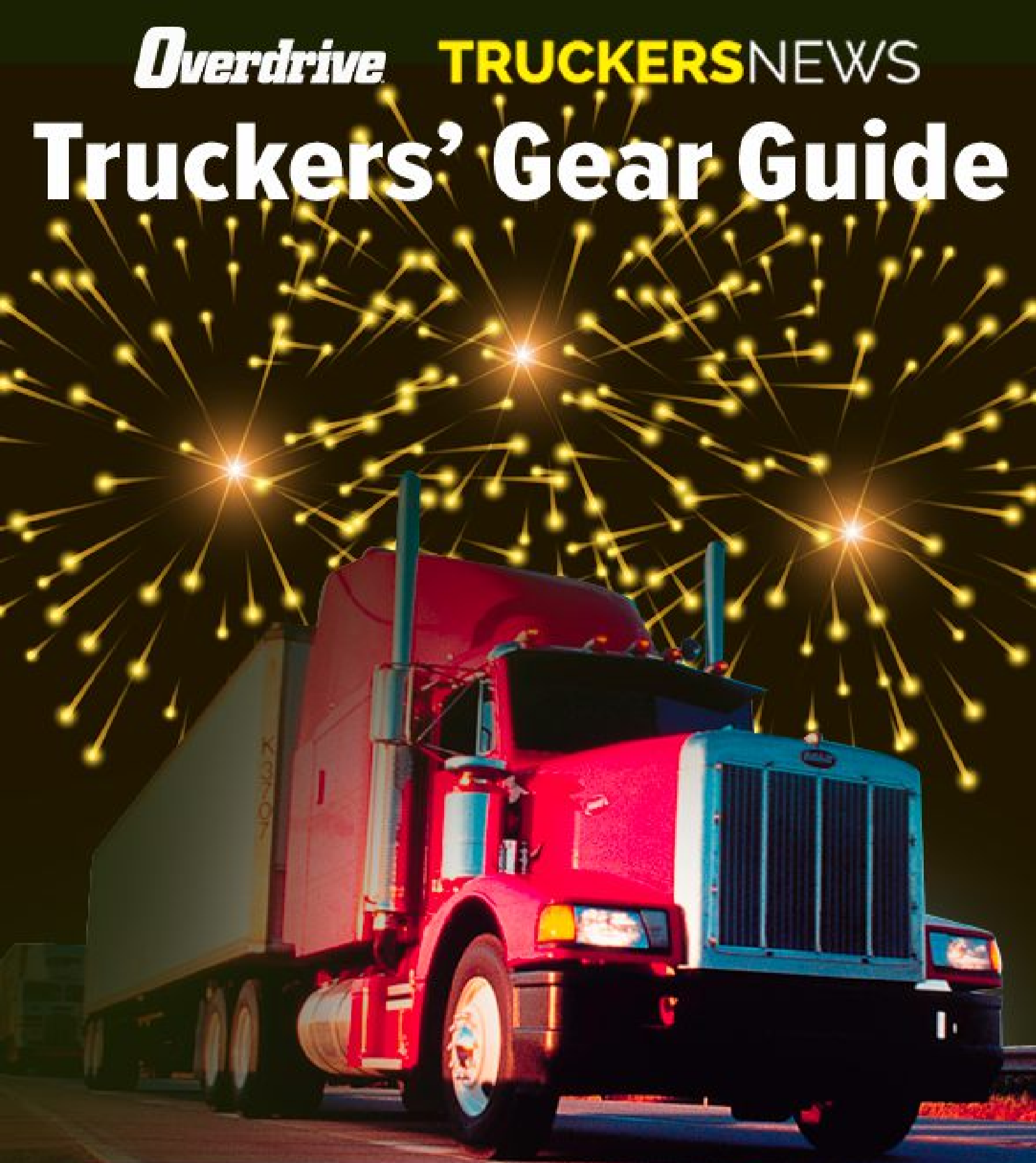


Overdrive **TRUCKERS** NEWS

Truckers' Gear Guide



▶ **Trucking Out of 2020**

▶ **What's New for the New Year**

▶ **5 Ways to Make Fast Food Healthier**

▶ **Buyers' Guide: Winter Essentials**

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Buy Snap Reward



FAMILY OF BRANDS

Trucking Out of 2020 and into 2021

By Kim McDonnell, RoadPro Family of Brands

Whew! If you are like me, you are ready to put 2020 in the rearview mirror and look forward to better days in 2021.

