



# Take the Wheel

## Auto-Buying Resources: Do Your Homework

### Advice

[consumerreports.org](http://consumerreports.org) - Receive free car-buying advice, review ratings, review “Guide to Fuel Economy,” 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.

[autos.msn.com](http://autos.msn.com) - Get the latest news and advice for new and used vehicles. Many useful links to pricing and more.

[consumerguide.com](http://consumerguide.com) - A guide to making car buying easier. Evaluations of 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.

[autovantage.com](http://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

[fueleconomy.gov](http://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.

[hybridcars.com](http://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

Your vehicle history report will tell 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.

[carfax.com](http://carfax.com) – Single Carfax reports check for important information that can help you make a more informed decision about buying a used vehicle.

[experian.com/automotive](http://experian.com/automotive) - Single AutoCheck reports are unique, showing the latest vehicle trends, compare similar models and select the right vehicle for you.

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/forms. Reports may be available from some local law enforcement, but most—or all—requests may be directed to DOT.

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### Pricing and Buying

**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.

**autoweb.com** - Owned and operated by www.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.

**autos.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 autos.msn.com.

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

**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.

**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.

**intellichoice.com** – Tips to choose a car wisely.

**kbb.com** - Kelley Blue Book is the quickest place to get a sense of what you should be paying for a specific vehicle. Kelley's Fair Purchase Price shows the average selling price for a car or SUV in your region. You can tailor the options to match individual cars you are considering.

**motortrend.com** - Research new and used vehicles.

**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

**iihs.org/iihs/ratings** – The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety shows you results of front, side, and rollover crash tests and ranks cars up to their highest level Top Safety Pick Plus. If a car fares poorly in a test, you can see exactly what went wrong.

**nhtsa.gov** - Operated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, this site has information about safety problems, testing results, regulations and standards, and research and development.

**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.