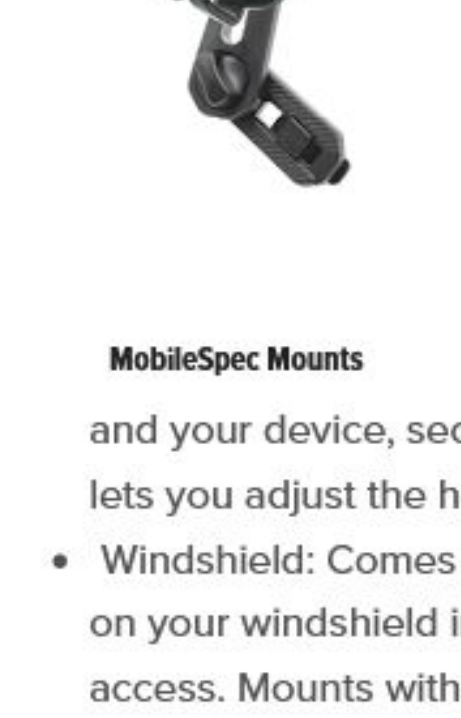
Samsung Galaxy S10 Lite, a slightly downscaled model of last year's S10e. Like its predecessor, it has a large screen and three cameras. Instead of a telephoto, the S10e has a macro lens for closeup photos. It also boasts a more robust battery.

The **iPhone 11** is Apple's latest and comes with a dual-lens camera, a faster A13 chip, more durable glass and is available in new colors. There are also upgraded versions: iPhone 11 Pro and the iPhone 11 Pro Max, both of which come with more features and bigger price tags.

Google's latest phone is the **Pixel 4**, which also comes in a larger size, the 4 XL, both of which include fast, wireless charging.

Worthy of note is a smartphone that won't bust even the most modest of budgets. The \$155 **Alcatel 3L** has three rear cameras and the look of a more upscale phone.

Android Smartwatch



TricWris Max

This may be one of the cooler tech items you're likely to see these days. Modern as it is, this gadget will most likely remind truckers of a certain age of Dick Tracey's trusty wrist radio. The **TricWris Max** smartwatch has 4G connectivity, quad-core processor, 3GB of RAM, 32GB onboard storage, and an 8-megapixel front facing camera. It also has built-in GPS; Wi-Fi and you can use it to make phone calls.

Mounts for Your Devices



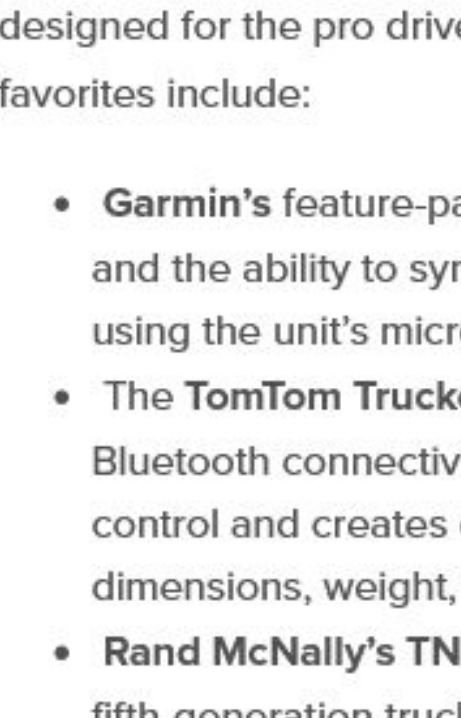
MobileSpec Mounts

Staying connected while driving is a must. So is doing it hands-free. Fortunately, **MobileSpec** delivers four styles of universal and adjustable mounts that keep your smartphone accessible, let you drive safely and meet your personal viewing preferences. They include:

- **Vent:** Uses two clips to hold your phone securely. The adjustable swing arm allows you to position the device for easy viewing and so it does not block the air flow from the vent.
- **Dash:** An extra-sticky gel pad keeps the mount, and your device, secure and where you want it. The extendable arm lets you adjust the height of your phone for optimal access.
- **Windshield:** Comes with a long, flexible arm so you can affix the mount on your windshield in a legal position and still maximize viewing and access. Mounts with an extra-sticky gel pad.
- **Cupholder:** With an adjustable base, this mount will fit just about any cupholder. Its three-way arm pivots so you can find the ideal viewing position.

All four allow for full 360-degree rotation, provide the best viewing angles and keep your device secure. They all let you switch between securing your smartphone with a magnet or in a cradle and come with hardware for easy installation.

Bluetooth® Speakers



UE Boom 3

There is no shortage of smallish, portable Bluetooth speakers, so there's no reason to not find one that suits your needs and your budget. The **UE (Ultimate Ears) Boom 3** Bluetooth speaker stands out even in this crowded field. Weighing in at slightly more than a pound, the Boom 3 is easily portable making it ideal for life on the road. It delivers superior sound, 15 hours of battery life and is water and dustproof. Almost as cool is the **JBL Charge 4**. It has excellent sound quality, 20 hours of battery life, is waterproof and can be used to charge your phones. A good portable Bluetooth speaker at a bargain price is the **Tribit XSound Go**. It's small enough to fit into a tight spot in your sleeper berth but still deliver big sound.

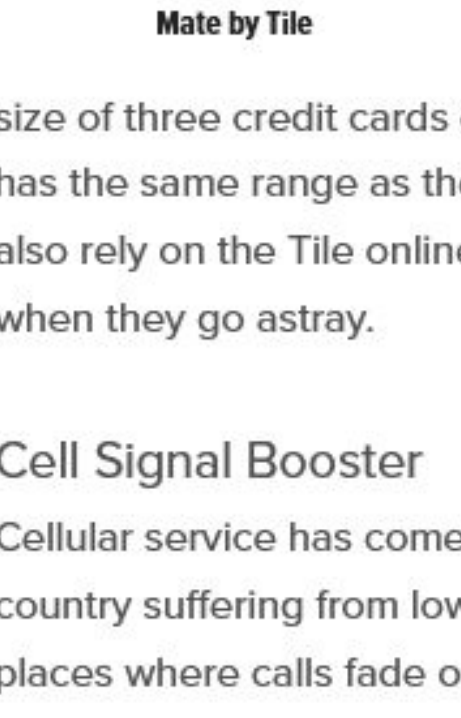
Trucker-Specific GPS

It's hard not to sound like a broken record when talking about an unsuspecting trucker winding up where they shouldn't simply because they followed – always in good faith – a map app on their smartphone. With states getting more aggressive about fines and other punishments for such mistakes, it's not just smart but necessary to have a GPS unit in your truck designed for the pro driver. Luckily, there are good ones available. Trucker favorites include:

- **Garmin's** feature-packed **dēzl 580 LMT-S** has a bright 5-inch screen and the ability to sync with your smartphone for hands-free calling using the unit's microphone and speakers.
- The **TomTom Trucker 620** has a 6-inch screen, built-in WiFi and Bluetooth connectivity, delivers its impressive array of services by voice control and creates customized routes for your truck's specific dimensions, weight, cargo and maximum speed.
- **Rand McNally's TND 740** has a high-resolution 7-inch screen, and this fifth-generation truck-specific GPS delivers weather and traffic information as well as advanced lane guidance. It also pairs with Rand McNally ELD devices with the DriverConnect app.

