I'm not a bot

Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. In general, the Toyota Highlander is a very good SUV. One of its main selling points is that Toyota is considered a reliable brand, and the Highlander is typically a prime example of this reliability. However, like many manufacturers, Toyota did struggle with the transmission for the past decade. Here´s a quick summary: Toyota Highlander, made in 2017, had problems with the 8-speed UA80E automatic failing completely, whereas 2020 owners had rough 2-3 upshifts. Furthermore, 2008 – 2013 Highlanders with a 5-speed U151E transmission had problems with slipping or binding 2-3 and 3-4 upshifts. However, that certainly doesn´t tell the whole story. Below, we´ve outlined all transmissions used in the Highlander since 2001. Furthermore, we go through each of them and explain the technical service bulletins, recalls, and complaints we´ve found about them. Read on! Now, let us see some common problems with transmissions that are used in the first, second, third, and fourth generations of the Toyota Highlander. The fourth generation of the Highlander was introduced in 2019 and makes use of two types of transmissions: The 2020 model year of the Toyota Highlander with a UA80F transmission did receive a technical service bulletin in which Toyota stated the following: These cars may exhibit a shift flare condition during wide open throttle (WOT) acceleration from 40 – 60 mph and during the upshift from 2nd to 3rd. The Engine Control Module (ECM) logic has been modified to reduce the possibility of this condition. Source This problem was covered under warranty if the vehicle was less than 96 months old or had driven less than 80,000 miles. The UA80E transmission is shared by several other Toyota vehicles including the Camry and other brands like Lexus' RX350 so there can be similar transmission issues between all these vehicles. When we went through the NHTSA complaints and recalls for the fourth-generation Highlander Hybrid (the only generation that uses this eCVT), we didn´t find any complaints regarding the transmission. However, that doesn't mean the Highlander hybrid isn't without its own set of problems. Technical service bulletins have also not been issued; therefore, we don´t have any reason to believe this would be an unreliable transmission. The third generation of the Highlander used the following transmissions: 6-speed U660F/760E automatic 8-speed UA80E/UA80F automatic The 6-speed transmission was quite a good unit, whereas the 8-speed unit did cause some problems when it was first introduced. The U660F was used in the AWD Highlander made in 2016, whereas the U760E was used in the 2010 – 2019 FWD Highlander, according to Wikipedia. Overall, both these transmissions were reliable and aren´t much complained about. The issues we mention below are rare, and it´s essential to consider this. Also, the video we linked here is regarding the U660E, which is almost the same as the U660F, apart from minor differences. Other rare issues or points with the U660F that are worth mentioning are: The common issue with the transmission is the worn valve body. Contaminated automatic transmission fluid and vitiated torque converter lockup cause slagging or wear-out of plunger valves and channels of the valve body. In the electrical part, the selector position plate with temperature is the most commonly replaced element. The overheating sensor is the reason for the malfunctioning of the valve body. For the U760E, we could find very little information about problems this transmission has had, which is always a good thing. This transmission did have some problems with transmission shudder in the Camry, but this does not apply to the Highlander because these models use different software, according to Toyota. Both the UA80E and UA80F were introduced in the 2017 Highlander and are still used today. However, it´s important to note that these transmissions were complained about when they were first introduced in the 2017 Highlander. Often, complete transmission failure is what the owners have to deal with. This either meant the transmission would fail while driving down the highway or the transmission wouldn´t go into gear anymore after a full stop and the car being in neutral: 29.000 miles on the car and the fourth time at the dealership for transmission problems. This time, they replaced the transmission. Source What exactly is causing these problems is still unknown. However, Toyota has to deal with a class-action lawsuit started in 2020 regarding the faulty transmission of the 2017 model year. The second generation wasn´t a reliable vehicle overall, but the transmissions within this generation were as close to bulletproof as you can get. The 5-speed and 6-speed didn´t have any TSBs or recalls and were rarely complained about. Overall, this 5-speed automatic hasn´t caused many problems at all. Sometimes, these transmissions cause flares, slipping 2-3 shifts or binding on the 3-4 shift. These problems are typically resolved by performing a transmission memory reset. If this is not the solution, there´re ways to check if the solenoids are causing the problems. This transmission causes similar issues in other Toyota vehicles like the Sienna and the RAV4. This is the same 6-speed transmission used in the 2014 – 2019 model years described earlier. For this reason, we´re confident in saying that it´s a reliable transmission that didn´t cause much trouble. The first generation wasn´t problematic overall, but the 4-speed automatic in the 2004 – 2005 models did cause some serious issues. However, the complaints dropped after these model years indicating Toyota resolved the issues. it may cause problems when incorporated inside heavy Highlanders with 3.0 or 3.3L engines. As a consequence, its