This past year was very trying in so many ways, especially for truck drivers both physically and financially. At the beginning of the shutdown, there was no access to the everyday essentials truckers needed, like a hot meal, safe places to park, access to clean showers and bathrooms, and PPE.

With the start of the new year, forecasters predict that this will be a very transitional year for the trucking industry.

Many truckers were also financially impacted when the shutdown occurred, as manufacturers slowed production or shut down completely. In the early months of the pandemic, the spot rates became critically low but have seen a steady rebound as production ramped back up and businesses and manufacturing reopened.



With the start of the new year, forecasters predict that this will be a very transitional year for the trucking industry. Truck driver demand is expected to continue, and keep in mind that truckers will be the ones called upon to get the new vaccines to medical facilities throughout the year. There will be a higher demand by manufacturing to get goods to the shelves, which means 2021 could be far more profitable for truck drivers. There will be an increase in driver salaries, and spot rates will continue to climb. Drivers with more experience will probably be able to call for higher pay and increased benefits as demand continues. E-commerce and online shopping will continue to increase, and America will need more drivers to handle all that additional freight. According to the FTR Transportation Intelligence predictions, truck freight will grow 6% in 2021, which is a very healthy growth rate compared to previous year comparisons.

It seems that travel centers and truck stops are also stepping up their game, and lessons learned throughout the pandemic may continue to prove beneficial for the trucker.



Increased freight means there will be an increased demand for more drivers. So the bad news is we will continue to experience a driver shortage. Still, the good news is that anyone who wants to get into the industry will have many career options to choose from, and the drivers that are already up and running will also have more and better opportunities.

While the Great American Truck Show has already been canceled for 2021, the Mid-American Trucking Show may still try to go on with the show in 2021, but if they do, it will be delayed until the fall. There have been mixed reactions, but most truck drivers are eager to attend truck shows, see new products, new and classic trucks, and just be together. If MATS decides to wait till 2022, there will be other opportunities throughout the year geared towards truck drivers. Currently, a brand new show will be making its inaugural appearance in July called the Outrageous American Truck Show (OATS) that promises four days of activities, including a truck pull, concerts, bull riding, and fireworks.

It seems that travel centers and truck stops are also stepping up their game, and lessons learned throughout the pandemic may continue to prove beneficial for the trucker. New stores are opening for Love's and Travel Centers of America, and they continue to build better facilities with more parking and services.

While 2021 will still have its challenges, here is to a fresh start and new beginnings with the hope that the pandemic will soon be behind us and we can truck on into better days! ■



Howes

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STEP 1:

**USE DIESEL TREAT™
EVERY FILL UP TO
PREVENT GELLING.**



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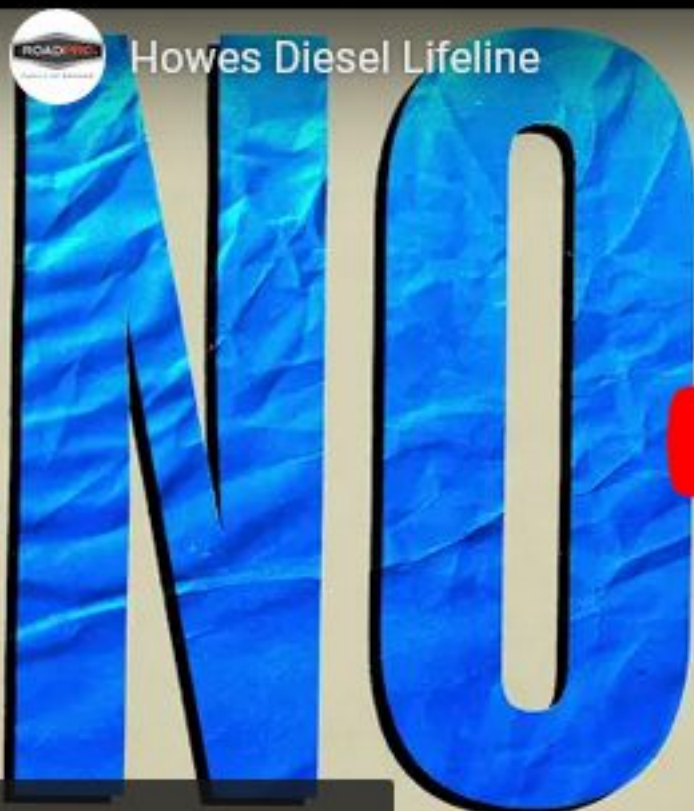
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THIS WINTER.**