Most good truck GPS units provide up-to-date maps including route changes.

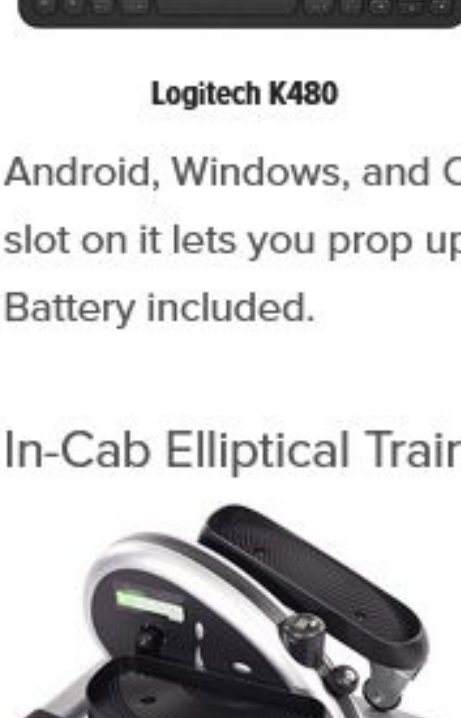
Portable Fridge/Freezer



ARB 50 Qt

Much is made by many about the need for professional drivers to eat well when on the road. Often, that's easier said than done. Having a convenient way to keep fresh foods in your truck is essential to maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and that means owning a good way to refrigerate food. There are many devices to choose from including an entire upscale line of **ARB 12-volt refrigerator/freezers**. The **ARB 50-** quart model (\$884) main compartment is more than 13 inches deep, 11 inches wide and almost 16" inches high, giving you plenty of room for fresh produce or pre-prepared meals. It also has a separate smaller dairy compartment. **Ausravik** also has a suitable 48-quart fridge/freezer (\$320). There are also numerous smaller and slightly less robust plugins as well.

Bluetooth® Trackers



Mate by Tile

Losing something – your keys, your wallet, your laptop, your dog – on the road can be disastrous. Bluetooth trackers you can affix to most items can help avoid problems when something goes missing. The **Mate by Tile** has a range of 400 feet and issues a loud alert you can sound when looking. Tile's Slim is about the size of three credit cards one atop the other so fits nicely in your wallet and has the same range as the Mate. All of Tile's trackers require its app. They also rely on the Tile online community of users who can help track things when they go astray.

Cell Signal Booster

Cellular service has come a long way since the days of vast expanses of the country suffering from low or no signal access. But, still, there are times and places where calls fade or drop, something today's pro driver can ill afford.

Wilson Electronics' **WeBoost** cell signal boosters eliminate dead spots and weak signals. **Drive Reach**, one of **WeBoost's** newest products, uses an exterior antenna to reach out to nearby cell towers, and sends the signal to the booster inside the truck cab. The booster then amplifies the signal and sends it to the interior antenna for access by the driver or passengers. 5-G ready, the **Drive Reach** is compatible with all cell phones, hotspots, cellular-connected tablets, and other devices on all U.S. carriers.

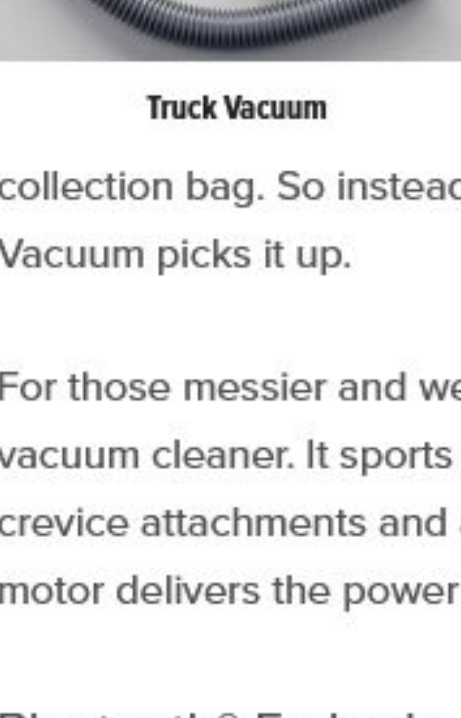
Bluetooth® Keyboard



Logitech K480

Truckers depend on their smartphones for a variety of chores, including some that require plenty of typing. Even the most skilled trucker can struggle with small phone keyboards. The **Logitech K480** Bluetooth keyboard is an ideal solution. It pairs with up to three devices – iOS, Android, Windows, and OS X – and lets you quickly switch between them. A slot on it lets you prop up your phone and/or tablet, so they are easy to see. Battery included.

In-Cab Elliptical Trainer



Stamina InMotion E1000 Compact Strider

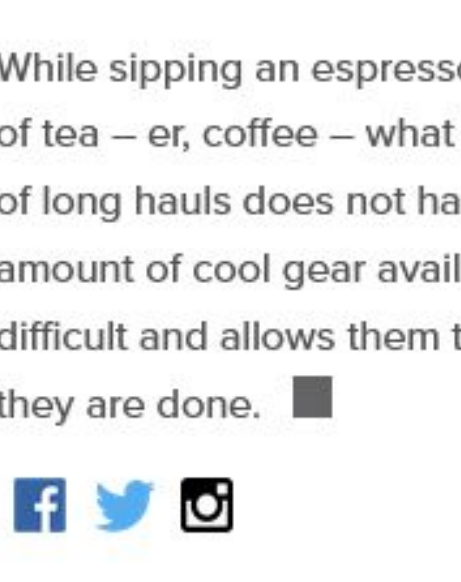
Let's be honest, the typical American trucker (like many office workers) doesn't get the exercise they ought, especially cardio. The solution is not just parking far away from the restaurant or truck stop, so you add more walking to your day. The **Stamina InMotion E1000 Compact Strider** lets you get a workout without leaving your truck. It has a monitor to track your progress and its adjustable dial allows you to change the tension even as you work out. You can sit or stand to work out and pedal forward or in reverse.