components have to operate under heavy loads. Hence, it may require the first overhaul even before a vehicle hits 150.000 miles. It´s especially important to avoid 2004 – 2005 models since these models did have quite some early transmission failures before the 90.000 miles mark. Toyota did issue a recall for the RAV4 with the same transmission, stating the ECM needed to be updated, but they didn´t for the Highlander. Common symptoms included long, drawn-out, flare 2-3 shifts, or even long, drawn-out, slipping 1-2 shifts. Besides the ECM update, the symptoms are usually resolved by performing a transmission memory reset or checking the solenoids. If this doesn´t fix it, other parts could be a bit problematic. It might have issues regarding the damage of pinion satellites caused by heavy loads. With satellites of the planetary gear, the sun gear also gets damaged. Another problematic place for the transmission is the back cover. Nonetheless, the problem is prevalent among cars with high-power engines. Statistics indicate that the change in steel disks and frictions in the direct package is three to four times more than in other packages. The rubber-covered piston remains another frequently replaced component in the direct clutch package. The dry functioning and higher temperature often cause rapid damage to the rubber. This is the same transmission as the one used in the 2008 – 2013 model years, so refer back to that subheading for the problems. In an earlier post, we already established that the Highlander will last between 250.000 – 290.000 miles in general. After doing our research, it becomes clear that we would expect the transmission of the Highlander to last the complete lifespan of the car. That makes the Highlander's transmission even more durable than other Toyota vehicles like the Camry and pretty comparable to something like the Sienna or the Tundra. However, a transmission such as the 2004 – 2005 U140E wasn´t expected to last as long. Furthermore, the 8-speed automatic UA80E used from 2017 onwards proved slightly unreliable in the 2017 and 2020 model years. Still, these days it seems to be holding up fine. Of course, these are all ranges and things like driving habits, fluid upkeep and even the choice of fuel can all impact the lifespan of your Highlander's transmission. Do you want your transmission to get replaced? If it is the case, it becomes essential to know the prices of different transmissions. Below, we provide you with an overview of the costs of some of the transmissions for your ease. 4-speed U140E automatic: $2,395.00 (SPPrecision) 5-speed U151E automatic: $2,708.00 (Reman-transmission) 6-speed U760E automatic: $3,432.40 (GoPowerTrain) 6-speed U660F automatic: $1,299.00 (Jdmnewyork) 8-speed UA80E automatic: $4,600.00 (parts.lexus.com) The Toyota Highlander's reputation for reliability extends to its transmissions, although certain models have had notable issues. The 2017 Highlander's 8-speed UA80E automatic has had instances of complete failure and is subject to a class-action lawsuit. Nevertheless, most transmissions in the Highlander, especially in the second generation and beyond, have proven to be dependable with minimal complaints. The 4-speed automatic in the 2004-2005 models had some significant issues, but Toyota seems to have rectified these problems in subsequent years. Overall, the Highlander's transmissions mirror the SUV's overall durability and reliability, with certain exceptions that potential buyers should be aware of. From the 5-lug wheels to the transmission, the Highlander is a workhorse. But as with any used vehicle, prospective Highlander owners should thoroughly research and inspect the specific model year they're considering to avoid potential transmission problems. Hi! My name is Stefan; I'm the owner and lead writer at TheDriverAdviser.com. I'm an active writer on this blog myself, as well as a novice car mechanic. For the really technical stuff, I find writers with experience as a mechanic or who have studied mechanical engineering. Read more about our fantastic team on our about page! Do you have any more questions that weren´t answered in this blog post? Join our free Facebook group and ask your question there. We promise you you´ll get an answer from one of our team members. Join the group here! A 2.4-liter turbo 4-cylinder engine provides 265 horsepower with 310 lb.-ft. of torque. With that, and an up to 25 EPA-estimated combined mpg rating, Highlander is ready to take on the day. Three distinct modes let you tailor every drive to your mood. Sport Mode provides sharper acceleration, Eco Mode helps maximize fuel efficiency, and Normal Mode blends fuel economy with performance. Highlander XSE hugs the road a little tighter with its sport-tuned shock absorbers, high-rate springs and rear stabilizer bar that give you enhanced handling on the road. Dynamic Torque Vectoring All-Wheel Drive (AWD) improves responsiveness and stability, sending up to 50 percent of the power to the rear and then distributing more power to the wheel that needs it. The epitome of power and smoothness. Highlander's 2.4-liter turbo engine flexes some muscle with its up to 5000-lb. towing capacity. Capable even when the pavement ends, Highlander features Multi-Terrain Select (MTS) on All-Wheel Drive (AWD) models. Choose between four modes (Mud & Sand, Rock & Dirt, Snow, and Normal) for enhanced traction. Experience Highlander Hybrid, where magnetic style and efficiency converge. With a 35 EPA-estimated mpg rating, , the Highlander Hybrid is one smooth and confident ride. Starting at $35,205, the 2022 Highlander is offered in a variety of trims and may be customized to match your everyday driving needs. The SUV has a distinctive outer design that is aggressive, and it offers outstanding value in terms of safety