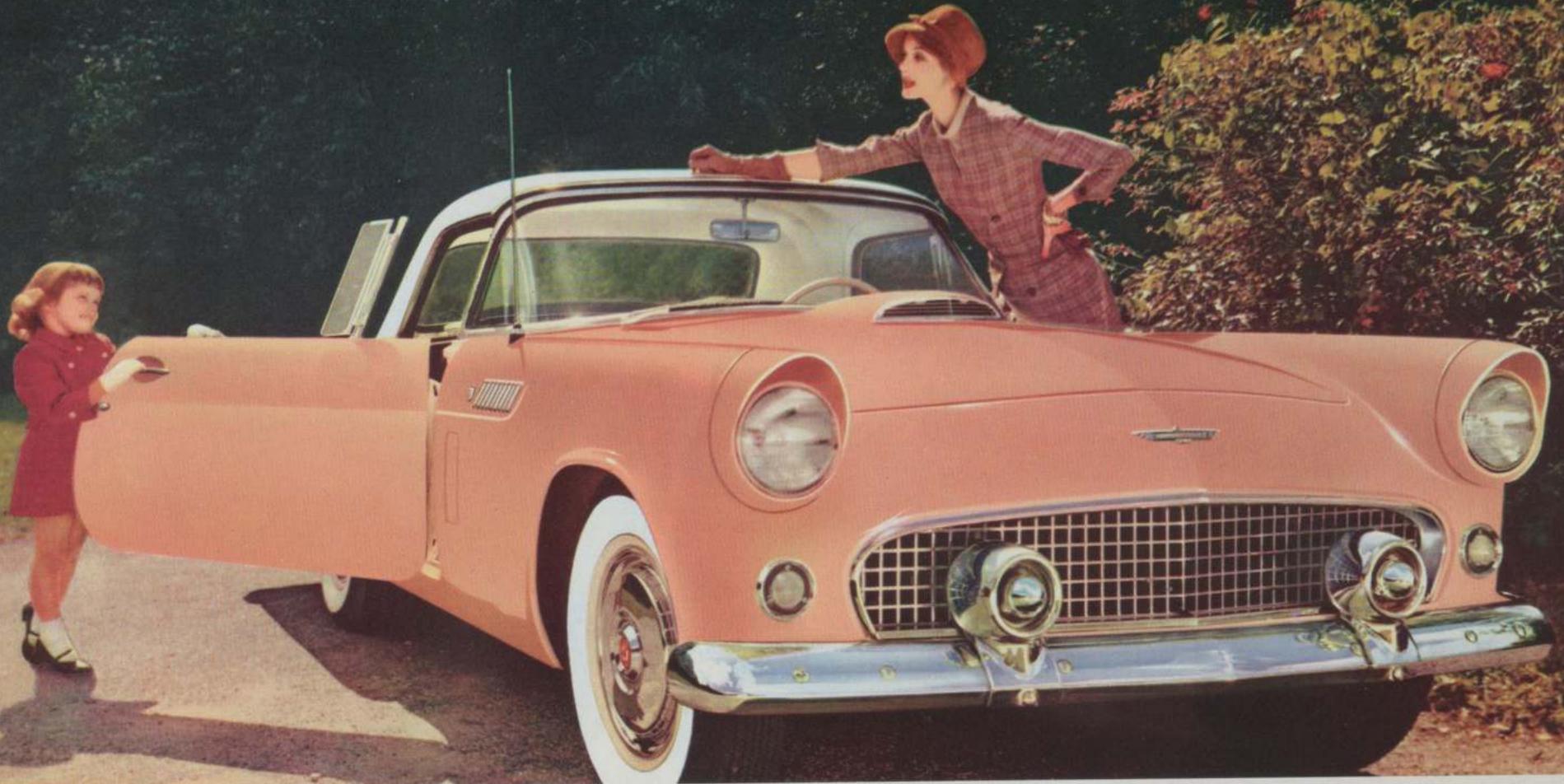


Newest version of America's most exciting car
'56 FORD THUNDERBIRD

You'll go places as you've never gone before —



The new THUNDERBIRD for '56

ONE TRIAL RUN in the new Thunderbird is enough to quicken the pulse of even the most seasoned driver. For here is the newest version of an automotive classic. Here is enormous power . . . triggered by a magnificent 225-horsepower engine . . . power that captured *first place* in international acceleration tests at Daytona Beach!

With this new Thunderbird you get precision handling that makes you the master . . . road-holding stability that gives new confidence

and skill . . . new Lifeguard Design that provides added protection for you and yours.