Bluetooth® Headsets

Few gear items are truly indispensable, but a reliable, hands-free headset comes close to being a true "must have" for professional truckers. Luckily, there are many good ones from which to choose. Among them:

- The **Plantronics 5200** uses four microphones and a proprietary DSP to cancel disruptive background noise. The 500 also announces the names of people on incoming calls and waits for you to say "answer" or "ignore" so you manage your calls easily. A single charge delivers seven hours of non-stop talk and up to nine days on standby, and it's comfortable enough to wear your entire driving day.
- **Rand McNally's ClearDryve 200** is a two-in-one Bluetooth-enabled headset/headphones. As stereo headphones, the ClearDryve 200 delivers the rich, clear sound you want when enjoying your playlist or streaming a movie when you are parked and relaxing. Remove an earcup and move the boom microphone into place, and you're ready to stay connected when you hit the road again.
- **Jabra** makes a small, steel, ruggedized Bluetooth headset for use in demanding work environments, like trucking. This headset relies on HD voice and dual microphone technology to remove background noise and ensure clear calls. It features extra-large buttons for one-touch control, even with gloves on, and allows you to wear it with or without

Truck Vacuum



Bissell Multi-Auto 19851

Keeping your truck clean is no small feat. That's why it makes sense to stash a small but powerful handheld vacuum cleaner somewhere in your sleeper berth. The **Bissell Multi-Auto 19851** has the power you need and has the tools necessary to clean in those tight spaces. Powered by a 22-volt lithium battery, this vacuum has a removable dirt cup and 2-foot-long extension hose. A bright LED light on the front helps you see the work you need to do. A "must have" if you have a pet that rides along.

Kuissential SlickDrip

Who better to help keep your truck clean but another trucker? Shane Schindler, the pro driver behind the Trukr Stick mirror squeegee, has created the **Truck Vacuum**, which uses your truck's air to power this handy cleanup tool. Remove the air nozzle and attach the Truck Vacuum and quickly clean your cab. While it requires no motor or batteries, it comes with a flexible hose, three attachments and a collection bag. So instead of blowing dust and dirt out of your cab, the Truck Vacuum picks it up.

For those messier and wetter jobs, **RoadPro** has a 12-volt wet/dry canister vacuum cleaner. It sports a 36-inch flexible hose with carpet, upholstery and crevice attachments and a long power cord. Its heavy-duty 12,500 RPM motor delivers the power for the nastiest cleanups.

Bluetooth® Earbuds

Among the newest Bluetooth earbuds on the market are **Jabra's Elite Active 75t**, a waterproof version of the Elite 75t. Expect them to cost \$200. **Skullcandy's Sesh True** Wireless Earbuds deliver the excellent sound quality and upscale noise reduction for which the brand has become known. They have 10 hours of battery life, and feature easy to use microphone, call, track and volume controls. Silicone gels in three sizes help seal out background noise and make them comfortable enough to wear for extended periods of time. **MobileSpec's** Wireless stereo earbuds are outfitted with Bluetooth 4.2 technology, and deliver three hours of talk time, two hours of listening time and recharge in just an hour. And, they will not break the bank.

Coffee Makers

RoadPro 12V Coffee Maker

Truck stops – small independent ones or any of the major chains – today serve coffee pretty close to what you enjoy at home or in most corporate java shops. But, often the need for a cup strikes when there's not a truck stop nearby, so having a good in-cab coffee solution is important. **RoadPro's** 12-volt coffee maker brews up 20 ounces of coffee in 20 minutes and includes a reusable filter. **Schumacher** also has a similar 10-cup, 12-volt coffee maker. Both provide drip coffee the likes of which you enjoy at home.

Presto 02835 MyJo Single Cup Coffee Maker

We also like the idea of pairing a 12-volt hot pot to heat up water that you can pour over one of the handy portable brewers like the **Aeropress** system (which also allows you the luxurious option of brewing up an espresso on the road) or **Kuissential SlickDrip** collapsible silicone coffee dripper that holds a filter and brews directly into your cup. But, the coolest way to brew up a hot cup of coffee on the road is the **Presto 02835 MyJo Single Cup Coffee Maker**. It uses K-cups and a hand-held plunger to make your favorite brew.

While sipping an espresso after a long day on the road may not be your cup of tea – er, coffee – what is clear is that life on the road even for the longest of long hauls does not have to be uncomfortable or distressing. The growing amount of cool gear available is making the life of the pro driver safer, less difficult and allows them to focus on the road when driving and relax when they are done. ■

Trucking Headsets

Every word gets heard,
anywhere you go.

Our BlueParrott® line, long the favorite of professional truck drivers, is strong and stable enough for life on the road, anywhere you go.



Buy Snap Reward

qualifying products.

a picture of your receipt.

yourself with digital gift cards.

Digital Gift Card Offers

March - April 2020

CLICK HERE

For more information and offers

B550-XT



\$30

Digital Gift Card Available



- Blocks out 96% of background noise
- 24+ Hours of talk time
- 400+ Hours standby time
- Use your voice to control calls
- Lightweight for all day comfort

B450-XT



\$40

Digital Gift Card Available



- Blocks out 96% of background noise
- 24+ Hours of talk time
- 500+ Hours standby time
- Up to 300 foot Bluetooth® range
- Hands-free VoiceControl

B350-XT



\$20

Digital Gift Card Available



- Blocks out 96% of background noise
- 24+ Hours of talk time
- 500+ Hours standby time
- Up to 300 foot Bluetooth® range
- Hands-free VoiceControl

B250-XTS



\$20

Digital Gift Card Available



- Blocks out 91% of background noise
- 20+ Hours of talk time
- 490+ Hours standby time



Spring Ahead

By Rich Guida, Brand Manager for Howes

Winter is finally winding down and we are starting to see the first signs of spring. But the cold hasn't quite disappeared, and fluctuating temperatures can wreak havoc on your fuel tank. Sudden or drastic temperature changes make it easier for condensation to form in the tank, creating the perfect conditions for microbial growth. The three requirements for microbial growth are water, air, and fuel temperatures between 50° and 100°F. Though sometimes unnoticeable, it usually appears as a dark slime, and can accumulate in your tank. Removing microbial growth is very costly and time consuming. It often includes using fuel biocides, which are generally toxic to humans and harmful to the environment. It may also require manually draining and chemically cleaning your tank. Thankfully, there are ways to prevent this issue.



DEFEND YOUR DIESEL

Using a fuel additive is a simple, cost effective way to help remove water from fuel. But beware, not all additives are created equal. Many contain harmful alcohol and emulsify water, meaning it mixes the water into your fuel. You want your additive to demulsify water, pushing it down and out of the fuel where it can be safely removed by the water separator. One such product is **Howes Diesel Defender**. Alcohol-free Diesel Defender will demulsify the water in your tank, leaving only pure fuel to burn.