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Howes Diesel Lifeline



**FILTER
REPLACEMENT
OR
FUEL MIXING**

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When Winter Weather Hits Hard...Be Prepared

By Rich Guida, Brand Manager, Howes Products

Truck drivers, farmers, and diesel engine owners in general can face serious problems if they are not prepared when winter weather hits early. Gelled fuel and frozen fuel filters can cause any diesel engine system to stop working, leaving you stuck in the cold and, in some cases, dangerous situations.

“Emergency rescue products that are designed to de-gel fuel in a pinch are essential to have on hand but, not all of them are created equally,” says Rob Howes, Executive Vice President of Howes Products. “They may all work to break down the gel and get the fuel flowing again, but *how* they do that is really important.”

Look for products that contain ZERO alcohol.

Alcohol is corrosive and can degrade plastic, rubber, or even metal parts in the fuel system that were not engineered to use alcohol-bearing additives. That’s the last thing you want in a product that’s supposed to be helping you *out* of an emergency!

Any number of problems can occur if you introduce alcohol to your system.



In fact, it’s long been thought that alcohol was the only way to quickly de-gel fuel, but this has been proven to be untrue. Howes has incorporated new advancements in technology in their products to develop safer and more effective alternatives to alcohol for de-gelling fuel and melting ice. Alcohol has a flashpoint of around 65°F, while diesel fuel has an average flash point of around 150°F. Using a product with that low of a flashpoint in diesel fuel is very dangerous.

New Howes **Diesel Lifeline**® has a flashpoint that is virtually identical to that of diesel fuel. Lifeline’s advanced formula allows it to safely de-ice frozen fuel filters and re-liquefy gelled fuel quickly, without using any harmful alcohol.

STEP 1: USE DIESEL TREAT™ EVERY FILL UP TO PREVENT GELLING.



Howes
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Any number of problems can occur if you introduce alcohol to your system. Fuel lines can swell up in the presence of alcohol, and tanks often have issues with the coating inside, at times requiring massive structural modifications. Engines will also run hotter when alcohol is present, which can potentially lead to melted pistons and scuffed cylinder walls. Alcohol will scour varnish and deposits out of the fuel system that have remained in place for years. These will eventually wind up in the filter or main jet, choking off the engine’s fuel supply. Worse yet, the alcohol itself oxidizes in the tank and produces a tenacious brown glop that’s far more damaging to the fuel system than the varnish we’re used to seeing in systems burning pure fuel.

As early winter weather shifts and becomes consistently cold, you definitely want to be treating your diesel fuel on a regular basis.

“Through our years of experience and constant testing, we’ve also learned that alcohols are often good “food” for bacteria and other troublesome microorganisms that produce sludge. This sludge can cause pitting corrosion of tanks and degrade fuels,” added Rob Howes, who also holds the title of “Chief Testing Officer” at Howes.

How to identify if the emergency product you have contains alcohol.

It’s well worth taking the time to ensure that the fuel additives you use do not contain alcohol. If you are researching a product before you buy, you can check the product’s SDS to see its flashpoint. If the product you’re researching has a flashpoint far lower than diesel’s 150°F, there is a good chance it contains alcohol. Another way to check for alcohol is to look through the product’s ingredients. Chemicals like Ethyl Carbinol, Hydroxy Propane, Isopropyl Alcohol, 2-Propanol, and Aliphatic Hydroxy Hydrocarbons are all just different ways to say “alcohol” and should be avoided at all costs. In a hurry? You can also just look for products that clearly state “Alcohol-Free” on the label, like Howes Diesel Lifeline. In fact, all Howes additives are alcohol-free and safe to use in any diesel system.

Winter marches in.