requirements, general quality, and driving characteristics. In 2022, the Toyota Highlander will be offered with a 3.5-liter V-6 engine producing 295 horsepower, an eight-speed automatic transmission, and either front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive. In the Highlander Hybrid, a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and two electric motors work together to provide 243 horsepower. There is a choice of front-wheel or all-wheel drive on this car, and it includes a continuously variable automatic transmission (CVT). With this trim, drivers will spend less on gas than they would with the standard model. The Toyota Highlander 2022 should still be able to haul 5,000 pounds when properly equipped. That's sufficient for a weekend trip in the camper or yacht with the family. The Highlander Hybrid earns up to 36 mpg in the city and 35 mpg on the highway, compared to the gas-powered Highlander's up to 21 mpg in the city and 29 mpg on the highway. How many gears does the Toyota Highlander have in its transmission? A 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine with 265 horsepower is standard on the Highlander, and it is mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission and either front- or all-wheel drive. Although we haven't driven this particular version yet, we will be able to remark on its performance then. The Highlander Hybrid has a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and two electric motors working together to provide 243 horsepower. This variant offers both front- and all-wheel drive and a continuously variable automatic transmission (CVT). Utilizing Toyota's hybrid expertise, this engine offers customers a vehicle that is far more fuel efficient than the normal model without significantly reducing performance; on our test track, the most recent hybrid model we examined was capable of reaching 60 mph in 7.3 seconds. The ride is excellent for serving as the family chauffeur because of its boring but stable handling. Potential customers in this market may be aware that the Ford Explorer is also available in a hybrid version. But if you compare the fuel efficiency of different utes, the Toyota comes out on top. Does the Toyota Highlander from 2021 have a CVT? The Highlander Hybrid has a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and two electric motors working together to provide 243 horsepower. This variant offers both front- and all-wheel drive and a continuously variable automatic transmission (CVT). This powertrain offers customers something more fuel-efficient than the conventional model by utilizing Toyota's hybrid technology. The hybrid's lower horsepower rating plus the fact that this model employs a CVT rather than the nonhybrid's eight-speed automatic transmission cause a trade-off in acceleration performance. The hybrid vehicle reached 60 mph on our test track in 7.3 seconds. Potential customers in this market may be aware that the Ford Explorer is also available in a hybrid version. However, when comparing the fuel efficiency of two utes, the Toyota comes out on top. The Highlander Hybrid's starting price of $39,585 is also significantly lower than that of the Explorer Hybrid at $11,810 less. Does the Toyota Highlander from 2022 have a CVT? The Toyota Highlander will have two available engine choices for 2022. The 3.5-liter V6 standard engine will deliver 295 horsepower to the front wheels as standard or an optional all-wheel drive system with an eight-speed automated transmission. The second engine will only be offered in the 2022 Toyota Highlander Hybrid and will be a 2.5-liter four-cylinder that generates 243 horsepower when combined with two electric motors. You can choose between an all-wheel drive system or a front-wheel drive system with this engine by using a continuously variable automatic transmission (CVT). New for the 2022 Toyota Highlander The interior of the Toyota Highlander crossover SUV is anticipated to include a wealth of high-tech amenities and opulent comfort features. A standard 8.0-inch touchscreen, an optional 12.3-inch display, a Wi-Fi hotspot, Apple CarPlay, Android AutoTM, Amazon Alexa, a JBL 11-speaker premium audio system, a tri-zone automatic climate control system, a wireless charging pad, heated front seats, second-row captain's chairs, a panoramic sunroof, ventilated front seats, leather seats, and more are just a few of the features and options you'll likely find available Has the 2018 Toyota Highlander been equipped with a CVT? A V6 engine, three electric motors, and a continuously variable transmission are all included in the Highlander Hybrid, an all-wheel-drive variant (CVT). Does the 2019 Toyota Highlander have a CVT? The LE, XLE, Limited, and Limited Platinum trim levels of the 2019 Highlander Hybrid are available. A 3.5-liter V6 engine and three electric motors work together to produce 306 horsepower. All models in the portfolio come standard with all-wheel drive and a continuously variable automatic transmission (CVT). Does the Toyota Highlander have issues with the transmission? In order to enable you to drive at the correct speed, the gearbox transfers power from the motor to your wheels. Given that the transmission must convert the exact quantity of power for the required speed, What issues are there with Toyota Highlanders? Similar problems with the motorized tailgate and air conditioning system plagued the Toyota Highlander's previous version from 2008 to 2013. A few owners have also complained of oil leaks from the engine and clunking sounds they hear when rotating the steering wheel. What distinguishes the Toyota Highlander from the 2021 and 2022 models? What Differs Between the Toyota Highlander Models of 2022 and 2021? The 2022 Toyota Highlander is anticipated to mostly resemble the 2021 