SPRING CLEANING

Spring is also known as a time for cleaning. From your house, to your truck, and especially your engine, everything can benefit from a good "Spring Cleaning." Today's High-Pressure Common Rail (HPCR) systems experience problems such as Internal Diesel Injector Deposits (IDID). Diesel Defender contains IDX4 Detergent, a state-of-the-art detergent designed to rapidly remove IDID's and prevent future deposits from forming. Adding Defender to your spring-cleaning routine will provide you with a superior cleaning that will save you money and costly downtime.

APRIL SHOWERS

While it's true that April showers bring May flowers, Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) sure isn't bringing much lubricity to your fuel. Without vital lubricity, ULSD can cause premature wear in your injectors, pumps, and upper cylinders. Diesel Defender contains 2.5 times the amount of required lubricity, protecting and preserving your fuel system.

SPRING INTO ACTION!

There is a simple checklist to follow to get your diesel into tip top shape this spring:

- Remove Water – Getting the water out of your fuel tank eliminates one of the three necessary components for microbial growth.
- Keep it Clean – Cleaning your injectors prevents coking, fouling, and harmful deposits.
- Lubricate, Lubricate, Lubricate – Adding maximum lubricity back into your fuel allows your engine to run smoother and your system to last longer.

You can accomplish all of this and more with Howes Diesel Defender. When used at every fill up, Defender is guaranteed to increase your fuel economy by a minimum of 5% and will give your truck the power and performance you need all year long. ■



Howes

TESTED. TRUSTED. GUARANTEED. SINCE 1920.

100
YEARS



SINCE 1920



TESTED TO ADD 2.5X MORE LUBRICITY

Howes

TESTED. TRUSTED. GUARANTEED. SINCE 1920.

DIESEL DEFENDER[®] WITH **IDX⁴** DETERGENT



Howes Diesel Defender



Watch later




Share



YOUR YEAR-ROUND SOLUTION



Watch on  YouTube

MINIMUM 5% IMPROVEMENT IN FUEL ECONOMY | 64 FL. OZ. / 1.9 L

DANGER: IRRITANT. IF SWALLOWED, IRRITANT.

Top Reasons to Attend a Trucking Trade Show

Every year there are a multitude of trade shows specific to the trucking industry held in various parts of the country. Two of the most popular trucking shows are the **Mid-America Trucking Show** held each year in Louisville, Kentucky typically the last week of March, and the **Great American Trucking Show** in Dallas for several days at the end of August. If you have yet to attend one you may wonder, why you would want to. We polled a few drivers in the industry and here is a list of some of the top reasons to attend:



See the latest products – Trade shows serve as a one-stop shop to see the latest technology and trends coming to market as well as being able to talk to the experts from the companies that manufacture them before spending your hard-earned cash.

Share you voice – Keep in mind that very often the exhibitors are also there to gain intel on what is important to you – what are your specific product needs for your truck? – What do you like or not like about their products? – and to ask YOU what products you would like to see come to market.



Learn something new – Trade shows provide a great way to learn more about the industry and meet the leaders that are impacting change. Finding out about new rules or regulations coming your way, attending education sessions, or participating in forums are all part of attending the show.

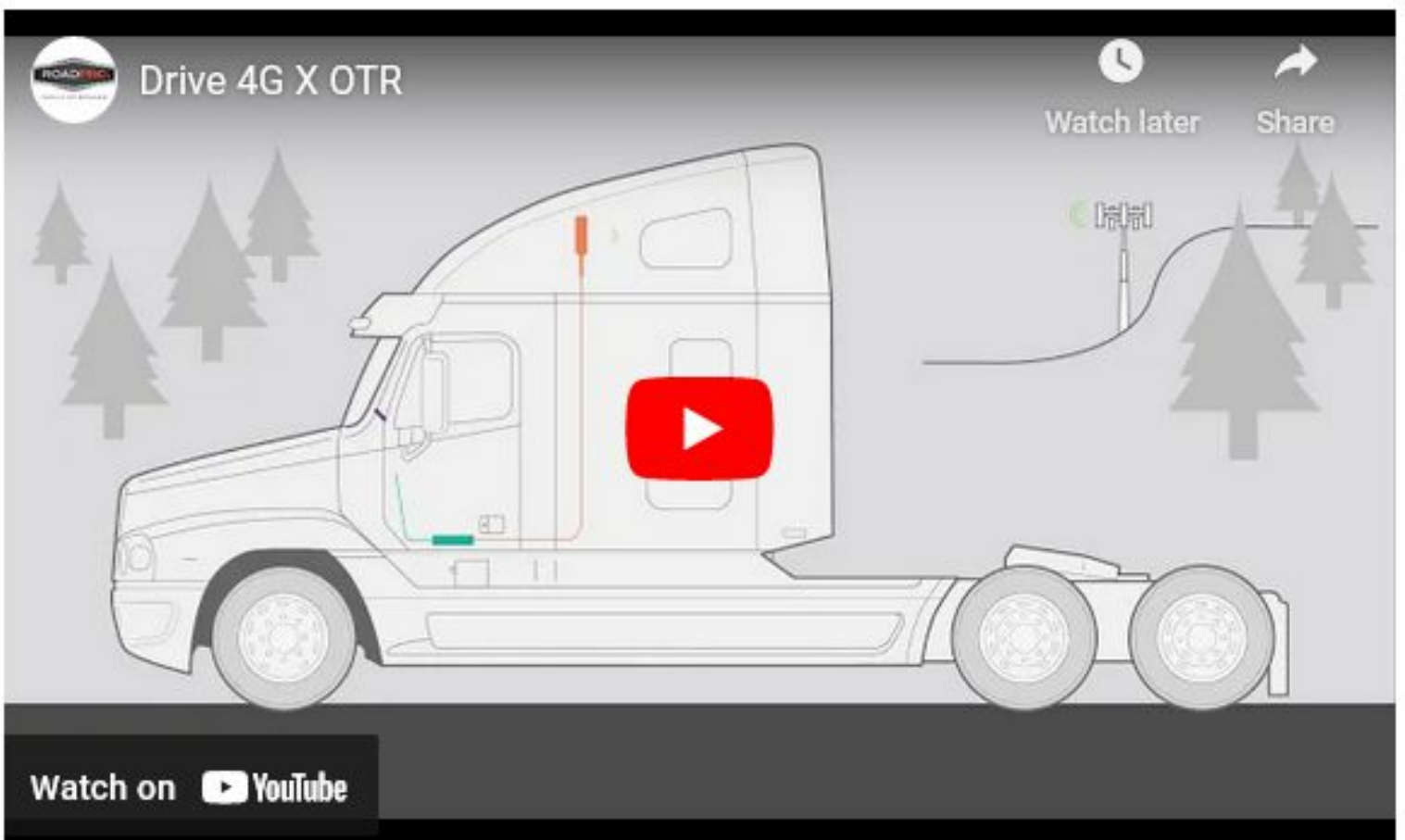
Meet new friends – Trade shows are a great way to meet other drivers and those that you meet at a show will very often become lifelong friends.