As early winter weather shifts and becomes consistently cold, you definitely want to be treating your diesel fuel on a regular basis. At every fill-up, be sure you add Howes Diesel Treat™ to prevent gelling in the first place. It’s the leading anti-gel on the market from one of the oldest, most trusted brands in the space. Filled with more of what your engine needs, **Diesel Treat** will fight the problems created by today’s Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) fuel by doing things such as adding lubricity and safely removing water, just to name a few.

As the cold begins to swoop in, follow the Howes very simple, two-step winter readiness plan. Step one: use Diesel Treat at every fill-up to prevent gelling. Step two: have a bottle of Diesel Lifeline on hand in case you forgot step one. You never know when severe winter cold will pop up and surprise you. Always be prepared. ■



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with a large 7" display.



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DĒZL™ TRUCK NAVIGATORS



What's New for the New Year

The Latest Gear for Truckers

Plenty of folks, including and especially professional drivers, will exit 2020 with mixed memories of the year we all learned how to socially distance ourselves and who was “essential” and who wasn’t.

However, with a robust freight market and trucker pay increases expected to continue, 2021 is expected to be a good year for the trucking economy and its drivers. It also ought to be a good year for trucker tech and tools to help make the most of what many observers say will be a good time to be a driver. Here’s some of the top tech to expect in 2021.

One of the tech predictions for the coming year is faster Bluetooth and the ability to connect more devices. Also, expect more applications of artificial intelligence in the trucking world and a parade of new, more powerful smartphones. And, 2021 will see the wider adaptation of 5G.



Zendure SuperTank Pro

This could make 2021 the most powerful year in your trucking career as it delivers 138W through its four USB-C ports. The [SuperTank Pro](#) is equipped with a display that allows you to keep track of what’s going on with each of the four ports. It also lets you see how much power is left inside. The SuperTank Pro also has a helpful UPS/pass-through feature that allows you to charge the power bank and use the power bank to charge or power other devices. This lets it act as a power distribution hub. It comes with a 39-inch USB-C-to-USB-C cable and a USB-C-to-USB-A adapter. It costs \$250 but consider that an investment in your peace of mind knowing the SuperTank Pro carries enough juice to charge your smartphone for a week.



Omron HEM 7120 Upper Arm Automatic Blood Pressure Monitor

High-blood pressure and the myriad health problems that come with it are unfortunately common among truck drivers. It’s all but an occupational hazard given the sedentary nature of the job, the lack of opportunity to exercise, and limited access to healthy dining options. Besides, careful and constant monitoring of your BP can be difficult when you’re on the road, and your health care provider is back in your home community. The [Omron pressure monitor](#) helps you keep track of your blood pressure. It features easy, one-touch operation, body movement detection and hypertension indicator, Irregular heartbeat detection, and memory for last reading and simultaneous display of systolic, diastolic, and pulse rate.



LG Tone Free HBS-FN6 Leads Parade of New Earbuds

You can be forgiven if you think 2021 is going to be the year of the new earbuds. But, it is pretty close, and that means you’ll have the opportunity to find the exact one for your needs while over the road or relaxing in your truck or at home. Fans of LG have long appreciated their sound quality and value. Their new [LG Tone Free HBS-FN6 wireless earbuds](#) continue that tradition. And, it brings something new to the listening experience, something appropriate for these times. Free delivers immersive sound with Meridian technology. But there’s much more. After you enjoy the clear, crisp sounds of your favorite podcast, your music playlist, or the movie you just streamed, the Free’s case cleans them with ultraviolet LED light while charging. These earbuds kill 99% of bacteria that may be on them. You can listen for six hours per charge, and Frees have IPX4 water protection. And, true to LG form, the Frees are a real value at under \$100. Other new wireless earbuds include:

- Bose’s Quiet Comfort, \$279
- Jabra Elite 85T, \$199



Rover Capsule Collection

The [Rover Capsule Collection Three](#) features three tools—a knife-less pocket tool, a compact pen, and a bit driver with hidden cash storage, all housed in a Cordura pouch ready to slip into your duffel the next time you hit the road. The tools in the collection may not be suitable for repairs under the hood of your truck, but they will come in handy for small, day-to-day housekeeping tasks.



