



Choosing the Right Truck Body for Your Business

CHIP TRUCK BODY BUYERS GUIDE



- 02.** Chip Truck Body Types
- 05.** Standard and Custom Features
- 08.** Matching a Chip Truck Body to the Right Chassis
- 10.** Warranty, Maintenance and Support

CHIP TRUCK BODY TYPES: CHOOSING THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOUR OPERATION

Not all chip truck bodies are built for the same type of work. The right body depends on how your crew operates, the materials you haul, the environments you work in, and the level of flexibility you need as your business grows. Understanding the primary chip truck body types is the first step toward narrowing your options and avoiding costly mismatches.



**Fixed Roof
Chip Bodies**



**Retractable Roof
Chip Bodies**



**Urban and Aerial-Focused
Chip Bodies**

FIXED ROOF CHIP BODIES

Fixed roof chip bodies are designed for consistent, high-volume chipping and hauling. With a fully enclosed structure, they provide maximum containment, strength, and durability for demanding workloads.

Best suited for:

- Consistent, high-volume chipping
- Predictable loads that don't require a lot of flexibility
- Companies that prioritize durability, containment, and long-term ownership value

Key considerations:

- Less flexibility for oversized or irregular loads



RETRACTABLE ROOF CHIP BODIES

Retractable roof chip bodies combine the containment of a fixed roof with the flexibility of an open top. With the ability to open or close the roof as needed, crews can adapt quickly to changing job requirements without removing components entirely.

Best suited for:

- Operations that handle varied material sizes
- Businesses looking to balance flexibility and efficiency
- Crews that want fast adjustments between job types
- Growing businesses that want a professional, enclosed appearance when an open roof isn't necessary

Key considerations:

- More moving parts than a fixed roof design
- Proper operation and maintenance are important for long-term performance



URBAN AND AERIAL-FOCUSED CHIP BODIES

Urban and aerial-focused chip bodies are designed for tight job sites, city streets, and work that involves aerial lifts or specialized equipment. These bodies often prioritize compact footprints, tool storage, and maneuverability.

Best suited for:

- Urban tree care operations
- Aerial lift and bucket truck applications
- Crews working in confined or high-traffic areas

Key considerations:

- May offer reduced chip capacity compared to larger bodies
- Configuration should be carefully matched to job requirements



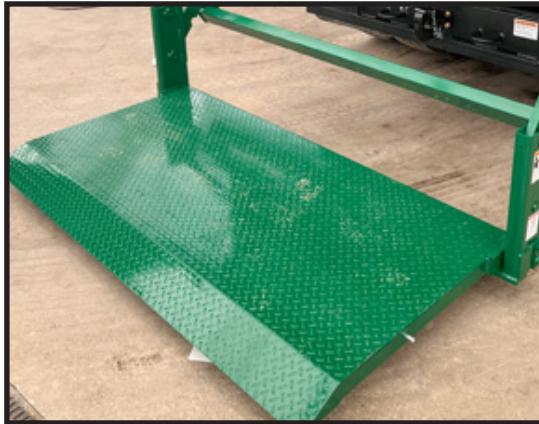
NARROWING YOUR OPTIONS

Choosing the right chip truck body starts with an honest look at how your trucks are used today and how you expect them to be used in the future. Load volume, job diversity, crew workflow, and long-term growth all play a role.

In the next section, we will look at how to properly match a chip truck body to your chassis, an essential step in ensuring safety, performance, and long-term reliability.

STANDARD AND CUSTOM FEATURES: WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CHIP TRUCK BODY

When evaluating chip truck bodies, features matter. The right set of standard components helps ensure durability, efficiency, and safety from day one, while customization options let you tailor the body to your crew's unique workflow and job demands. Below is an overview of the key features to consider when comparing bodies and deciding what will work best for your operation.