You who have special appreciation for advanced design and custom craftsmanship, you who get keen enjoyment from a car that responds to your touch with the sureness of a thoroughbred, should really be driving a Thunderbird. It is for people such as you that this distinguished personal car was designed.

surrounded by luxury... and completely practical...

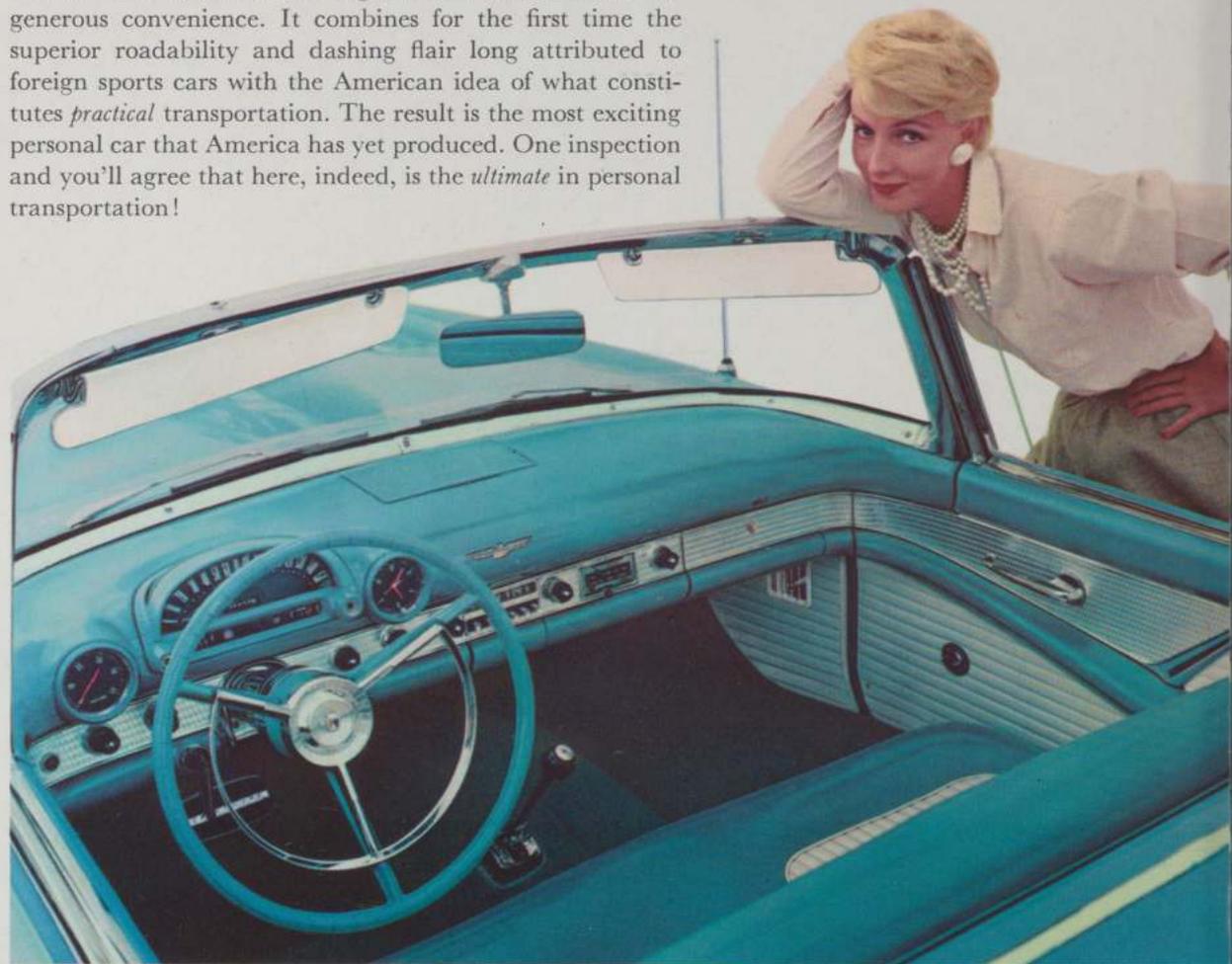


With the spare tire mounted *outside*, there's space for all the luggage you see at left, and more, in the Thunderbird's big new luggage compartment. New spare tire mount moves back out of way on hinged bracket. Deck-lid pops open on counterbalancing hinges when you turn the key.



New optional color-keyed tonneau cover snaps on neatly and quickly. Protects driver and passenger compartment from dust, dirt and rain. Converts from one piece to two pieces in seconds. Simply unzip it and you can remove cover from driver's side.