Zojirushi Stainless Steel Vacuum Insulated Mug

Fair warning: this [travel mug](#) does its job almost too well. It keeps hot drinks hot – not warm, but truly hot – for several hours. That makes it by far the best travel mug for the long haul, but also makes it possible you could burn your mouth on a swig of coffee or tea you thought had cooled off. So, this also makes it ideal for keeping cold drinks cold. With a 16-ounce capacity, this travel mug will help keep you properly caffeinated for a long trip. It’s almost nine inches tall and has a locking lid, so you’ll not be mopping up spilled coffee if it takes a tumble when some fool cuts you off in traffic. Zojirushi must know what they’re doing since they have been around since 1918.

- [Samsung Galaxy Note 20 Ultra](#) is getting rave reviews in the techie press for its outstanding performance and features. It boasts a big screen, great camera, long battery life, and quick charging. The downside is the price: \$1,000 to a whopping \$1,500 depending on how much memory you want.
- [One Plus 8 Pro](#) has a 6.78” QHD+ display that delivers vibrant colors and seamless video performance. It sports a 48-megapixel quad camera and runs Qualcomm’s Snapdragon 865. If you plug in to charge or go wireless, the 8 Pro is fast to reload. Plus, it’s \$800 price tag makes it more accessible.
- And, there are a couple of smartphones that are even more reasonably priced but still deliver great performance. The [Nokia 5.3](#) runs Android 10, has an AI-powered Quad camera, and has 64 GB of internal storage. Price: \$185 on Amazon. Likewise, the [Motorola Moto G Power](#) has a bright 6.4” screen, runs Qualcomm’s Snapdragon 665 chipset, and provides more than 18 hours of service before having to be charged. Like the One Plus 8 Pro, the Nokia 5.3 goes easy on the pocketbook: \$180 on Amazon.



Apple AirPods Max

Apple is finally covering your ears, not just sticking devices in them. Apple recently unveiled its new [over-the-ears headphones](#). The stainless steel headband telescopes to fit various head sizes, and the Max’s battery reportedly delivers up to 20 hours of use. You’ve got to be a fan of high-quality audio to plunk down \$550 for a pair of AirPods Max. But, these big, bold headphones from Apple deliver just that: high-quality sound just like its audio betters like Bose, Sony, and Sennheiser. And, Apple’s entry in the noise-canceling race either wins or ties for first depending on the reviewer. The AirPod Max comes with a protective case that also charges them.

It’s worth noting that as it has this year, delivery of some items purchased online may be slowed by restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 coronavirus. So if you’re shopping, leave plenty of time for delivery.

It’s also worth noting that 2021 may be better than 2020, but truckers will remain more essential than ever and will need tech tools like thee and others to keep store shelves filled and other goods delivered. And, truckers deserve tools like these to help them get their jobs done. ■



RoadPro's

WINTER TOP FIVE GIVEAWAY

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5 Ways to Turn Your Fast Food Meal into a Healthier One

By Hope Zvara, CEO of Mother Trucker Yoga

With fast food on every corner, at every stop, and often your only option for food, it can feel like an unhealthy mountain is in front of you that you will need to conquer.

There is no question, we all need to eat, but for truck drivers, convenience often plays a role in what food choices to grab when the dinner bell rings. I've been in the health and fitness arena for nearly 20 years, and when it comes to fast food, other people are telling you not to eat the stuff, but I'm telling you to be smart about it.

Eat smart, and that means doing a little prep work beforehand.

Not all fast food is terrible, and with a bit more understanding of what you are looking at and looking for, you can turn a pounds packing meal into a healthier one.

Here are five ways to turn something not great into something much better for you:



Google it.

Yes, Google the fast-food joint you are going to eat at BEFORE you go to eat. Fast food chains with 20 or more locations doing business under the same name that sells restaurant-style food are required to provide customers with calorie and nutrition information. By before? Well, when you walk into a restaurant, you will more than likely be hungry, and that means you will be picking and choosing your menu options based on hunger, not on health, which means what you leave with might be more than a burger and fries, but the pounds to go with it.

A study posted in [Science Daily](#) shared that Dr. Benjamin Vincent from the University's Psychology department found that: *"hunger significantly altered people's decision-making, making them impatient and more likely to settle for a small reward that arrives sooner a larger one promised at a later date."* The study above means that out the window, go your intentions to eat healthier, and stay on track. Once you walk in the door and smell the food and see the food photos shot in perfection, your brain goes nuts.