Toyota Highlander variants. The addition of an exterior paint color, Wind Chill Pearl, which will take the place of Blizzard Pearl, is the only significant change made public thus far. How dependable is the Toyota Highlander in 2021? The anticipated reliability rating for the 2021 Highlander is 82 out of 100. A predicted reliability score from J.D. Power of 91 to 100 is regarded as the best, 81 to 90 as great, 70 to 80 as medium, and 0-69 as fair and below average. The best Toyota Highlander is… The 20082013 edition is most likely the best option. You get more interior room, more features, a more potent engine lineup, better safety ratings, and better crash test results with this generation. What is the Toyota Highlander's reliability? The Toyota Highlander has a 4.0 out of 5.0 reliability rating, placing it seventh out of 26 midsize SUVs. It has cheaper ownership costs than the national average due to the $489 average annual repair cost. When compared to all other vehicles, the frequency and severity of repairs are both about average. Cost A Toyota Highlander's total yearly cost for repairs and maintenance is $489, whereas the average for midsize SUVs is $573 and the average for all vehicle models is $652. the typical annual sum for unplanned maintenance and repairs for all model years of a car. A vehicle's greater average cost alone does not imply that it is less dependable. For instance, your car's parts and labor may be pricey, especially if it's a European luxury model, but if there are few serious problems and frequent service visits on average each year, that's a sign of a dependable vehicle. The typical annual frequency at which a vehicle is taken in for unplanned maintenance and repairs. This metric is produced by monitoring millions of distinctive automobiles over a number of years to ascertain the typical yearly visits for each make and model. Controls were included to prevent small, routine shop visits, such those for oil changes. The severity element of dependability calculates the likelihood that a repair will cause a significant problem. The cost of a repair is assessed to be excessively expensive given the unscheduled nature of the repair if it is three times the average annual repair cost for all models. Due to their more expensive labor and component expenses, premium and luxury brands have a higher barrier. Frequency Owners of Toyota Highlander vehicles must take them into a shop for unplanned repairs on average 0.3 times year, as opposed to 0.4 times on average for medium SUVs and 0.4 times for all vehicle models. Severity The Toyota Highlander has a 13 percent chance of needing a significant or catastrophic repair, compared to a midsize SUV average of 13 percent and a nationwide average of 12 percent. Is the Toyota Highlander a wise investment in 2022? Consumer Reports has given the 2022 Toyota Highlander a reliability rating of 5/5. Even more modern Highlanders have outstanding reliability ratings; both the 2020 and 2021 receive a 5/5. With these dependability ratings, you may be quite certain that the Highlander has a minimal likelihood of unanticipated issues. However, there are no assurances. The Toyota Highlander is anticipated to get a 4/5 owner satisfaction rating by 2022. It receives top marks for both comfort and driving performance, but its value rating of 48/100 is only average. At 80/100, the style score is excellent. One of the greatest three-row SUVs available, the 2022 Toyota Highlander is priced similarly to other three-row SUVs in its class. However, it is not nearly as spacious as some rival SUVs, so if you have a larger family, this SUV might not be the best choice. The 2022 Toyota Highlander is still a fantastic SUV, and if you don't frequently need the third row, it's absolutely worth the money. AHG Auto Service » Make » Toyota » Does Toyota Highlander have CVT transmission? Answer:Yes, the Toyota Highlander does have a CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission) option available. The fourth-generation Highlander in North America is offered with an Electronic Continuously Variable Transmission (E-CVT) paired with a 2.5-liter gasoline/electric hybrid four-cylinder engine. The Highlander Hybrid model comes with a V6 engine, three electric motors, and a continuously variable transmission (CVT). The CVT in the Highlander Hybrid contributes to its quick and efficient performance.Please note that the availability of the CVT transmission may vary depending on the specific model and region. It is always recommended to check with a Toyota dealership or the official Toyota website for the most up-to-date information on available transmission options for the Toyota Highlander.I hope this information helps! Let me know if you have any other questions. Does a 2013 Toyota Highlander have a CVT transmission? The Highlander Hybrid is the first Toyota hybrid to offer an EV button in the U.S. We suggest using it around town, more than we apparently should have. The continuously variable transmission feels natural. Does the 2014 Toyota Highlander have a CVT transmission? Acceleration and PowerAll-wheel drive and a continuously variable transmission (CVT) are standard. Fuel economy is an EPA-estimated 27/28 mpg city/highway, which is very good for the class. Is CVT better than automatic? Depending on the vehicle and the driver, a CVT can provide a smoother driving experience when comparing it to a traditional automatic. According to Carfax, one of the most significant advantages to having a CVT is that they are often more fuel-efficient than a regular automatic. What year did Toyota switch to CVT? The K110 was Toyota's first belt-type CVT and production began in August 2000. Toyota said that the transmission was both fuel-efficient and offered high driving performance. The K110 features a torque converter with a long-travel damper to help achieve quiet operation and improved fuel efficiency. How do you know if a car is CVT or not? Identifying Continuously Variable TransmissionsThey are often found in hybrid or electric vehicles due to their ability to provide a smooth and efficient driving experience. To identify a continuously variable transmission, look for a gear selector that does not have set gear positions. Which car has best CVT transmission? Best CVT Cars 2024 Toyota Crown. Compare Model. Positives. Comfortable ride. 2024 Toyota Prius. Compare Model. Positives. Class-leading fuel efficiency. 