New opportunities – Thinking about becoming an owner-operator, or working for a different company? How about buying a new truck? Trucking trade shows are a great place to uncover new opportunities and view the latest truck models and equipment.



FREE SWAG – Many companies will come prepared to hand out free t-shirts, hats or other goodies that you can collect while walking the floor. Very often exhibitors will run contests or provide opportunities to win cash, trips or other valuable truck accessories and products.

While the show may take you off the road for a few days, the advantages of being there may outweigh the time you are not behind the wheel. Who knows, you could just uncover a fantastic opportunity or a new product that may change your on-the-go lifestyle. ■



Drive 4G-X OTR

Drive Sleek OTR

4G-OTR Antenna



[LEARN MORE](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

Cooking with RoadPro

ROADPRO® CHILI

INGREDIENTS

½ cup onion, chopped

½ lb ground beef

¾ cup stewed tomatoes

1 cup tomato sauce

1 cup kidney beans

½ cup water

2 tsp chili powder

Garlic powder

Salt

Pepper

Optional toppings: cheddar cheese, sour cream, scallions.

DIRECTIONS

1. In the [RoadPro Saucepan](#), sauté the onion and beef until meat is browned and onion is tender. (Approx. 15-20 mins)
2. Stir in the stewed tomatoes with juice, tomato sauce, beans and water.
3. Stir in a dash of chili powder, garlic powder, and salt and pepper to taste.
4. Cover and let simmer for 1 hour.
5. Serve and enjoy!

For a spicier chili, add hot sauce as desired.



ROADPRO® ITALIAN BREAD AND CHEESE SOUP

MADE FOR THE ROADPRO SAUCEPAN

INGREDIENTS

1 tbsp olive oil

½ onion, diced

3 garlic cloves, minced

4 cups vegetable broth

1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded

2 slices whole wheat bread

2 tbsp basil or parsley

Black pepper

DIRECTIONS

1. In your [RoadPro® Saucepan](#), add olive oil.
2. Add onion and garlic, cooking until just golden, not brown.
3. Pour in broth and bring to a simmer.
4. When you're ready to serve the soup, toast bread.
5. Break each slice of toast into bite-sized pieces and place in soup bowls.
6. Cover toast with ½ cup of cheese.
7. Ladle soup over the bread and cheese in each bowl.
8. Sprinkle with basil or parsley and pepper.



Charging case available

VOYAGER 5200

Reliable call clarity—especially outdoors—from exclusive WindSmart® technology and adaptive noise cancelling.



Adaptive microphones
Work together to reduce disruptive background noise.



Smart Sensors
Automatically detects whether or not it's being worn, directing call audio where you expect to hear it.



Dynamic Mute Alert
Dynamic mute alert senses and alerts you when you talk when muted.



Sweatproof Nano-Coating
Protects your equipment and



WindSmart
Detects wind direction and adjusts accordingly.



Battery Life
Up to 7 hours of non-stop talk from a single charge, and up

BLUETOOTH HEADSETS

A BUYERS' GUIDE FROM **TRUCKER GEAR** PRESENTED BY **ROADPRO**
FAMILY OF BRANDS



Devices Improved with Comfort, Quality

Like it or not, hands-free driving is the law of the land for professional drivers. Over-the-road, regional, dedicated, city or local, it doesn't matter, you can't drive with a device in your hand. Seems as though every week brings more enforcement aimed at drivers using smartphones as they drive, truckers included.

Fortunately, there's a solution, one that gets better with each technical advancement. That's the Bluetooth headset. Wireless, lightweight, easy to use, delivering good sound, there is a long list of Bluetooth headsets on the market aimed at you, the professional driver.

Finding the one that best suits your needs needn't be a chore. Here are 10 questions to ask yourself before you go shopping for the device you'll use every day you go to work, and often when your driving day is done. If you're so inclined, make a spreadsheet, if not, grab a pen and paper. Ask yourself:

- How comfortable is it to wear for the 10 hours you're driving or 14 hours you're on duty?
- Does it have a quality microphone and noise-cancelling technology so you're properly heard on your calls?
- Do you want one with an earpiece that fits in your ear or on your ear?
- Will you want it to connect to more than one device at the same time?
- How many hours of talk time will it deliver? Standby time? How long does it take to recharge? (Face it, your Bluetooth headset has to work as long as you do.)
- Does it have voice-controls that allow you to answer and make calls just by speaking, or are its manual control buttons easy to use and intuitive?
- Which version of Bluetooth does it use? (The newer, the better.)
- What's its range? How far can you wander away from your device and still have it function properly?
- Is it protected against dust and moisture and does that matter to you? (If you're outside tarping a flatbed load in the rain, you still need your headset to work and be protected.)

Answering these 10 questions is a good start. But, also be sure to ask other drivers whose opinions you trust which Bluetooth headset they wear and how they like it.

There's no shortage of companies producing Bluetooth headsets ideal for the professional truck driver who demands superior sound, all-day comfort, extended talk time and ease of use. Among them are:

- BlueParrott
- Rand McNally
- BlueTiger
- Plantronics
- SkullCandy
- RoadKing
- Jabra

As you can see, there are plenty to choose from. These companies and many others make headsets suitable for daily use on the road.

Deciding which features are important to you, how you plan to use your Bluetooth headset, and how much you wish to spend can guide you toward one you will enjoy wearing and not one you will just tolerate. Or, worse yet, a device you will begrudge using every mile of every day.



ClearDryve™ 200

Rand McNally

This storied American company makes more than maps. While its Trucker Atlas is an indispensable tool even if you do have their best GPS on your dash, Rand McNally also has one of the more imaginative headsets on the market. The **ClearDryve 200** is a two-in-one Bluetooth-enabled headset/headphones made with truckers in mind.

