

Automotive Trends

Vehicles On The Road To Resale Value

(NAPSA)—While most car buyers today consider sticker price one of the most significant numbers when choosing a new vehicle, some car-buying experts recommend shoppers consider a number they won't find today on any window sticker: the resale value. Depreciation often is the greatest expense incurred by drivers during the first five years of vehicle ownership.

The leading provider of new and used vehicle information recently announced the all-new 2008 model-year vehicle winners of its annual Best Resale Value Awards, which recognizes current and upcoming vehicles for their projected retained value five years from now (the average ownership period).

An average vehicle will retain only about 35 percent of its original value after five years, meaning a \$20,000 new car today will be worth only somewhere close to \$7,000 after five years. Vehicles with average or below-average resale values are generally plentiful in the marketplace and easy to find, such as models found in rental fleets. Certain vehicles, however, are projected to hold their value better than others. While much of a vehicle's resale value is based on supply and demand, as well as current and projected future market conditions, vehicles that maintain their value best tend to be quality built and generate consumer enthusiasm.

Shoppers should take several factors into consideration when

2008 BEST RESALE VALUE: BRAND

Volkswagen

2008 BEST RESALE VALUE: TOP 10 MODELS

Chevrolet Corvette	Scion xB
Honda Civic	Toyota Corolla
Infiniti G37	Volkswagen Eos
MINI Cooper	Volkswagen Jetta
Scion tC	Volkswagen Rabbit

2008 BEST RESALE VALUE:

BY VEHICLE CATEGORY

SEDAN:	Honda Civic
LUXURY:	BMW 6 Series
COUPE:	Infiniti G37
PICKUP:	Toyota Tundra
CONVERTIBLE:	MINI Cooper
SPORT UTILITY:	Acura MDX
WAGON:	Scion xB
VAN/MINIVAN:	Honda Odyssey
HATCHBACK:	Scion tC
HYBRID:	Honda Civic Hybrid
HIGH PERFORMANCE:	Chevrolet Corvette Z06

(All values based on the November/December 2007

Kelley Blue Book® Residual Value Guide.

Top 10 models appear in alphabetical order.)



buying a new car to ensure as much future value as possible. Certain features available on new vehicles today will be desirable by a majority of used-car buyers three to five years down the road, and these features will help the vehicle maintain more of its original value than if they were absent.

First, car buyers should choose a popular exterior color such as silver, white, gray or black. Then, they should look for optional equip-

ment that is customary for the type of vehicle they are buying.

“Choosing a vehicle with a traditional or classic style will generally stand the test of time when it comes to resale value and getting more for your vehicle when you are ready to sell it,” said Jack R. Nerad, executive editorial director and executive market analyst with Kelley Blue Book's kbb.com. “Vehicles with radical interiors and exteriors will likely lose more of their value, as they will not appeal to the mainstream public after five years.”

Many of the vehicles with the lowest resale values are vehicles with long life cycles, high production levels and those models that populate the fleet market. Shoppers who buy vehicles that retain the least amount of their original value can expect to see between 20 and 25 percent of their original dollar returned to them after five years.

Half the vehicles ranked lowest in resale value for the 2007 model year remain in that category for 2008, including the Chevrolet Uplander, Isuzu Ascender, Kia Sedona, Mercury Marquis and the Lincoln Town Car. New to the 2008 list of vehicles that will retain the least amount of their original value are the Dodge Durango, Ford Econoline, Suzuki Reno, Suzuki Forenza and Suzuki Aerio.

For information about new- or used-car values, vehicle purchasing advice and more, visit at www.kbb.com.