ESSENTIAL STANDARD FEATURES

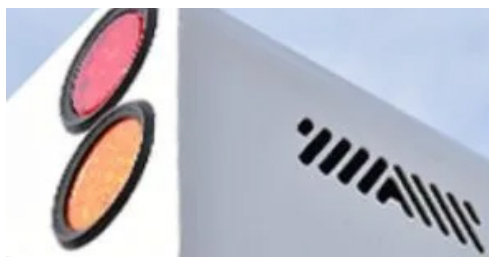
Every professional chip truck body should include a baseline of tough, job-ready features. When reviewing standard features, look for components that enhance durability, protect your investment, and support crew efficiency.

Core features that matter:

- **Rust-resistant, heavy-gauge construction:** A quality chip truck body should be built with materials like galvanized steel and reinforced with structural crossmembers to withstand daily abuse and resist corrosion.
- **Smooth body panels:** Smooth-sided construction maximizes interior chip capacity, simplifies cleaning, and provides an ideal surface for branding.
- **Underbody steel toolboxes and ladder boxes:** These storage compartments should feature secure latches and hidden hinges to keep tools organized, protected, and resistant to theft.
- **Extra durable bed liners and protective undercoating:** These protective measures help shield the interior and underside of the body from abrasion, acidic debris, moisture, and harsh road conditions.
- **Rear tailgate with ladder access and high-strength latching:** A well-designed tailgate supports safe, efficient loading and unloading while providing reliable access for maintenance and inspection.
- **Integrated towing provisions:** Standard tow packages and trailer plug connections should support common towing needs without requiring aftermarket modifications.
- **Safety-focused lighting and wiring:** Properly placed LED marker lights, strobes, and sealed wiring improve visibility, support job site safety, and enhance durability in demanding conditions.
- **Built-in equipment mounting and organization features:** Items such as rope hooks, wheel chock holders, and sealed doors help crews keep essential tools secure and easily accessible throughout the workday.



Smooth body panels



Safety-focused lighting and wiring



These standard features are designed to make your chip truck body ready for the job right out of the gate, supporting daily use while minimizing early wear and downtime.

COMMON CUSTOMIZATIONS

Once you understand what comes standard, customization lets you tailor the body to your specific workflows, crew preferences, and job site challenges. Custom features can improve accessibility, organization, safety, and overall efficiency.

Valuable customization options to consider:

- **Ultra-secure storage systems:** Optional heavy-duty storage solutions, such as independently locking compartments, allow crews to securely store high-value tools and equipment while keeping them organized and accessible.
- **Ladder roller bars and ladder handling aids:** These features help crews load and unload ladders more smoothly, reducing strain and improving efficiency during setup and teardown.
- **Folding steps and grab handles:** Added access points make it easier and safer for crews to reach storage compartments, tailgates, and elevated areas of the body.
- **Traffic cone holders and organized safety storage:** Dedicated holders keep cones and safety equipment neatly stored and ready for quick deployment at job sites.
- **Additional rear-mounted or underbody storage boxes:** Expanded storage options provide space for specialty tools, mats, plywood, or job-specific materials that do not fit standard compartments.
- **Onboard power systems:** Integrated power options allow crews to charge batteries or run equipment directly from the truck, reducing reliance on portable generators and improving job site efficiency.
- **Enhanced lighting and visibility upgrades:** Optional work lights, strobes, and lighting packages improve visibility in low-light conditions and help crews operate more safely in high-traffic or urban environments.
- **Upgraded towing and hitch configurations:** Ball and pintle hook combinations or specialty hitch options increase towing versatility and allow the truck to support a wider range of trailers and equipment.
- **Customization for workflow and job type:** Optional racks, mounts, and accessories can be configured to match specific crew workflows, job environments, and operational preferences.



Folding steps and grab handles



Onboard power systems



These add-ons let you make a chip truck body that matches how you work and helps your crews stay fast, safe, and productive on every job.

MATCHING A CHIP TRUCK BODY TO THE RIGHT CHASSIS

Selecting the right chip truck body is only part of the equation. Properly matching that body to the truck chassis is critical to safety, performance, and suitability for the job. A mismatch can prevent proper installation or create issues once the truck is in service. Reviewing these considerations early helps avoid those issues.



