



Hummer H2 (2002–09) [edit]

The **Hummer H2**, built off of the **GMT800** platform, was introduced in late 2001 for the 2002 model year. The H2 was polarizing when introduced and has since gained extremely negative retroactive recognition as well as a negative social-political image in the United States. Dan Neil included it on Time Magazine's "The 50 Worst Cars of All Time"; "One struggles to think of a worse vehicle at a worse time. Introduced shortly after 9/11 — an event whose causes were tangled in America's unquenchable thirst for oil — the Hummer H2 sent all the wrong signals. It was/is arrogantly huge, overtly militaristic, openly scornful of the common good. As a vehicle choice, the H2 was a spiteful reactionary riposte to notions that, you know, maybe we all shouldn't be driving tanks that get 10 miles per gallon [...] The H2 was also a PR catastrophe for GM, who happened to be repossessing and crushing the few **EV1 electric cars** at the time. It all contributed to GM's emerging image



Hummer H2

as the **Dick Cheney** of car companies."^[2] Car blog Jalopnik named the H2 one of the 10 worst cars of the 2000s decade; "Say hello to the Sierra Club's Antichrist: The H2 is the younger brother of AM General's massive Hummer H1. GM birthed this overfed monstrosity in an effort to bring the H1's street cred and off-road talent to America's middle class." Jalopnik noted it has excellent off-road capabilities but "The interior is cramped, chintzy, and claustrophobic. Frame and mechanicals are largely last-gen Chevy Tahoe/GMC Yukon bits, only they carry more weight and complain more often."^[64] Autoblog included it on its list of "The 20 Dumbest Cars of All Time", stating, "The Hummer H2 may have tried to appeal to outdoorsy adventure seekers, but what it attracted were mostly people who advocate for **tofu** to be actually banned by law [...] [The H2 eventually became] the poster cars for American excess and environmental insensitivity. Few other vehicles created such a visceral response from others than the Hummer H2 [...] The whole vehicle was in really bad taste, though we understand there are plenty of **state militia** and **World Wrestling Federation** fans who think otherwise."^[1] *ConsumerGuide* included the H2 on its list "The Ten Worst Cars in the Past Ten Years"; "Though reasonably capable off road, the H2 wasn't actually fun in the wild. It was difficult to see out of, and far too wide to navigate the type of twisty trails most often enjoyed by **Jeep** enthusiasts. Additionally, the H2's cabin was made mostly of hard, industrial-grade plastic, and its thirst for fuel was exacerbated by the need for pricey premium gas. The worst part, though, was driving a vehicle that became the poster child for vehicular conspicuous consumption."^[65] *Forbes* named it on its list "12 Most Embarrassing Cars", noting that the Hummer H2's "wretched excess" arrived at a time when the large SUV **fad** was beginning to end.^[66] The H2 is prominently parodied in the 2008 video game *Grand Theft Auto IV* in which the player can drive one with extravagant American flag decals on the side. In 2017, *Autotrader* published an article and accompanying video entitled "The Hummer H2 Is the Most Embarrassing Car You Can Buy", in which automotive writer Doug DeMuro rents one from **Turo** and drives it around **Florida**: "I simply had to know what it was like; I had to know how it felt; I had to know if everything I ever assumed about it was true. And I'm happy to report that it is true – that the H2 is just as bad as you could've ever expected. Now you can feel like you're justified when you see one driving down the road and you start to chuckle."^[67]