Eat smart, and that means doing a little prep work beforehand. With COVID, you can now order your food for curbside pick up, which means you don't even have to walk in and smell those smells. And with apps now making it easier to have food brought to you (even as a truck driver), you can order before you get hungry and make those good choices. My suggestion, make a list; if you know that there are certain fast-food chains at your regular stops, make a list of the menu options you feel are better options and write them down. That way, when it's time to stop, you don't make a decision you will later regret.



Aim for 500 calories.

It's easy to grab that brown paper bag and jumbo size drink and in just 10 minutes have ingested upwards of 800 calories per meal. A published in [MBJ](#) noted that the average adult consumes 847 calories every time they eat fast food, but what I found was interesting is that those adults all thought they were eating less, 175 calories less.

What if you are someone who eats fast food three times a day? Well, that's an oversight of 525 calories, an entire meal!

What does a 500 calorie meal look like? At a burger joint, that could be a small burger and fries. Hungry for chicken? How about a four-piece chicken nugget and a side salad or grilled chicken sandwich and side salad. Are you feeling Mexican? Ditch the tortilla and go for a chicken burrito bowl with black beans instead. Or how about a single chicken and beef taco to go? You can find all of these options at various fast-food chains, and when in a pinch, they can do the trick and are a better option than the Double Big Mac with XL fries. Be mindful of unhealthy possibilities in disguise, salads loaded with cheese, croutons, and other toppings can tip the calorie meter well past 500, as well as the new rage on veggie burgers. Not only can these options account for way more calories, but they can also take your sodium through the roof.



Make your menu.

In today's world, it's all about customization. And until you ask, no one will offer. Most fast-food restaurants are more than willing to accommodate special diet menus and special requests; you have to ask. No salad on the menu; ask if they will make you one? Still a no? Ask for a container of lettuce, tomato, onions, and any other vegetable they have in the back. Want extra tomatoes on that single burger, ask. Are you gluten-free or want to reduce your carb intake? Request no bun and two burger patties instead, break them up over your side salad or box of DIY salad and top with dijon mustard and black pepper. Walla! Some fast-food chains even sell their meats and veggies to truck drivers fresh and frozen for you to prepare on your own. How cool is that! As someone who has been navigating the wonderful world of dining out with special menu requests for more than 15 years, I want to encourage you that restaurants are incredibly accommodating now more than ever if you ask with a smile!



Mix n' Match - Bring your items.

Some drivers do not have space or the ability to travel with a fridge in their truck, but the good news is there are many food items and condiments that you can travel with that do not need refrigeration. If you like the convenience of fast food but know it's not the healthiest choice, why not mix and match some of their food with some of yours. Items like nuts, seeds, seasonings, and dried fruits and veggies not only travel well are super yummy when added to a salad or as a replacement for your fries.

That swap can create a better balance of healthy fats, proteins, and an overall boost in nutrition, for those of you who don't regularly travel with food and prefer to buy as you eat. I suggest you head into the truckstop first and grab a container of carrots and hummus, or a bag of nuts (lightly or unsalted), hard-boiled eggs, an apple or orange, and you have yourself a well-rounded meal once you order that single burger or DIY salad.



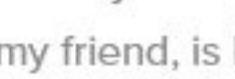
Understand Portion Sizes.

Do not fall victim to the "value" menu advertising angles. Your waistline and heart health are not worth a few pennies saved. As the fast-food industry has grown over the years, so has the size of their food. Although the appeal is there, "buy more for less." Do you need a 20 piece chicken nugget? Do you need five roast beef sandwiches? Now I know the logic would be "I'll eat them later," but let's be honest, how many people save them for their next meal? It's a vicious cycle that needs to stop, and the best way to stop it is by becoming more aware of how much you should be eating.