You can wear it the entire time you're on duty, then flip the boom mic out of the way and add a second ear cup and you have a stellar set of stereo headphones for when you relax with your tunes or stream a movie. The ClearDryve 200 uses multiple microphones for quality conversations you need to get trip-essential details. Its noise-canceling technology eliminates 90 percent of the background noise created by your truck and the highway. Besides being a hardworking tech tool, the ClearDryve 200 is a refined highway companion. Its memory foam headband and earcups make it easy to wear for long periods of time. As stereo headphones, the ClearDryve 200 delivers the rich, clear sound you expect from a company like Rand McNally.



B550-XT

BlueParrott

It's nice to have choices, but it's even nicer to know you can't go wrong no matter what you choose. Such is the case with the Bluetooth headsets from BlueParrott, which offers a suite of four trucker-centric models. They range from the top of the line **B550-XT** (\$199.99), which uses VoiceControl Pro to use all features of this headset and has top-rated noise-cancellation, to the B-250-XTS (\$99.99), BlueParrott's headset for the driver who needs solid sound quality while living within a budget. In between are the B450-XT and B350-XT, both of which deliver 24 hours of talk time and 500 hours of standby, and 96% noise cancellation.



Voyager 104

Plantronics

One company well known for its focus on sound quality, user comfort and value is Plantronics, and it offers several headsets ideal for the daily-driving trucker. A true pro driver favorite is the **Voyager 104**, which pairs Bluetooth connectivity with large buttons for call answering and volume controls. It also delivers an impressive 24 hours of talk time. The earcup and headband are made of memory foam to give drivers a headset that is comfortable for as long as they need to wear the device. Plantronics also has three other Bluetooth devices in its Voyager line: the Edge, the 3200 Series, and 5200 Series. All are in-ear models with superior sound and noise-cancellation features, and all are more than suitable for your life on the road.



Sesh

SkullCandy

Once the headset/headphones of choice for snowboarders, serious runners and other outdoor sports enthusiasts, SkullCandy also has some Bluetooth headsets even truckers can love. The company's Indy True Wireless Earbuds do everything you expect of Bluetooth-enabled listening: deliver maximum sound with minimum weight and intrusion. The Indy also boasts an impressive 16 hours of battery life and IP55 protection against sweat, water, and dust, making them ideal for drivers who may also have to be out in the elements and not just in their truck's cab. SkullCandy's Sesh True Wireless Earbuds also deliver the excellent sound quality and upscale noise reduction for which the brand has become known. They have 10 hours of battery life, and feature an easy to use microphone, call, track and volume controls.



RKING 950

RoadKing

RoadKing's **950** headset features Bluetooth 4.1 and delivers up to 40 hours of talk time. Its extra large memory foam ear pads and adjustable headband provide all-day comfort, ideal for the long-haul pro trucker. And, it now has an adjustable mic. The RoadKing 950's impressive range of 66 feet makes it a favorite with truckers.



Advantage Plus

Blue Tiger

With a complete line of trucker-centric Bluetooth headsets, Blue Tiger has something to fit every truck driver's budget. Its **Advantage Plus**, which Blue Tiger says is its most rugged headset, puts up some impressive numbers. It offers 97% noise cancellation, 36 hours of talk time, and a mind-bending 1,000 hours of standby. The Advantage Plus is voice-assistant enabled

so you can have Siri or Google Assistant do your bidding while your drive with both hands on the wheel. Blue Tiger's other models include the Elite Plus, Elite, Dual Elite, Advantage Plus and the Pro.

Bluetooth® Survey Results

60%

of drivers prefer over-the-head headsets



50%

of drivers purchase headsets in store



41%

of drivers purchase a new headset every 2 years



Brands drivers purchase most often



Keeping It Fresh

By Kim McDonnell

After driving through the winter months, it is time to not only give your truck a spring cleaning but to also treat yourself to a fresh new look. Coming to a travel center near you is a whole new line up of men's (and some appropriate for you ladies too!) grooming items that will surely clean away those winter doldrums.



Located in the travel gear section you will find a selection of products from **Duke Cannon®** who has created a line of grooming items specific to people that work hard for a living. Duke Cannon products are inspired by soldiers and a portion of all proceeds benefit U.S. Veterans. There is a variety of shaving items including beard balm, aftershave, shave cream and more that can handle the toughest of beards. There are also deodorants, face wash, powders and lotions that are not overpowering in smell and could be used by either men or women. Included is a hand repair product called Bloody Knuckles – the label says it was formulated to repair the hands of workers, fighters, and world champions and we think it is a great product for both men and women who have dry or cracked skin. There is also a great product called the “Big Ass” Brick of Soap. The name itself will make you want to try this appropriately named product that is triple-milled for superior quality and is three times the size of a common bar of soap. It comes in a variety of fragrances such as fresh-cut pine, campfire, beer, bourbon, and leaf and leather.



If you have decided that the beard you grew over the winter is just not your thing for the warmer months, **Union Razor** has you covered with a great selection of razors, shave kits and supplies. There is a three-piece shave kit that includes a beautifully designed razor with a soft bristle brush and matching stand that comes in a variety of handle colors for your choosing. This shave kit has that timeless look and feel and will remind you of your grandfather's shaving set with more modern functionality. They also carry replacement blades for all their razors. For those that prefer a straight edge razor and that closer shave, Union Razor has you covered. These straight razors are beautifully crafted and have a smooth handle in either black or white that folds to hide the blade.

No time for a traditional shave? **Barbasol**, a well-known brand, offers a rechargeable beard trimmer and several electric razors for you to choose from at most travel centers. Providing an easy way for a quick shave or clean up, the rechargeable razors have stainless steel blades that contour to the angle of your face delivering a close comfortable shave. The razors are fully charged in 8 hours providing up to 45 minutes of shaving time.



So, while you are cleaning up your truck for Spring don't forget to pamper yourself a little too and check out the latest in grooming products at your favorite travel center. ■



OUR GROOMING GOODS DON'T BEEP WHEN THEY BACK UP, BUT THEY'RE BIG.

D DUKE CANNON SUPPLY CO.[®]
STOCK # 005



D This is Duke Cannon Country.

Watch later Share



Watch on YouTube

BODY & HAIR



SHAVE, BEARD & FACE



SCENT

TRAVEL SETS



The Best Part about Being a Trucker

By Kim McDonnell

When you make driving a truck a career you have to put up with the negative side of the business – inclement weather conditions, navigating through traffic jams, dealing with a grumpy dispatcher and being away from family and friends for long periods of time. But there is also the upside of being out there on the open road. A recent *Drivers Discussion* on *RoadPro's Brake Time* community yielded a variety of comments and insights that we thought we would share.

Every day as a truck driver offers a variety of new experiences as nothing is ever routine.

