

Take the Wheel: Get the Best Car Deal

Auto Buying Resources

Advice

www.creditunion.coop - Has financial calculators for auto-related issues: affordability, monthly payments, loan costs, leasing, and rebate vs. special financing.

www.consumerreports.org - Receive free car-buying advice, review ratings, search maintenance and accessories/options, and compare safety features. While a lot of information is available, some requires the user to become a subscriber or pay a small fee.

www.autos.msn.com - Get the latest news and advice for new and used vehicles. Many useful links to pricing and more.

www.consumerguide.com - A guide to making car buying easier. Evaluations of 1,000 new and used vehicles, expert shopping advice, and feature articles to help car buyers. Look for the monthly Consumer Guide Car & Truck Test new-vehicle buying guide for more information. Recently awarded Forbes.com "Best of the Web" within the "Car Buying" category.

www.autovantage.com - As a member, receive roadside assistance, travel deals, and car care savings. Finance tools and new- and used-car research are available to help buyers.

Energy

www.fueleconomy.gov - Operated by the U.S. Energy Department, this site contains mpg (miles per gallon) estimates, gas mileage tips, fuel economy ratings, and information about hybrid vehicles and fuel cells. Download EPA's mpg ratings and get the latest fuel economy guide.

www.hybridcars.com - Shares news and information about hybrid cars. It's part Web journal, part online community, and part hybrid market research organization. Hybridcars.com works closely with University of Michigan's Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation in developing surveys and other research projects related to the emerging hybrid market.

History reports

State Department of Transportation (DOT) - Provides vehicle history reports for a small fee, but they may not contain accident history. Check your state DOT Web site for information and forms. Reports may be available from some local police departments, but most—if not all—requests may be directed to DOT.

www.autotrader.com - Get the latest news on new and used cars, as well as vehicle history reports. Single reports are \$19.99, and unlimited reports for 60 days are \$24.99. Your AutoCheck report tells you if the vehicle has been salvaged or stolen, flood or hail damaged, in a fire or accident, had an odometer rollback, used as a police car, or used as a rental or taxi. Experian Automotive may not have every record on every vehicle, but their database is updated daily from DMVs (Department of Motor Vehicles), wholesale auto auctions, dealer inventory, and federal and local agencies.

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Pricing and buying

www.consumerguide.com - (See "Advice")

www.autobytel.com - Research new and used cars, as well as buy, sell, and finance those vehicles. Autobytel connects you to accredited dealers for car quotes.

www.autoweb.com - Owned and operated by autobytel.com. Search car prices, features, pictures, and reviews. Research car loans and financing options, and use the loan calculators to see what you can afford. Users also can buy and sell new and used cars.

www.carpaint.msn.com - Research vehicles, locate dealers, and get financing, insurance, and maintenance questions answered. Get price quotes, search new and used cars, view videos and photos, and browse vehicle guides at carpaint.msn.com.

www.cars.com - A resource for those looking to buy or sell a new or used car. Cars.com partners with 175 newspapers and television station Web sites to offer vehicle listings from dealers and classified ads. You'll also find car shopping tools and advice.

www.carsdirect.com - Buy new cars online. Search for used cars, or get help selling your car where it's available to more than six million car shoppers every month.

www.edmunds.com - Search new- and used-car prices and determine what a new car will cost you throughout ownership. The affordability, leasing, and financing calculators help you evaluate your options and determine what you can afford. If you're still researching, the consumer ratings and reviews, automotive tests, and the tips and advice on buying, selling, financing, maintenance, and ownership will point you in the right direction. Use the national and regional incentives and rebates information to find the best deal in your area.

www.motortrend.com - Research new and used vehicles. The Dollars and Sense section features deals of the month, rebates and incentives, and finance and lease calculators. The Car Buying 101 section helps first-time buyers make smart purchase decisions.

www.kbb.com - Get new- and used-car pricing by make and model. Review and compare by vehicle group, check out new and future models, and get buying and selling advice.

www.nada.com - Research new and used vehicle pricing and information for all types of cars, trucks, SUVs, motorcycles, boats, classic cars, and recreation vehicles.

Safety

www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/ - Operated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, this site has information on safety problems, testing results, regulations and standards, and research and development. There's a link to an auto safety hotline.

www.safercar.gov - Operated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, this site contains information on safety equipment, defects, and five star crash test and rollover ratings. Get tire ratings and air bag safety information by make and model.