



# 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 search interface. At the top, it says "AutoTrader.com Your car is waiting." and "Sign In | My AutoTrader.com". Below that are navigation links: "Research & Compare", "Find Your Car", "Sell Your Car", "New Cars", "Car Loans", and "In". A breadcrumb trail reads "Home > Power Search". The main heading is "Power Search" with a link "How to Use Power Search". Below the heading is the instruction: "Choose any combination from the options below to create your search. To search quickly for a single make and model, by [Quick Search](#)".

The search options are organized into sections:

- View:** Radio buttons for  Used,  Certified Pre-Owned,  New, and  All.
- Body Style:** Grid of icons with checkboxes for  Convertible,  Coupe,  Hatchback,  Sedan,  SUV,  Truck,  Van, and  Wagon.
- Make:** Three dropdown menus labeled "Make 1", "Make 2", and "Make 3".
- Model:** Three dropdown menus labeled "Model 1", "Model 2", and "Model 3".
- Year Range:** "1981" to "2005" with dropdown arrows.
- Price Range:** Two empty input boxes with "to" between them.
- ZIP:** "30342" with "[Required]" and a dropdown arrow.
- Mileage:** "Any mileage" with a dropdown arrow and a checkbox for "Cars with prices only".
- Distance:** "Within 25 miles of ZIP" with a dropdown arrow.
- Engine:** "All engines" with a dropdown arrow.
- Drive:** "All types" with a dropdown arrow.
- Transmission:** "All types" with a dropdown arrow.
- Doors:** "Any number" with a dropdown arrow.
- Exterior Color:** "All colors" with a dropdown arrow, and two more "Select one" dropdowns below it.

At the bottom of the search options is a "View Results" button. The footer contains "Home > Power Search", a "TM" logo, and a disclaimer: "Find A Dealer | Become an AutoTrader.com Dealer | About | Help | Employment Opportunities. By using this service, you accept the terms of our [Visitor Agreement](#). A network of vehicles about to be sold. ©2004 AutoTrader.com L.L.C."

**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.