While most people work all year at a job they don't like to save up and take a few weeks of vacation truck drivers have an opportunity to be tourists every day. Each load is different and brings you to a new place. Seeing spectacular sunsets or sunrises is not something that everyone gets to experience and certainly never grows old. Making a living while enjoying the beauty and wonder of the country is also a big WIN! Being able to see a variety of scenery and special places as you drive such as the mountains, crossing famous waterways and rivers and seeing national treasures. There are also opportunities to visit famous places, museums, landmarks and more while you have some down time. Every day as a truck driver offers a variety of new experiences as nothing is ever routine.

If you think the brotherhood and sisterhood of trucking has gone missing – think again.

Of course, there is also not being stuck behind a desk or in an office and even dealing with the same commute each day. The freedom and independence that come with trucking means you are pretty much in charge of YOU while in your cab and you are your own boss. You also get to meet new people, maybe fellow drivers that share great stories or become good friends. If you think the brotherhood and sisterhood of trucking has gone missing – think again. There is a new growing sense of community within the trucking industry, especially with the growing popularity of social sites and online communities. And while the camaraderie is great, you can also experience some much needed 'solo' time, where you just may want to drive and not be connected. There are not many 9-5's that offer that luxury.



Not many businesses let you bring your pet to work, but you can enjoy the company of your fur baby when you are a trucker. They can provide companionship as well as an added level of protection and you don't have to leave them alone all day in your house while you work.

This career isn't for everyone – but is one that certainly can provide some great opportunities to make the most of it! ■





RAND McNALLY TND™ TABLET 85

Advanced truck tablet



[LEARN MORE](#)



Overhauled & upgraded

A giant leap forward in routing technology, the TND™ Tablet 85 features sophisticated truck navigation, a modern clean interface, and striking visuals. At the heart of the device is Rand McNally's proprietary new Rand Navigation 2.0 software. Powered by a hexacore processor and customized operating system, the dashboard tablet is faster, smarter, and smoother.



Watch on YouTube

BLET 85

Pro Driver Tip



Spring Cleaning Your Truck

 Council Tip MarApr2020

Watch later Share



Watch on  YouTube



Robert started trucking in 1986 and has been an owner/operator for 18 years. He has driven everything from oversized to flatbed drop deck, hazmat, reefer, and tankers and enjoys helping other drivers. He is the proud grandfather of 5 beautiful grandchildren who have him wrapped around their little fingers. He spends his time off with his family and friends making memories.

Sesh



TRULY WIRELESS. PERFECTLY SIMPLE.



Bluetooth® Wireless Technology



Up to 10 Hour Battery



IP55 Sweat, Water, & Dust Resistant



Charging Case



Microphone, Call, Track & Volume Control



Activate Assistant



Skullcandy Sesh



Watch later



Share



Watch on YouTube



Make-A-Wish®

Mother's Day Truck Convoy

A Tradition of Giving

By Lamar Buckwalter

It's that time of year again when my thoughts turn to getting ready for the Make-A-Wish Mother's Day Truck Convoy in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Over 500 trucks will once again come together and raise funds that will grant life changing wishes to children with critical illnesses. This year the Convoy will move to a new and larger location in nearby Manheim, Pennsylvania and my hope is that it will bring more of the community out to help support this cause as well as the truck drivers that participate. Last year's Make-A-Wish Truck Convoy raised over \$600,000 to support the wishes of these children.



The Buckwalter family's first Make-A-Wish Convoy truck

It all started for me 30 years ago when my mom saw an ad in the local Penny Saver asking for volunteers to drive in a convoy supporting a young boy battling cancer. His only wish was to talk to his sister on a CB radio while riding in a big rig. I was thirteen at the time and my Dad was an over the road truck driver. He always called home on Wednesday night and my brother and I each got 15 minutes to talk to him about our week until it was Mom's turn. She filled him in on the need for truck drivers to ride in the Convoy. Dad immediately told her to call and sign him up and with that one simple call a family tradition was created. My family has not missed the Make-A-Wish Convoy since and it has been an inspiration to see this convoy grow from just a few dozen trucks to what it is today.

Last year's Make-A-Wish Truck Convoy raised over \$600,000 to support the wishes of these children.

I recall that first convoy my brother Mark, Dad and I all worked on the truck all week to get it ready for the Convoy and we all rode in the truck together. Years later I had joined the local fire company and when I turned eighteen, I drove one of the fire trucks in the Convoy before I eventually followed my Dad into the "family business" and became a truck driver. When I became an owner-operator I entered two trucks in the Convoy, one driven by me and the other by Dad. While Mom has never really had a Mother's Day with the traditional festivities as most do on that day, she truly loves being involved in the Convoy each year.



What keeps me and my family coming back is what Make-A-Wish, and the Convoy do to support the children that attend with their families. When their face's light up as they see all the trucks lined up, the festival with activities just for them and their excitement when they get to drive in the truck is worth every bit of time and investment. All of us feel truly blessed to take part in this wonderful event every year. Many of the children that attend, as well as their families, have been through so much and this event provides them with much needed break from thinking about their illness, treatments or the hospital.

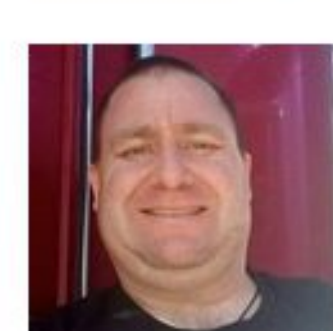


My first-year driving in the Convoy I raised over \$1,000 and that giving has continued year after year in whatever way I was able to do so. When I became an owner operator, I always tried to invest more in the cause especially when I became aware that a good

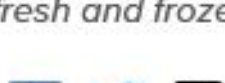
friend's child as well as a friend of my sons were Wish Kids. To hear their stories about how that Wish meant so much to them inspired me to become a \$5,000 sponsor. I have continued to donate year after year, always finding a way to give back, and was honored to be recognized as a Top 30 Driver. This year I will be more involved in the organization of the Convoy itself as it moves to its new location, assisting in the logistics of the Convoy route as it moves through the central Pennsylvania countryside.

I have always tried to give back whether it be to my volunteer fire department, as an EMT, my church, or my son or daughter's school. I try to be there for others as I hate to see others hurt and want to help make others' lives better. I know that the kids that Make-A-Wish supports have not had it easy and if I can make just one of them smile or make their day a good one then it is worth it.

For more information or to register click here: [Make-A-Wish Mother's Day Truck Convoy](#)



Lamar has been in trucking for over 20 years and is the owner of Buckwalter Trucking LLC, a family run business based in Leola, PA. Lamar operates in all 48 states and hauls fresh and frozen foods.



