

WINTER BEATING WHEELS FOR BUSINESS: MITSUBISHI L200 2.5 DOUBLE CAB BARBARIAN AUTO

It triggers traffic turmoil, shuts schools and closes down factories. But, conversely, the Artic weather that goes with the UK's winter tends to set the cash registers ringing in dealerships.



By Tim Barnes-Clay, Motoring Journalist. Follow Tim on Twitter @carwriteups or visit www.carwriteups.co.uk

You see, many motorists, especially those who need to keep businesses running, will now be eying up 4x4s for their ice and snow beating skills. Mitsubishi's L200 Double Cab is one to definitely test drive – especially if an indestructible workhorse is what you need.

In Barbarian guise the L200 Double Cab is practical, comfortable and, with all-wheel-drive ability, it will get you on and off mud-ridden building sites or farm fields with absolute ease. Not only that, the pick-up does what it says on the tin – it will be your best

buddy when it comes to collecting loads and, when the cargo area is full, it is the perfect vehicle for dragging a weighed down trailer around.

The L200's looks are not bad either. It is mean and handsome – in a coarse sort of way. The double cab means there is enough room for four-up, so when the Barbarian is not engaged with off road activities or hauling heavy-duty merchandise around, it is a usable main motor, especially kitted out with a luscious leather interior and an automatic transmission.

Rapidity, although it is not the first thing you think about when you buy a pick-up, is not an issue on the L200. There is a reason for this: the Japanese-made vehicle has 173 horses under its bonnet and enough pulling power to yank a tree stump out of the ground (well, probably!).

The result is that the Mitsubishi picks up pace like an angry rhino – even with its easy going, but rather old fashioned, five speed auto gearbox. And when it gets to its limit it is a raging road-train. Good job then, that the Barbarian has first class brakes to scrub off any excessive get-up-and-go.

The mighty Mitsubishi is classed as a commercial vehicle – so it is an affordable alternative for outdoorsy business types who demand resilience, versatility and performance. It will also work as the family car – so it is a win win situation – especially if you need a motor with grip when the white stuff comes down.

FAST FACTS

- Max speed: 109 mph
- 0-60 mph: 13.0 secs
- Combined mpg: 32.1 (unladen)
- Engine: 2477 cc 4 cylinder 16 valve turbo diesel
- Max. power (bhp): 173 at 4000 rpm
- Max. torque (lb/ft): 268 at 1800 rpm
- Max. towing weight (braked): 2700 kg
- CO₂: 233 g/km
- Price: £23,249 + VAT on the road

PROS 'N' CONS

- Rugged ✓
- 4x4 capability ✓
- Pulling power ✓
- Cabin ✓
- Old fashioned auto 'box X