2024 Toyota Prius Prime. Compare Model. Positives. 2024 Honda Accord. Compare Model. Positives. 2024 Subaru Impreza. Compare Model. Positives. Which SUV are not CVT? One Hyundai Tucson our first SUV on the list is the Hyundai Tucson. This compact yet spacious SUV offers a comfortable ride. And a range of transmission. Options. Which Toyotas do not have CVT transmission? Toyota: The 86, Avalon (non-hybrid), Mirai, Supra, 4Runner, Highlander, Camry (non-hybrid), Corolla (manual only), Yaris (manual only), 4Runner, Highlander (non-hybrid), Land Cruiser, rav4 (non-hybrid), Tacoma and Tundra are not equipped with CVTs. Do RAV4 have CVT transmissions? The manual RAV4 was discontinued in 2022, meaning the only non-CVT option left today is the petrol-powered RAV4 Edge variant with its eight-speed sports automatic. All hybrid RAV4 variants are equipped with a CVT. What Toyotas have a CVT transmission? Which Toyotas Have CVT Transmissions? Corolla. The new Corolla not only offers CVT transmission, but the 2.0L Dynamic Force Engine is extremely responsive and offers you an enhanced performance. Prius. Sienna. Corolla Cross. However, for those seeking the combination of space, reliability, and a traditional driving experience, the Highlander's automatic transmission remains a strong choice. A CVT uses a belt and pulley system to provide a continuous range of gear ratios, offering smooth acceleration without distinct gear changes. An automatic transmission uses a series of gears and clutches to provide distinct gear ratios, offering a more traditional driving experience. The Toyota Highlander, a popular mid-size SUV known for its reliability and spacious interior, has been a favorite among families and adventurers alike. But when it comes to its transmission, a common question arises: does Toyota Highlander have CVT transmission? The answer, thankfully, is not as straightforward as a simple yes or no. This blog post will delve into the intricacies of the Highlander's transmission system, separating fact from fiction and providing you with a comprehensive understanding. The Toyota Highlander has seen several generations, each with its own unique set of features and advancements. Understanding the transmission system across these generations is crucial to answering our question about CVT. Early Generations (2001-2007): The first two generations of the Highlander relied on a tried-and-true 4-speed automatic transmission. While not as sophisticated as later models, this transmission proved reliable and efficient for the time. Third Generation (2008-2013): This generation marked a significant shift with the introduction of a 5-speed automatic transmission. This upgrade offered smoother shifting and improved fuel economy. Fourth Generation (2014-2019): The fourth generation brought about a major change, introducing a 6-speed automatic transmission. This further enhanced performance and efficiency, solidifying the Highlander's reputation as a reliable and capable SUV. Fifth Generation (2020-Present): The current generation, launched in 2020, continues to utilize the 8-speed automatic transmission. This transmission is known for its responsive acceleration and smooth gear changes, offering a refined driving experience. As you can see from the evolution of the Highlander's transmission, there has never been a CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission) option offered in any of its generations. CVTs are known for their smooth and efficient operation, but they have also received criticism for their "rubber band" effect and lack of a traditional gear-shifting feel. Toyota's decision to stick with traditional automatic transmissions for the Highlander is likely due to a combination of factors: Target Audience: The Highlander is primarily aimed at families and those seeking a reliable and comfortable SUV. Traditional automatic transmissions deliver a more familiar and predictable driving experience, aligning with the Highlander's target market. Performance Expectations: The Highlander is not designed to be a sporty SUV. Traditional automatic transmissions provide a more balanced blend of performance and fuel efficiency, catering to the Highlander's intended use. Durability and Reliability: Toyota has a reputation for building durable and reliable vehicles. Traditional automatic transmissions have a proven track record of longevity and reliability, aligning with Toyota's brand values. Choosing a traditional automatic transmission for the Highlander offers several benefits: Smooth and Responsive Shifting: The 8-speed automatic transmission in the current generation provides a smooth and responsive driving experience. Predictable Performance: The familiar gear-shifting feel of a traditional automatic transmission offers a predictable and comfortable driving experience. Improved Fuel Efficiency: Modern automatic transmissions are engineered for optimal fuel economy, contributing to the Highlander's overall efficiency. While the Highlander does not offer a CVT option, other Toyota models do. For example, the Toyota Corolla and Camry have CVT options, known for their fuel efficiency. However, for those seeking the combination of