- Fist/Computer Mouse = 1 Cup (veggies, fruits, rice)
- Cupped Hand = ½ Cup or 1 Ounce (nuts: almonds, cashews, cheese)
- 2 Cupped Hands = 1 ounce (popcorn, pretzels, chips)
- Palm = 3 ounces (lean meat, dairy, roughly 1 serving protein)
- Fingertip/Thumb Tip = 1 Teaspoon (fats, butter, mayo, sugar)
- Thumb = 2 Tablespoons (peanut butter, hard cheese)

If I were to say you should never eat at a fast-food restaurant again, I would be a hypocrite. I do not believe in black or white, but rather many shades of gray. How can you paint your fast food pitstop more of a gray tone? How can you improve your menu choices a little bit at a time? Next time you stop for a bite, remember this: is it a good option? Is it better than what I could have chosen? Is it the best option?

We may not always (be able to) choose the best option, but I believe there is still an opportunity to do better and find one good choice to put a checkmark in the healthy eating category. Over time, those small little changes add up, and that, my friend, is how you create a healthier, happier you. ■



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24



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Cooking with RoadPro

ROADPRO® ITALIAN SAUSAGE SOUP

MADE FOR THE ROADPRO SAUCEPAN

INGREDIENTS

- ¼ lb Italian sausage
- 1 celery stalk, diced
- ¼ red onion, diced
- ⅓ cup orzo pasta, uncooked
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 8 oz diced tomatoes, drained
- ½ tsp Italian seasoning
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- ½ tsp vanilla
- Pepper

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat [RoadPro® Saucepan](#).
2. Add sausage, breaking into small pieces.
3. Once browned, transfer to plate & set aside (drain extra grease if needed).
4. Using same saucepan, add celery and onion, sauté until tender.
5. Add dry orzo, sauté 5 minutes.
6. Add chicken broth, diced tomatoes with juice, Italian seasoning, garlic powder, salt, pepper & browned sausage.
7. Bring soup to a boil, cover and simmer for 30 minutes (or until orzo is cooked).
8. Serve and enjoy!



INSTANT BLACK BEAN SOUP

MADE FOR THE ROADPRO SAUCEPAN

INGREDIENTS

- 15 oz can of black beans, undrained
- 8 oz salsa
- 8 oz chicken broth
- Chili powder (optional)
- Shredded cheddar cheese
- Sour cream

DIRECTIONS

1. Place beans and liquid into your [RoadPro® Saucepan](#). Partly mash beans.
2. Stir in salsa and broth.
3. Bring to a boil.
4. Season with chili powder, if desired.
5. Top with sour cream and shredded cheddar cheese.
6. Serve and enjoy!

WINTER GEAR

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

Mark this on your calendar and set an alarm in your smartphone for 11:50 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2021. That's when winter ends, spring arrives, and most American truckers get back to wearing only two – maybe three – layers of clothing, and they can stop obsessing about the condition of their tire chains.

But, professional truckers are not expected to simply survive winter. They're meant to face it head-on and reply, "Thank you, sir, may I have another?" when temperature records fall, and snow banks rise.

Doing that requires not just fortitude and excellent driving skills, but also the tools that give even the best driver an extra edge. Luckily, there's plenty of gear and gadgets that do just that.

Howes Additives

Since Wendell V.C. Howes helped pioneer the production of engine additives more than 100 years ago, the company that bears his name has been keeping pro truckers moving even in the coldest of winters. The Kingstown, Rhode Island company's products include:



Diesel Treat, which prevents gelling, adds lubricity, safely removes water, and boosts fuel economy. It does all of that without alcohol or solvents. The company says Diesel Treat also corrects problems inherent in today's ULSD fuel and eliminates smoking and rough idle. Available in 15, 32, and 64-ounce sizes.



Diesel Lifeline gets you and your truck out of any temperature-induced emergency. Lifeline is a fast-acting and alcohol-free additive that reliquifies gelled fuel, deices frozen fuel filters, and prevents fuel filter icing down to -35 degrees. Lifeline requires no mixing or fuel filter changes and is available in 32 and 64-ounce sizes.



Diesel Defender is a solid multipurpose fuel additive that improves power, performance, and mileage by cleaning injectors, eliminating harmful deposits, preventing coking, and providing more complete fuel combustion. It also safely removes water from your truck's fuel system. Available in 32 and 64-ounce sizes.

Howes products are available at travel centers and auto parts stores across the country.



