

# Connected to the Highway

Drivers rave about Model 579 ride, handling

Challenges arose when Peterbilt designers sought to make the new Model 579 best-in-class for ride and handling.

After all, measurables clearly exist for criteria such as weight, or sound levels. Ride and handling evaluation, however, depends almost purely on a driver's word.

"Certainly, ride quality is a more subjective metric than some of the others," says Peterbilt Senior Assistant Chief Engineer Kevin Baney. "The most important resource we have to work with is driver feedback."

So Peterbilt sought the input of hundreds of drivers who put miles on the Model 579, whether from their own drivers at the PACCAR Technical Center in Bellevue, Wash., select customers field-testing the product or from a variety of veteran drivers chosen to participate in field analysis trials.



Advanced steering geometry results in a 10 percent wheel-cut improvement over comparable products.

The results?

"Absolutely phenomenal," says Baney. "Drivers told us they feel connected to the highway, as if they were in a luxury car. They also tell us that the truck feels extremely stable."

### Sound strategy

Interestingly, some of the same strategies used to improve sound quality in the Model 579 benefitted its ride and handling qualities as well. Baney says that efforts to maximize chassis "stiffness" resulted in not only a quieter ride, but a smoother, more

responsive ride as well.

"We added an overbell to stiffen the chassis," he says. "We also widened the cab mounts, which helps stabilize the cab and reduces roll. The result is dramatic in terms of ride and handling."

### Tight wheel cut

Additionally, technologically advanced steering geometry has resulted in a tighter front wheel cut that measures a 10 percent better curb-to-curb turning radius than previous best-in-class standards.

And Peterbilt's standard proprietary Front Air Leaf suspension not only offers an extremely smooth, comfortable ride. It's lightweight, and combined with the standard air disc brakes offered on the Model 579, it reduces tire wear.

"Drivers tell us they feel like they're riding on rails," says Baney. "We really feel like we set a new standard with the Model 579 in terms of ride quality." **FC**



## The Comforts of Home

The Model 579 sleeper is designed to provide a relaxing and comfortable rest environment as well as a functional and convenient office, according to Peterbilt engineers. Features and benefits include a high-quality climate control system, a flat-panel TV mount, 10 percent more storage space than competitive products and strategically placed, energy-saving LED lighting.