THE ALL-NEW

PLAN, DRIVE
AND DELIVER
EFFICIENTLY



Trucker 620 Video

Watch later Share



TRUCK POIs

1,500+ Travel Center POIs and other Truck related POIs.

Watch on  YouTube

TRUCKER | 620

with Wi-Fi®



6 Inch Touchscreen
6-inch fully interactive screen.



Lifetime Truck Maps
Always drive with the latest truck maps for U.S.A. and Canada at no cost.



Lifetime TomTom Traffic
Get intelligent routes that avoid traffic in real-time.



TomTom Services via Smartphone
Activate live services like traffic by connecting to your smartphone.



Hands-free calling
Designed to deliver high-quality, hands-free calling.



Updates via Wi-Fi®
Keep your TomTom Trucker updated via Wi-Fi. No computer needed.



Buy Snap Reward

qualifying products.

a picture of your receipt.

yourself with digital gift cards.

Digital Gift Card Offers March - April 2020

<p>\$30 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>B550-XT B550XT</p>	<p>\$40 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>B450-XT B450XT</p>	<p>\$20 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>B350-XT B350XTMEW</p>	<p>\$20 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>B250-XTS B250XTS</p>
<p>\$20 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>Talk 45 DATALINKS</p>	<p>\$20 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>Bluetooth® Headset BKNCR940</p>	<p>\$20 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>Bluetooth® Headset BKNCR920</p>	<p>\$10 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>Dual Driver Wired Earbuds MBS10507</p>
<p>\$10 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>Active Bluetooth® Earbuds MBS11505</p>	<p>\$10 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>Stereo Bluetooth® Neck Headphones MBS11181</p>	<p>\$45 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>2000W Bluetooth® Power Inverter PD2000</p>	<p>\$30 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>300 Amp Rechargeable Jump Start System PDJAMP300</p>
<p>\$15 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>1500 Watt Power Inverter Installation Kit PDKIT1</p>	<p>\$15 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>175W Cup Power Inverter PD175C</p>	<p>\$10 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>Chrome 636L CB Microphone 502-10187</p>	<p>\$10 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>"Little Wil" Magnet Mount CB Antenna Kit 305-38</p>
<p>BUY 2 GET A \$5 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>18"-21" Premium All-Weather Flex Beam Wiper Blade</p>	<p>\$30 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>Voyager 104 VOYAGER104</p>	<p>\$20 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>Voyager Legend VOYAGERLEGEND</p>	<p>\$20 Digital Gift Card</p> <p>C300-XT C300XT</p>

1. Purchase one of the items above at a participating travel center between March 1, 2020 through April 30, 2020.
2. Visit www.roadprorewards.com or text keyword ROADPRO to 80160.
3. Follow instructions to register and submit your receipt image.
4. Receive confirmation within 24-48 hours.
5. Redeem for a digital Visa® gift card, other digital rewards, or keep earning.
6. You must submit receipt within 30 days of purchase.

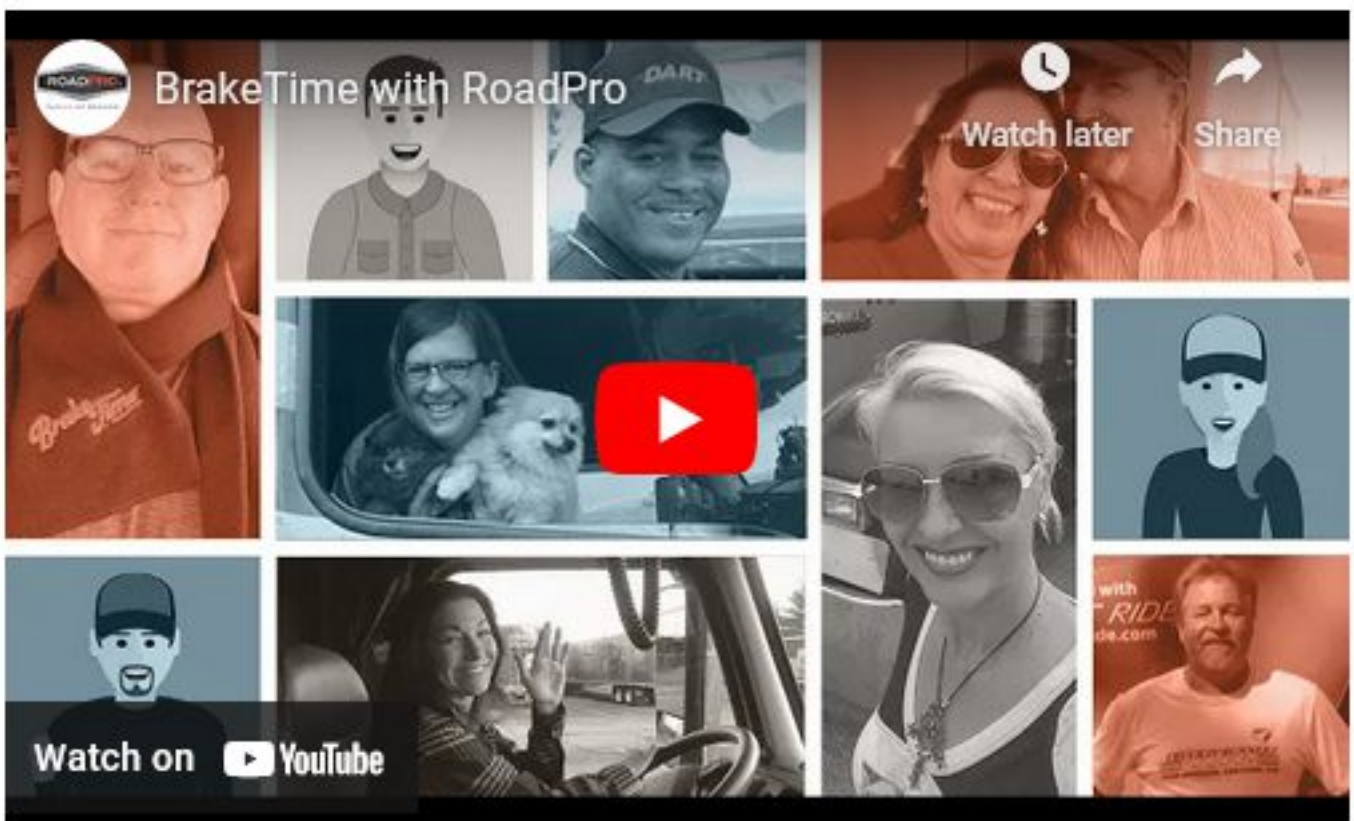
Presented by



FAMILY OF BRANDS



Join an exclusive, trucker-only community...
Brake Time with RoadPro!



www.roadprobrands.com