Snow Deer Rechargeable Electric Heated Socks

Few things can make you want to find an open truck stop parking spot, shutdown for the night, and crawl into your sleeper berth like cold feet. (Not "cold feet" as in being apprehensive, but when your feet are like blocks of ice in your boots.) Good insurance against having to stop, do



Voile Telepro Mini Avalanche Shovel

Two things are for certain about a trucker's life on the winter roads:

1. Sooner or later, you're going to need a shovel to dig snow away from your truck's tires.
2. Most normal shovels are too big to fit properly in a tool compartment or in what limited storage you may have in your sleeper berth.

That's why the Voile Telepro makes sense to keep in your truck. Its telescoping handle extends to 39.5 inches and even detaches from the sturdy aluminum scoop for storage. And it weighs a bit less than 2 lbs. The Voile Telepro may be designed for ski patrol rescues in the mountains, but it will also excel at getting you freed from a snowed-in parking lot or the side of an interstate.

Black Canyon Outfitters



For many drivers of a certain age, a wintertime childhood memory of heading outside to play in the snow was not complete without one parent or the other saying in a slightly demanding tone, "Put a hat on!" It was good advice then and remains as such today. Keeping your head covered when outside helps retain your body's heat and prevents you from getting chilled. Black Canyon Outfitters, one of the Roadpro Family of Brands, has a variety of serious winter hats any parent would have approved of. One of the most practical is the four-in-one hood balaclava. Made of soft polyester, it provides almost complete coverage of your head and face, ideal for when you're outside.



Black Canyon Outfitters also offers a faux fur-lined troopers hat, which provides almost complete coverage of your head, neck, and face. It's made with a 100% polyester black outer shell, soft inner lining, and soft faux fur lined earflaps and accents. The ear flaps can be buttoned up or snap-locked when down. One size fits most.



When winter's at its worst, Black Canyon Outfitters' knit face mask/hat is at its best. This 100% acrylic knit hat provides full coverage for the face with openings for your eyes, nose, and mouth. An extended bottom covers the neck for added warmth and protection from the elements. One size fits most. Available in Assorted colors of blaze orange and neon green.



Jackery Portable Power Station Explorer 500

More often than not, you can keep your various devices properly charged with a decent adapter that plugs into your truck's 12-volt port. However, there may come an instance when you're stranded for an extended period of time during which you can't idle. Packing a portable power station like the Jackery Explorer 500 can mean the difference

between having your smartphone charged and working or with a useless phone with a dead battery. The Explorer 500 has multiple USB ports as well as an AC outlet into which you can plug small appliances. The lithium battery delivers 500 watts, enough to power an electric blanket on those cold nights when you might be stranded. The Explorer 500 is just 11.8" x 7.6" x 9.5" and weighs just a bit more than 13 pounds, so it can easily find a spot in your truck's cab.



RoadPro Tactical Tools

It's especially important in foul winter weather to have the tools you need to make important repairs that may be the difference between you reaching the terminal or the road service truck reaching you by the side of the interstate at midnight. And, it's good to know you don't need a complete chest of tools to make many modest repairs. RoadPro

offers a display of numerous tactical tools at numerous truck stops; most are packaged in sets for your convenience. Such is the case of this three-piece tactical toolset that includes a 13-in-one multi-tool, a folding pocket knife, and flashlight.



Kahtoola MICROspikes Traction System

The shortest distance between successfully driving through winter and earning a paycheck, and becoming a statistic in a health insurance claim is keeping your feet under you on ice and snow. That's not always easy on the side of an interstate, in a shipper's loading area, or walking through a truck stop parking lot. Black ice — the kind you can't see until it's too late — can upend you and your driving career quickly. Your best defense is the Kahtoola MICROspikes Traction System, or something like it. These spikes will keep you safe while walking on ice.

Twelve 3/8 inch-long hardened stainless-steel spikes per foot dig into icy terrain and keep you moving safely just as your truck's tire chains. Heel tabs make putting them on and taking them off easier. Think of them as tire chains for your feet.

Unless you are blessed to drive a totally southern lane, you're eventually going to have to confront cold, snow, and ice on one of this great nation's highways. The key to doing that successfully is to lift your right foot a bit, remember and practice every nagging winter driving tip you got from the Safety Department and be sure you have the tools you need to keep your truck and yourself ready for anything Nature throws your way ... including snowballs.



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Pro Driver Tip



Be Prepared



Robert started trucking in 1986 and has been an owner/operator for over 19 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.

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