space, reliability, and a traditional driving experience, the Highlander's automatic transmission remains a strong choice. To fully grasp why the Toyota Highlander doesn't have a CVT, it's helpful to understand the key differences between the two types of transmissions: CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission): How it Works: A CVT uses a belt and pulley system to provide a continuous range of gear ratios, offering smooth acceleration without distinct gear changes. Pros: Smooth acceleration, improved fuel economy, and quieter operation. Cons: "Rubber band" effect, lack of traditional gear-shifting feel, and potential for belt slippage. Automatic Transmission: How it Works: An automatic transmission uses a series of gears and clutches to provide distinct gear ratios, offering a more traditional driving experience. Pros: Predictable gear changes, responsive acceleration, and a more engaging driving feel. Cons: Slightly less fuel-efficient than CVT, can be less smooth in some models. Ultimately, the best transmission for you depends on your individual needs and preferences. If you prioritize smooth acceleration, fuel efficiency, and a quiet driving experience, a CVT might be a good option. However, if you prefer a more traditional driving experience with distinct gear changes and responsive acceleration, a traditional automatic transmission might be a better choice. The Toyota Highlander offers a variety of powertrain options to suit different driving needs and preferences. Here's a breakdown of the available engines and transmissions: 2.4L 4-cylinder engine: This engine is available in the LE, XLE, and Limited trims. It is paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission and offers a balance of power and fuel efficiency. 3.5L V6 engine: This engine is available in the XLE, Limited, and Platinum trims. It is also paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission and provides more power for towing and hauling. Hybrid Powertrain: The Highlander Hybrid combines a 2.5L 4-cylinder engine with an electric motor. It offers impressive fuel economy and smooth acceleration. The hybrid powertrain is available in the LE, XLE, and Limited trims. The Toyota Highlander's decision to stick with a traditional automatic transmission is a testament to its commitment to reliability, performance, and a driving experience that appeals to its target audience. While CVTs offer advantages in certain situations, the Highlander's automatic transmission delivers a balanced and satisfying driving experience, making it a popular choice among families and adventurers alike. Q: Is the Toyota Highlander's automatic transmission reliable? A: Yes, Toyota's automatic transmissions are known for their reliability and durability. The 8-speed automatic transmission in the current generation Highlander has a proven track record of performance and longevity. Q: Does the Toyota Highlander offer a manual transmission option? A: No, the Toyota Highlander does not offer a manual transmission option. Q: How does the Toyota Highlander's automatic transmission compare to other SUVs in its class? A: The Highlander's automatic transmission is considered to be one of the best in its class. It offers smooth shifting, responsive acceleration, and good fuel economy. Q: What are the pros and cons of the Toyota Highlander's automatic transmission? A: Pros: Smooth and responsive shifting Predictable performance Improved fuel efficiency Cons: Slightly less fuel-efficient than CVT Can be less smooth in some models Q: Is the Toyota Highlander's automatic transmission a good choice for towing? A: Yes, the Highlander's automatic transmission is capable of handling towing. The 3.5L V6 engine provides sufficient power for towing, and the transmission is designed to handle the added load. Was this page helpful?YesNo Thanks for your feedback! AHG Auto Service » Make » Toyota » What kind of transmission does the Toyota Highlander have? Toyota Highlander TransmissionThe 2024 Toyota Highlander comes with different transmission options based on the engine and drivetrain configurations. The gas version of the Highlander is equipped with a 265-horsepower turbocharged 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine paired with an eight-speed automatic transmission. This setup is available with either front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive.Additionally, the Highlander Hybrid employs a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and two electric motors for a combined 243 horsepower. The hybrid version uses a continuously variable automatic transmission (CVT) and offers a choice between front-wheel drive and all-wheel drive.In summary, the 2024 Toyota Highlander is available with an eight-speed automatic transmission for the gas version and a continuously variable automatic transmission (CVT) for the hybrid version. Does a 2013 Toyota Highlander have a CVT transmission? The Highlander Hybrid is the first Toyota hybrid to offer an EV button in the U.S. We suggest using it around town, more than we apparently should have. The continuously variable transmission feels natural. Which Toyotas do not have a CVT transmission? Toyota: The 86, Avalon (non-hybrid), Mirai, Supra, 4Runner, Highlander, Camry (non-hybrid), Corolla (manual only), Yaris (manual only), 4Runner, Highlander (non-hybrid), Land Cruiser, rav4 (non-hybrid), Tacoma and Tundra are not equipped with CVTs. Is the Toyota 8-speed transmission reliable? Toyota 8-Speed Transmission Problems Owners Need to Know About. Transmission 8-speed transmission problems pose a serious safety risk for drivers and other people on the road. They can lead to complete loss of power while driving, cause the vehicle to stall, or result in sudden acceleration or braking unexpectedly. How