WEIGHT RATINGS AND PAYLOAD CAPACITY

One of the most important factors in matching the chip body to the chassis is weight. An undersized chassis may limit the driver's ability to operate the truck safely or legally and can contribute to handling, capacity, and compliance issues. An appropriately rated chassis supports safe operation and reliable performance when carrying a load.

To ensure a proper match, the combined weight of the body, equipment, payload, and passengers must fall within the rated capacity of the chassis. Buyers should consider gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), axle ratings, and payload capacity when evaluating options.

WHEELBASE AND BODY LENGTH COMPATIBILITY

The length of the chassis wheelbase plays a direct role in determining which body sizes can be safely and effectively installed. Proper alignment ensures balanced weight distribution, predictable handling, and adequate clearance for components such as axles and suspension.

A mismatch between body length and wheelbase can affect stability, turning radius, and overall drivability. Evaluating these dimensions together helps avoid compromises that impact performance in the field.

STABILITY, BRAKING, AND HANDLING

A loaded chip truck behaves differently than an empty one. Body size, chip capacity, and load distribution all influence how the truck accelerates, brakes, and handles under real working conditions.

Matching the body to a chassis that can properly support those demands helps maintain stability and braking performance, especially on uneven terrain or in stop-and-go environments. These factors are particularly important for fleet consistency and crew safety.

POWERTRAIN AND PERFORMANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Engine power and transmission configuration should align with the finished truck's weight and duty cycle. Chipping operations often involve frequent stops, heavy loads, and sustained operation, placing additional demands on the powertrain.

Make sure the chassis has sufficient power and appropriate gearing to support the chip body's smooth operation, reduce strain on components, and ensure long-term reliability.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER FITMENT AND PLANNING

Chassis selection and body matching should be approached as a coordinated process, not separate decisions. Working through fitment considerations early helps prevent delays, rework, or unexpected limitations after delivery.

Taking the time to evaluate how the body and chassis work together ensures the finished truck performs as intended, supports your crew, and delivers the value you expect from your investment.

WARRANTY, MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT: PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT

A chip truck body is a long-term investment and support after delivery is just as important as initial build quality. It influences uptime, service costs, and how well the body performs over its lifespan. Before you commit to a truck body, it's important to know what the warranty covers, what regular maintenance will be needed, and what support the manufacturer offers.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER FITMENT AND PLANNING

A strong warranty reflects confidence in materials, workmanship, and overall construction. Buyers should review what components are covered, how long coverage lasts, and what conditions apply.

When comparing options, look for clear warranty terms that address structural components, corrosion protection, and workmanship. It is also important to understand what actions may affect coverage, such as modifications or improper use, so there are no surprises later.

MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Routine maintenance plays an important role in extending the life of a chip truck body. While some wear is expected in demanding work environments, bodies designed for low maintenance can help minimize time out of service.

Buyers should consider how easy it is to access key components, clean the body, and perform inspections. Fewer moving parts, durable coatings, and thoughtful design details can reduce maintenance frequency and simplify upkeep over time.

Understanding recommended maintenance practices upfront helps crews keep equipment in good working condition and supports consistent performance in the field.

MINIMIZING DOWNTIME THROUGH DESIGN AND SUPPORT

Downtime affects productivity and profitability. In addition to routine maintenance, access to replacement parts and knowledgeable support can make a meaningful difference when issues arise.

Buyers should evaluate how parts are sourced, how service questions are handled, and what kind of technical support is available after delivery. Reliable support helps keep trucks operating and reduces delays caused by repairs or replacements.

PLANNING FOR LONG-TERM OWNERSHIP

You need a chip truck body that will support your operations over time, not just for the first few years. Taking the time to understand the warranty, maintenance requirements, and support helps ensure the chip truck body remains a lasting, dependable part of your fleet.



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