IN ACHIEVING its flashing new style and performance, the Thunderbird sacrifices nothing in luxurious comfort and generous convenience. It combines for the first time the superior roadability and dashing flair long attributed to foreign sports cars with the American idea of what constitutes *practical* transportation. The result is the most exciting personal car that America has yet produced. One inspection and you'll agree that here, indeed, is the *ultimate* in personal transportation!



Here is beauty that is breathtaking! Notice how the control panel groups its instruments so that they can be read at a glance. Signal lights warn of low oil pressure and insufficient generator output. A tachometer which

shows engine revolutions per minute is standard. So is the electric clock with sweep second hand. And, in addition, there's room for *three* in the comfort-contoured full-width seat!

with style to match your own good taste!



This new standard glass-fibre hard top is distinguished by its stylish "port" window providing greater visibility. It comes in contrasting colors for a smart two-tone effect. Also available in matching color if desired.



Here's a sleek glass-fibre top, optional for those who prefer this style. Each of these snug-fitting hard tops is almost as convertible as a "convertible" . . . and each can be put on or taken off in a jiffy.



THIS NEW THUNDERBIRD is a *fun* car all the way through! Here you see it with the optional black rayon convertible top that folds right down out of sight behind the seat. A white, fabric-grained vinyl top is also available. (With a Thunderbird

you can have a convertible or a hard top—or *both!*) As for exterior colors, you have 17 gorgeous two-tone color combinations to choose from. And there are five gay all-vinyl interiors, too—each color-keyed to the exterior finish of your choice!

CHOOSE FROM THESE SMART HARMONIZING TWO-TONE COLORS:

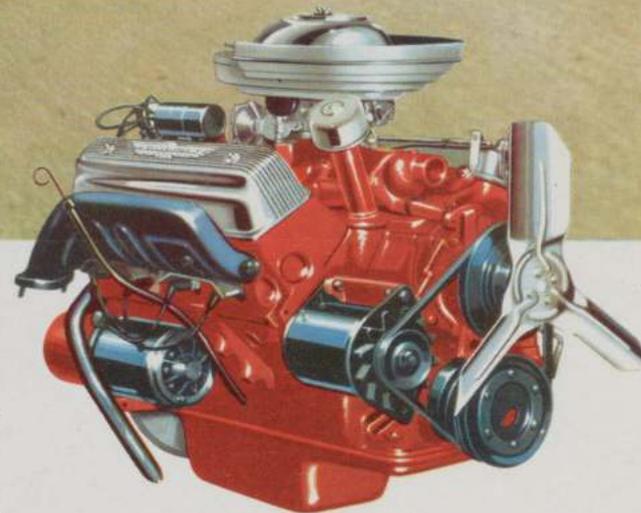
INTERIOR	White and Black		White and Red		White and Peacock Blue		White and Brown		White and Green	
	TOP		TOP		TOP		TOP		TOP	
BODY (also matching top)	Colonial White	Raven Black	Colonial White	Fiesta Red	Colonial White	Peacock Blue	Colonial White	Buckskin Tan	Colonial White	Thunderbird Green
	Raven Black Navajo Gray Goldenglow Yellow Sunset Coral	Colonial White Navajo Gray Goldenglow Yellow Sunset Coral	Raven Black Fiesta Red Navajo Gray	Raven Black Colonial White	Peacock Blue	Colonial White	Buckskin Tan	Colonial White	Thunderbird Green	Colonial White

with mighty Thunderbird power for unsurpassed performance!



AS A GUNSMITH "PROVES" a fine shotgun with a heavy overload, so Ford engineers "prove" the Thunderbird with screaming acceleration and flying high-speed runs on the test track. In addition, Ford entered the mighty Thunderbird in National Speed Championships at Daytona Beach where it placed first in unlimited competition for acceleration . . . beating all American and European sports cars . . . regardless of price or class. All these indicate that you can expect exceptional driving pleasure, performance and safety when operating your Thunderbird at normal highway speeds.

- There's more "GO" than ever, beneath
- the sleek hood of every '56 Ford Thunder-
- bird. Whether you select the 225-h.p.
- Thunderbird Special V-8 with Fordo-
- matic . . . 215 h.p. with Overdrive . . .
- or the 202-h.p. Thunderbird V-8 with
- Conventional Drive, what a promise of
- high-performance motoring awaits you
- behind the wheel! In traffic, these V-8's
- are as docile as a lady could desire. They
- start easily, idle smoothly . . . yet
- respond with a change of pace that's
- as agile as a panther.
-



Ford goes first with this 225-H.P. Thunderbird Special V-8 engine.