often do you change the transmission fluid in a Toyota Highlander? every 30,000 to 60,000 milesHow Often to Change Transmission Fluid in Your Toyota. While the specific interval may vary depending on your Toyota model and Lake Elsinore driving conditions, changing your transmission fluid every 30,000 to 60,000 miles or every two to four years is recommended. How long will a Toyota Highlander transmission last? If you're the third or fourth owner, a typical used Highlander will probably reach a minimum 250,000 miles on its original transmission and engine. What year did Toyota go to CVT transmission? The K110 was Toyota's first belt-type CVT and production began in August 2000. Toyota said that the transmission was both fuel-efficient and offered high driving performance. The K110 features a torque converter with a long-travel damper to help achieve quiet operation and improved fuel efficiency. What year did Highlander get 8-speed transmission? The UA80E: A Closer Look at the 8-Speed Front-Wheel Drive for Toyota and Lexus. The UA80E first showed up in 2017. It was used from 2017 through 2022 in the Toyota Highlander with 2.5L and 3.5L engines. From 2018 through 2022, it came in the Toyota Camry 3.5L and Rav 4 with a 2.5L all-wheel-drive model. What is the best year for a Toyota Highlander? A: The best years for the Toyota Highlander, according to the above guide, include the 2004, 2005, and 2007 models from the first generation and the 2017-2019 models from the third generation. These years have shown high reliability, minimal complaints, and good owner satisfaction ratings. Which is better CVT or 8-speed transmission? Depending on the vehicle and the driver, a CVT can provide a smoother driving experience when comparing it to a traditional automatic. According to Carfax, one of the most significant advantages to having a CVT is that they are often more fuel-efficient than a regular automatic. Does 2018 Highlander have CVT? The engine on the hybrids is a 3.5L, 306HP V6 engine with an eight-speed continuously variable transmission, three electric motors, and a battery. How can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explain how.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today's most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionCurated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of Editors' Picks.Browse Editors' FavoritesHow can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explain how.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today's most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionCurated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of Editors' Picks.Browse Editors' FavoritesHow can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explain how.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today's most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionCurated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of Editors' Picks.Browse Editors' Favorites The Toyota Highlander, a popular choice for families seeking a reliable and spacious SUV, has undergone several transformations since its debut. One aspect potential buyers often consider is the vehicle's transmission. Understanding the transmission type is crucial for predicting performance, fuel efficiency, and overall driving experience. So, does the Toyota Highlander utilize a Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT)? Let's delve into the details.Transmission Evolution in the HighlanderThroughout its production run, the Toyota Highlander has employed various automatic transmissions. Early models relied on traditional automatic transmissions with a set number of gears. These transmissions provided predictable shifts and were known for their durability. However, as technology advanced and fuel efficiency became a greater priority, manufacturers began exploring alternative transmission options.Understanding CVT TechnologyA Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) differs significantly from a conventional automatic transmission. Instead of using fixed gears, a CVT utilizes a system of pulleys and a belt or chain to provide a virtually infinite range of gear ratios. This allows the engine to operate at its most efficient speed more often, leading to improved fuel economy. CVTs also offer seamless acceleration, as there are no distinct gear shifts. The driving experience can feel different, however, as the engine may maintain a higher RPM for longer periods during acceleration.The Highlander's Transmission RealityThe Toyota Highlander *does not* use a CVT. Instead, Toyota has opted for traditional automatic transmissions with a specific number of gears. For example, the current generation Highlander (as of late 2024) utilizes an 8-speed automatic transmission. Previous generations have featured 6-speed automatic transmissions.Toyota's decision to stick with traditional automatic transmissions in the Highlander likely stems from a desire to maintain a specific driving feel and cater to the expectations of its target audience. While CVTs offer fuel efficiency benefits, some drivers find their driving characteristics less engaging than those of a traditional automatic. The Highlander is often used for family hauling and road trips, where a smooth and predictable driving experience is highly valued.Benefits of Traditional Automatic TransmissionsThere are several reasons why Toyota might favor traditional automatic transmissions for the Highlander:Familiar Driving Feel: Drivers accustomed to conventional automatics will find the Highlander's driving experience familiar and comfortable. The distinct gear shifts provide a sense of connection to the vehicle that some drivers miss with CVTs.Perceived Durability: While modern CVTs are becoming increasingly reliable, traditional