

ADVANTA-STAR

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2010 Toyota Corolla compared with the 2010 Mazda 3



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Toyota Corolla compared with the Mazda 3

Safety

For enhanced safety, the front shoulder belts of the Toyota Corolla are height-adjustable, and the rear seat shoulder belts have child comfort guides to move the belt to properly fit children. A better fit can prevent injuries and the increased comfort also encourages children to buckle up. The Mazda 3 has only front height-adjustable seat belts.

The Toyota Corolla has Daytime Running Lights to help keep it more visible under all conditions. Canadian government studies show that driving with lights during the day reduces accidents by 11% by making vehicles more conspicuous. The Mazda 3 doesn't offer Daytime Running Lights.

Both the Corolla and the Mazda 3 have standard driver and passenger frontal airbags, front side-impact airbags, head airbags, front seatbelt pretensioners, front wheel drive, height adjustable front shoulder belts and four wheel antilock brakes.

For its top level performance in frontal, side and rear impact tests, and its standard Vehicle Stability Control, the [Insurance Institute for Highway Safety](#) rates the Corolla as a "Top Pick" a rating only granted to 82 vehicles tested by the [IIHS](#). The Mazda 3 was not a Top Pick.

Warranty

There are over 69 percent more Toyota dealers than there are Mazda dealers, which makes it much easier to get service under the Corolla's warranty.

Reliability

[J.D. Power and Associates'](#) 2009 Initial Quality Study of new car owners surveyed provide the statistics that show that Toyota vehicles are better in initial quality than Mazda vehicles. [J.D. Power](#) ranks Toyota 6th in initial quality. With 22 more problems per 100 vehicles, Mazda is ranked 25th.

[J.D. Power and Associates'](#) surveys of the owners of three-year-old cars provide the long-term dependability statistics that show that Toyota vehicles are more reliable than Mazda vehicles. [J.D. Power](#) ranks Toyota fourth in reliability. With 98 more problems per 100 vehicles, Mazda is ranked 31st.

Engine

The Corolla XRS' standard 2.4 DOHC 4 cyl. produces 10 more horsepower (158 vs. 148) and 27 lbs.-ft. more torque (162 vs. 135) than the 3i's standard 2.0 DOHC 4 cyl.

Fuel Economy and Range

On the [EPA](#) test cycle the Corolla gets better fuel mileage than the Mazda 3:

	Corolla	Mazda 3	
1.8 4 cyl./Manual	26 city/35 hwy	25 city/33 hwy	2.0 4 cyl.
2.4 4 cyl./Manual	22 city/30 hwy	21 city/29 hwy	2.5 4 cyl.
1.8 4 cyl./Auto	26 city/34 hwy	24 city/33 hwy	2.0 4 cyl.
2.4 4 cyl./Auto	22 city/30 hwy	22 city/29 hwy	2.5 4 cyl.

Tires and Wheels

For better traction, the Corolla XRS' tires are larger than the largest tires available on the Mazda 3 (215/45R17 vs. 205/55R16).

The Corolla XRS' tires provide better handling because they have a lower 45 series profile (height to width ratio) that provides a stiffer sidewall than the 3s' 50 series tires.

Chassis

As tested by [Car and Driver](#) while cruising at 70 MPH, the interior of the Corolla Standard is quieter than the Mazda 3s Grand Touring Sedan (69 vs. 72 dB).

Passenger Space

The Corolla has .4 inches more rear headroom, .1 inches more rear legroom and .6 inches more rear shoulder room than the Mazda 3 Sedan.

Cargo Capacity

The Corolla has a much larger trunk than the Mazda 3 Sedan (16.6 vs. 11.8 cubic feet).

Towing

The Corolla has a 1500 lbs. towing capacity. The Mazda 3 has no towing capacity.

Servicing Ease

The Corolla has a maintenance free battery for long life without checking the battery's water level. The Mazda 3 doesn't have a maintenance free battery, so the water level in the battery's cells must be checked often to prevent damage.

Ergonomics

[Consumer Reports](#) rated the Corolla's headlight performance "Very Good," a higher rating than the Mazda 3's headlights, which were rated "Good."

Economic Advantages

According to [The Car Book](#) by Jack Gillis, the Corolla is less expensive to operate than the Mazda 3 because it costs \$162 less to do the manufacturer's suggested maintenance for 50,000 miles. Typical repairs cost much less

on the Corolla than the Mazda 3, including \$59 less for a water pump, \$253 less for an alternator and \$65 less for a fuel pump.

Recommendations

Consumer Reports® recommends both the Toyota Corolla and the Mazda 3, based on reliability, safety and performance.

The Toyota Corolla/Matrix outsold the Mazda 3 by almost three to one during the 2009 model year.

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Based on 2010 EPA mileage estimates, reflecting new EPA fuel economy methods beginning with 2008 models. Use for comparison purposes only. Do not compare to models before 2008. Your actual mileage will vary depending on how you drive and maintain your vehicle.

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