

Consumer Corner

Simplify Your Car Search

(NAPSA)—Whether you know exactly the type of car you are looking to purchase or you are still researching to decide, one of the easiest and most convenient places to begin your car-buying process may be the Internet. It allows you to compare prices, read vehicle overviews and search millions of vehicle listings from dealerships and independent owners. So how do you narrow millions of vehicle listings down to a set that meets your general or specific needs? Several Web sites provide ways to make your search more efficient.

If You Know

If you know the features you're looking for in your next vehicle, consider searching for cars via the checklists and/or pull-down boxes provided by some Web sites. Begin with general criteria, such as make and model, then add more specifications like price, transmission, color and mileage. Checklists with popular options that offer the opportunity to select comfort features such as leather interior, electronic features like navigation systems, and safety features such as side air bags are also available on some Web sites.

If You're Still Deciding

If you're still deciding what your vehicle needs are, you may want to consider an open-ended option to search Web sites. Similar to search engines, blank search fields can be located within auto classifieds sites such as the one available on AutoTrader.com's "Find Your Car" search page. Simply type in the appropriate feature you're searching for in the keyword search text box and vehicle listings that match your entered text will appear.

For example, if you are looking for a handicapped accessible vehi-

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Find Your Car

Sell Your Car

New Cars

Car Loans

Insurance

Find Your Car

Use any of the criteria below to start your search.

Hide more search criteria

Specifications

Transmission

Mileage

Engine

Drive

Exterior Color

Doors

Fuel

Features

CD Player

Power door locks

Side air bags

Cruise Control

Power mirrors

Tilt/telescope wheel

Handicap-equipped

Power windows

Tinted glass

Leather seats

Rear window defroster



RESEARCHING YOUR NEXT CAR online can put you on the road to an easier car-buying experience.

cle, but you don't care about specific body type, then keyword search may be your best option. Type "handicapped accessible" in the keyword search text box and the results will show all vehicle types available that are handicapped accessible. Even highly selective criteria, such as vehicles owned by nonsmokers, those with roof racks or those with a Bose stereo, can be found using keyword search.

Both types of Web site users can benefit from additional ways to search efficiently. Look for "Newly Listed" indicators that mark new postings within seven days of your last search. Save even more time by creating a personalized account such as My AutoTrader.com, where you can save search requirements and results, make comparisons and e-mail listings to friends and family.

Purchasing a vehicle is an important and complicated decision. Fortunately, there are Web sites that make the car-buying process easier and allow you to customize your experience. To learn more, visit www.autotrader.com.