automatic transmissions have a long-standing reputation for durability. This is an important consideration for a vehicle like the Highlander, which is often expected to last for many years and accumulate high mileage.Towing Capacity: Traditional automatic transmissions are often preferred for vehicles that need to tow heavy loads. The fixed gear ratios provide more predictable and robust performance under demanding conditions. While the Highlander is not primarily a towing vehicle, its ability to tow a reasonable amount is still a selling point for many buyers.Driver Preference: Ultimately, driver preference plays a role in transmission choice. Some drivers simply prefer the feel of a traditional automatic transmission and are willing to sacrifice a small amount of fuel efficiency to get it.Exploring Highlander's Performance and EfficiencyEven without a CVT, the Toyota Highlander achieves respectable fuel economy figures. The 8-speed automatic transmission, combined with efficient engine designs, contributes to competitive MPG ratings within its class. The Highlander also offers a hybrid version, which further enhances fuel efficiency by pairing a gasoline engine with an electric motor. The hybrid model *does* use a CVT, but it's important to note that this transmission is specifically designed and tuned for hybrid applications.The Highlander's performance is also well-regarded. The available engine options provide ample power for everyday driving and passing maneuvers. The 8-speed automatic transmission delivers smooth and responsive shifts, contributing to a pleasant driving experience.Considering Alternatives with CVTsWhile the Highlander doesn't offer a CVT in its non-hybrid models, it's worth considering other SUVs in the same segment that do. Vehicles like the Nissan Pathfinder (in some model years) and the Subaru Ascent utilize CVTs to maximize fuel efficiency. These SUVs may offer similar levels of space and practicality as the Highlander, but with a different driving feel.Ultimately, the best choice depends on individual priorities. If fuel efficiency is paramount and the driver is comfortable with the characteristics of a CVT, then these alternatives may be worth exploring. However, if a familiar and predictable driving experience is more important, the Toyota Highlander remains a compelling option.Making Sense of It All: The Highlander's Transmission ChoiceThe Toyota Highlander's decision to forgo CVTs in its non-hybrid models reflects a strategic choice to prioritize a familiar driving experience and perceived durability. While CVTs offer potential fuel efficiency benefits, Toyota has opted for traditional automatic transmissions that cater to the preferences of its target audience. The Highlander's 8-speed automatic transmission, combined with efficient engine designs, delivers a satisfying balance of performance and fuel economy. For those seeking even greater fuel savings, the Highlander Hybrid offers a compelling alternative with its dedicated CVT system. Ultimately, the best transmission choice depends on individual needs and priorities.Information You Need to KnowHere are some frequently asked questions about the Toyota Highlander's transmission:1. Does the Toyota Highlander have a CVT in any of its models?No, the standard (non-hybrid) Toyota Highlander models do *not* use a CVT. They utilize traditional automatic transmissions with a specific number of gears (typically 6-speed or 8-speed). The Highlander Hybrid *does* use a CVT, but it is specifically designed and tuned for the hybrid powertrain.2. Why doesn't the Toyota Highlander use a CVT in its standard models?Toyota likely chose to stick with traditional automatic transmissions in the standard Highlander models to maintain a familiar driving feel, ensure perceived durability, and cater to driver preferences. While CVTs offer fuel efficiency benefits, some drivers prefer the distinct gear shifts and overall driving experience of a traditional automatic.3. Is the Toyota Highlander's 8-speed automatic transmission reliable?Yes, the 8-speed automatic transmission used in the current generation Toyota Highlander is generally considered to be reliable. Toyota has a strong reputation for building durable and dependable vehicles, and the 8-speed automatic transmission has proven to be a robust and well-engineered component.4. Does the hybrid Highlander have more fuel efficiency than the gasoline one because of the CVT?Yes, the Highlander Hybrid generally achieves significantly better fuel economy than the standard gasoline-powered Highlander. The hybrid powertrain, which combines a gasoline engine with an electric motor, is inherently more efficient. The CVT in the hybrid model also contributes to improved fuel efficiency by allowing the engine to operate at its most efficient speed more often. The hybrid model is designed for optimal fuel savings.5. What are the benefits of having a traditional automatic transmission over a CVT?The benefits of a traditional automatic transmission over a CVT include a familiar driving feel with distinct gear shifts, a perception of greater durability (though modern CVTs are becoming increasingly reliable), and potentially better performance for towing. Some drivers simply prefer the feel of a traditional automatic and are willing to trade a small amount of fuel efficiency for it. The Toyota Highlander has established itself as a prominent player in the midsize SUV segment, renowned for its spacious interior, versatile performance, and impressive safety features. However, one aspect that often sparks curiosity among potential buyers is the type of transmission employed in the Highlander. This blog post delves into the intricacies of the Toyota Highlander's transmission system, specifically addressing the question: "Does Toyota High