VEHICLE GUIDE

2026 & 2027 Chevrolet Equinox. *The CVT is gone. That's the headline.*

Chevy's best-selling SUV made one real change for 2027, and it happens to be the change people complained about most. Here is what it means, what a leftover 2026 still does just as well, and which year you should actually buy.

THE SHORT VERSION

Front-drive 2025 and 2026 Equinoxes used a CVT. The 2027 drops it. Every 2027, front-drive or all-wheel drive, now gets the 8-speed automatic. Towing on front-drive models jumps from 800 pounds to 1,500. Everything else carries over: same 1.5-liter turbo, same three trims, same interior. 2027s started arriving at dealers in July. Prices went up $200 to $300 depending on trim.

WHAT CHANGED

2027 versus 2026, in plain terms.

One mechanical change and a handful of small ones. If you drove a 2026 and liked it, you will recognize everything about a 2027.

- **The CVT is retired.** All-wheel-drive Equinoxes already had the 8-speed automatic. Now front-drive gets it too. Chevy's stated reason was simplifying how they build the thing, but the practical result is that the front-drive Equinox finally shifts like a normal automatic.
- **Front-drive towing nearly doubles.** 800 pounds becomes 1,500. That is the 8-speed doing the work. All-wheel drive was already rated at 1,500.
- **Fuel economy gives up about a mile per gallon in town.** Front-drive still lands at 27 combined, all-wheel drive at 26. Highway is unchanged. The CVT was slightly better at city numbers on paper, and slightly worse to live with.
- **Cacti Green is dead.** Autumn Harvest Metallic replaces it, a warm bronze-gold. Eight colors total. Polar White Tricoat runs $995, Radiant Red Tintcoat $495, everything else is no charge.
- **The factory trailering package came off the order guide.** Chevy did not say why. The 1,500-pound rating still stands, but if you actually plan to pull something, talk to me before you order. I will confirm what is buildable that week.
- **Connected Cameras joins the Safety and Technology package.** Small addition, mostly of interest if you park on a city street.

THE LINEUP

Three trims. One engine. No bad choice.

The old LS base trim is gone as of 2026, so the lineup starts higher and better equipped than it used to. All-wheel drive is a $2,000 option on all three.

BEST VALUE

LT

Heated seats, heated steering wheel, remote start, adaptive cruise, the 11.3-inch screen and the 11-inch driver display. All standard. This is not a stripped car. For most families this is the one, and the money you save covers all-wheel drive with room left over.

SPORT LOOK

RS

Blacked-out grille and badges, the biggest wheels in the lineup at 19 inches. Adds wireless charging, dual-zone climate and rain-sensing wipers. Opens the door to the 360-degree camera and panoramic sunroof. You are paying for looks and a few conveniences, not more power.

WINTER PICK

ACTIV

All-terrain tires from the factory and its own suspension tune. Evotex and sueded microfiber seats. Same price as RS. If your driveway is long or your road gets plowed last, this is the trim I point Buffalo customers toward.

AVAILABILITY

2027s are here. 2026s are going away.

This is the part of the year where both model years sit on the same lot at the same time. That is an opportunity if you know which one you want.

ORDER BANKS

Open since April 16

Factory orders are running normally. A build-to-order car takes longer than pulling one off the lot, but you get exactly the color and equipment you want.

PRODUCTION BEGINS

Week of June 1, 2026

Built at San Luis Potosi in Mexico. GM has said Equinox production moves to Fairfax Assembly in Kansas around mid-2027, so this is the last stretch of Mexico-built cars.

DEALER ARRIVALS

Since late June

First units landed in late June and early July. Supply has been filling in through the summer. Call me for what is on the ground this week versus what has to be ordered.

BUFFALO WINTER

What matters here in February.

All-wheel drive is a $2,000 option on every trim, LT included. Nothing comes with it standard. Get it. In Erie County it is worth the money on resale alone, and you will never think about it again after the first lake-effect week.

The ACTIV is the one worth a second look. It comes with all-terrain tires from the factory, which is a genuinely different tire than what the LT and RS ride on. If you have a steep driveway or a road the plows get to last, that matters more than the extra 19-inch wheels on the RS. Heated seats and a heated steering wheel are standard on all three trims, which is not something every competitor can say at this price. Remote start too, so the car is warm before you walk out.

175 HP

1.5L Turbo Four

184 lb-ft front-drive, 203 lb-ft with all-wheel drive. Only engine offered. No hybrid, no V6.

8-SPD

Automatic, every model

New for 2027 on front-drive. Replaces the CVT. Shifts like you expect a transmission to shift.

1,500

Pounds of towing

Now the same front-drive or all-wheel drive. Small utility trailer, jet ski, a couple of snowmobiles on a light trailer.

PRICING

What it costs, destination included.

2027 LT starts at $30,995 front-drive, $32,995 with all-wheel drive. RS and ACTIV are both $35,895 front-drive and $37,895 all-wheel drive. Those numbers include the $1,995 destination charge, so they are the real starting point, not a teaser.

The 2026 was $200 less on LT and $300 less on RS and ACTIV. That is the sticker gap. The actual gap on a leftover 2026 is usually wider than that once you factor in what is available on it, and that changes week to week. I will not quote you a number here that is stale by the time you read it. Call or text and I will price both years side by side on the same payment.

MY HONEST TAKE

Which year you buy depends on one thing.

Not the trim. Not the color. Whether you are getting all-wheel drive. That is the whole decision, and almost nobody frames it that way for you.

Buying front-wheel drive

Get the 2027. This is the year the front-drive Equinox got the good transmission. A leftover 2026 front-drive car still has the CVT, and no discount fixes how that drives over four or five years of ownership. Pay the extra $200 and be happier.

Buying all-wheel drive

Look hard at a leftover 2026. The AWD car already had the 8-speed. Same engine, same interior, same tow rating. You are giving up a new paint color and about a mile per gallon of nothing. Take the discount instead.

Cross-shopping RAV4 or CR-V

Be straight with yourself about the hybrid question. Toyota and Honda will beat the Equinox on fuel, full stop. Chevy has no hybrid Equinox. What you get back is a lower price, more standard equipment for the money, and a car you can actually find without a wait.

NEXT STEP

Questions? Let's talk it through.

No gatekeepers, no call centers. Ordering next week or just starting to look, either way I'll give you straight answers.



Call

716-932-4793
Terry direct



Text

Terry responds personally



Book a Time

Set up a no-pressure conversation

Everything here covers the gas Equinox. The Equinox EV is a different vehicle on a different platform with different pricing, and the two get confused constantly. Ask me if you want that one instead. 2027 pricing, trim content, colors and EPA figures reflect Chevrolet's published information and order guide reporting as of August 2026, and include the $1,995 destination charge. Fuel economy sources differ by a mile per gallon on the city rating, so treat the combined figures as the reliable ones. Equipment availability changes during a model year, especially the trailering package, which came off the 2027 configurator without explanation. Confirm the build with me before you order. Not every trim, color or option is on the ground at any given time.

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