And you get Ford's new safety concept - Lifeguard Design

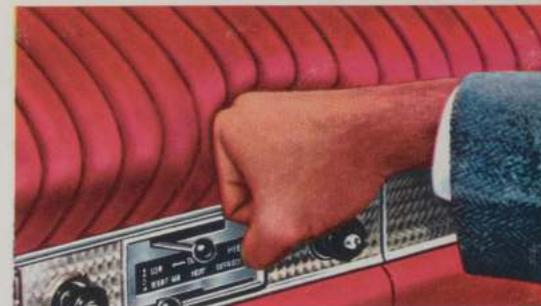
FORD IS FIRST to bring you the safeguards you need for today's more congested driving . . . security features designed especially to protect you and your passengers in case of accident. In fact, *only* Ford can offer you all the extra protection of Lifeguard Design, a whole new family of safety features illustrated and described on this page.



New deep-center Lifeguard steering wheel acts as a cushion to help protect driver from the unyielding steering post, should he be thrown forward in an accident. Wheel position is telescopically adjustable.



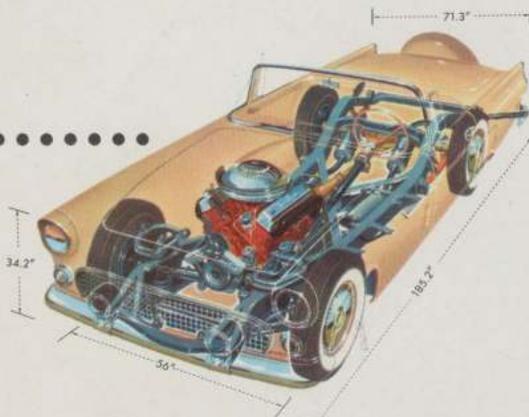
New optional Ford seat belts help hold you and your passenger firmly in the seat in the event of an accident. Belts are securely anchored to reinforced, all-steel floor structure. They're easily adjusted or released with one hand. Lifeguard rear-view mirror and new optional Lifeguard sun visors give you extra protection against injury should an accident occur.



New optional Lifeguard padding is available for instrument panel and sun visors. This special new protective padding material has proved to be five times more shock absorbent than foam rubber.



New Lifeguard double-grip door latches reduce possibility of doors springing open . . . give added protection against being thrown from the car in accidents.



Thunderbird Special V-8 engine: 312 cu. in. disp.; 9.0 to 1 comp. ratio, 225 h.p. with Fordomatic; 8.4 to 1 comp. ratio, 215 h.p. with Overdrive.
Thunderbird V-8 engine: 292 cu. in. disp.; 8.4 to 1 comp. ratio, 202 h.p. with Conventional Drive.
Engine Features: Overhead-valve, short-stroke design. Double Twin-Jet carburetor with automatic choke; dual exhausts. High-turbulence combustion chambers for top premium fuel performance; 12-volt electrical system.
Chassis: Low-slung, X-type frame. Ball-Joint front sus-

pension with coil springs and ride stabilizer; 5-leaf semi-elliptic rear springs. Double-acting shock absorbers. Double-sealed, 11" duo-servo brakes. Steering ratio 23 to 1; 36-ft. turning diameter. Hypoid rear axle; ratios (to 1) — 3.31 with Fordomatic, 3.73 with Conventional, 3.92 with Overdrive. 6.70 x 15, 4-ply tubeless tires on 5" rims.
Top: Removable glass-fibre hard top standard with "port" window, contrasting colors. Optional without "port" window and in body-matching colors.

Available Equipment: Swift Sure Power Brakes, Master-Guide Power Steering, 4-Way Power Seat, Power-Lift Windows; convertible fabric top, tonneau cover; Lifeguard instrument panel padding and cushioned sun visors, seat belts, I-Rest tinted safety glass; turn signals, Auto-Wipe windshield washers, special fuel-and-vacuum pump unit; full-flow oil filter, engine dress-up kit; Fordomatic, Overdrive, heater, radio, rear fender shields, full-wheel covers, "wire wheel" covers, whitewall tires.

Specifications

The specifications contained herein were in effect at the time this folder was approved for printing. The Ford Division of Ford Motor Company reserves the right to discontinue models at any time, or change specifications or design, without notice and without incurring obligation. Some of the items illustrated or referred to in this folder are at extra cost. For the price of the Thunderbird with the equipment you desire, see your Ford Dealer.

FORD Division of
 FORD MOTOR COMPANY

Litho in U.S.A. 3/56

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