



# Auto Advice

## Tips On Car Shopping

(NAPSA)—If you're shopping for a new vehicle, the Internet can help steer you in the right direction. The Web lets car and truck consumers research vehicles, compare prices and, after a decision has been made, even apply for financing to buy their car or truck.

### Car Buying 101

There are a number of points to consider before purchasing a vehicle, but perhaps chief among them is deciding whether you want to buy a new, used or Certified Pre-Owned (CPO) vehicle. If you're not looking to spend a lot on a brand-new car, but you still want a quality car that has been factory-inspected and includes a warranty, a CPO may be the way to go. Sites such as Edmunds.com encourage people to research certified vehicles and see which makes have CPO vehicles and what offers are included with that certification.

Another critical component to buying is determining your criteria. What vehicle type (coupe, sedan, SUV, truck, convertible, etc.), mileage and price range are you looking for?

This is where the Internet can be particularly useful. The Web site AutoTrader.com now features a Power Search tool that consumers can use to shop by body style, price and color preference or to compare new, used and CPO vehicles.

Because more than half of AutoTrader.com's visitors aren't set on the make and model of vehicle they want, this new tool is a flexible, quick and integrated

The screenshot shows the AutoTrader.com website's 'Power Search' section. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'Research & Compare', 'Find Your Car', 'Sell Your Car', 'New Cars', 'Car Loans', and 'In'. Below this, the 'Power Search' title is followed by a subtitle: 'Choose any combination from the options below to create your search. To search quickly for a single make and model, try Quick Search.' The search criteria are organized into sections: 'View' (radio buttons for Used, Certified Pre-Owned, New, All), 'Body Style' (icons for Convertible, Coupe, Hatchback, Sedan, SUV, Truck, Van, Wagon), 'Make' (three dropdown menus for Make 1, 2, and 3), 'Model' (three dropdown menus for Model 1, 2, and 3), 'Year Range' (1981 to 2005), 'Price Range' (to), 'Mileage' (Any mileage), 'ZIP' (30342), 'Distance' (Within 25 miles of ZIP), 'Engine' (All engines), 'Fuel' (All types), 'Drive' (All types), 'Transmission' (All types), 'Doors' (Any number), 'Exterior Color' (All colors), and 'Interior Color' (Select one). A 'View Results' button is at the bottom. The footer includes a 'Find A Dealer' link, a disclaimer about the service, and the year 2004.

**Information on the Web can help make the car-buying process easier.**

way to collect information and help them make intelligent buying decisions.

Finally, when researching vehicles online, it is important to use a trusted source. Try to limit your search to reputable Web sites. If you do come across search sites that aren't known to you, be sure to confirm any information you may collect.

To learn more about buying a car, visit [www.AutoTrader.com](http://www.AutoTrader.com) and enter your zip code in the Power Search box.