

FREE Spring/Summer 2015



Auto Guide

Supplement to the Tribune

Silverado Body Kits – Show your love for your truck

By Louie Liu

A family car often becomes just like a member of the family. It acquires a personality and perhaps a few nicknames as well. Even though it is not a living thing, because it comes “alive” when you turn the ignition key, it is thought of in many ways as if it has a life with a body and soul all its own. However close though a family car may be to the family that owns it, there is one vehicle that becomes even closer to its owner. And that is a truck that a person uses for work as well as for family reasons. A person usually spends a longer time driving them around and the truck

shares the sorrows and joys which are both work related and family related.

And often a truck owner will have a special and strong bond with the truck. For example a Silverado owner will count the truck as a pillar of strength in the person's life. So is there a way such a person can communicate this deep bonding to the world? Yes there is, the person can make the truck look really special with the help of Silverado body kits.

Car body kits are a fun, high value for money product and you will enjoy doing up your truck with them. They will add a personal touch to your truck which will make it instantly recognizable. And

you do not have to spend a lot of money to buy the body kit components. You should take care to save some money so that the components that you buy can be installed by a professional because that will make sure they are safely and properly installed.

Online you can view a large selection of styles and colors which are available in different materials. If you want body kits which can withstand minor dents and scratches you should opt for polyurethane body kits. Duraflex body kits have a great finish and being flexible can be installed very nicely on to your car.



From footballs to tires, inflation is important



(BPT) - If 2015 has shown us anything so far, it's that deflation can cause a frenzy, especially when it comes to

footballs. Who would have thought that slightly flat footballs would become a national debate? One thing's

for sure, it's now clear how important proper inflation is and how deflation can affect things, including your tires.

“The whole ‘deflate-gate’ situation helped raise the awareness of the impact of air pressure on performance,” says Bob Abram, product planning manager for Yokohama Tire Corporation, maker of a variety of truck and car tires.

“It's very important that people properly inflate their

tires, because they are the only part of a vehicle that actually touches the road. When kept at the right pressure, tires will grip the road better and save you money.”

Correct tire pressure is actually specified by the manufacturer of the vehicle, not the tire maker. You can find the proper inflation levels on a placard on the inside of the car door or in the owner's manual.

Tires that are underinflated by 8 pounds per-square-inch (psi) can reduce vehicle fuel economy by as much as 2 percent, and tires can lose about 1-2 psi each month under normal driving conditions, according to the U.S. Government

Accountability Office. That's why Abram strongly recommends taking five minutes each month to check your tire pressure. “It's quick and easy, and if you do it regularly, you'll extend the life of your tire and get better fuel economy.”

Tires must be cold when inspected for tire pressure (at least four hours after the vehicle has been driven). Check tire pressure with a

reliable tire gauge and make sure the valve stems have a plastic or metal cap to keep out dirt, water and foreign objects.

Abram says that while today's tires are true technical marvels, he suggests you manually check them because you can't tell a tire's pressure is off by just looking at it. “Even if you were looking at one of our bigger tires, like the GEOLANDAR G055, you wouldn't be able to tell the air pressure is wrong unless it was almost flat. Same with driving on slightly underinflated tires. You probably wouldn't feel a big difference, but they wouldn't be nearly as effective.”

Abram says there are many other ways you can maintain your tires for improved driving and fuel-cost savings. Here are a couple:

- Rotating your tires will prevent uneven wear and promote a smoother ride. Because the weight distribution on your car or truck can vary, it's best to rotate your tires. Yokohama advises drivers to rotate their tires in accordance with vehicle owner's manual

recommendations to ensure even treadwear and optimum tread life. Yokohama recommends that its tires be rotated at 6,000 - 8,000 mile intervals.

- Tires that are balanced correctly will provide a smoother ride and help prevent improper wear.

- Check your tire alignment once a year. Misaligned tires create unnecessary tire wear and higher fuel consumption.

- Tires must be replaced when the tread is worn down to 2/32 of an inch (the lowest legal limit). It's best to replace them before they reach 2/32 depending on your drive (geographically and type of streets). For example, rural streets that aren't regularly plowed are different than city streets that are regularly plowed. Winter traction and wet traction can decline as tread depth decreases.

- Check your tread depth by placing a penny upside down into a tread groove. If you can see all of Lincoln's head, your tire's tread has worn down to the legal limit and you need to buy new tires.

For more tips visit www.tirerma.org.

Jay's Automotive Machine Shop



SERVICE IS MY BUSINESS

FROM VALVE GRINDING TO COMPLETE REBUILDING
STOCK • CUSTOM • MARINE

11303 Hwy 99 S Everett • (425) 347-8812



NW Complete Auto Care

211 S Lewis St • Monroe
1 Block South of Main St.

360-805-2868

A/C Check-Up
\$45

With coupon. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 10/31/15.

Oil Changes
Brakes
Engine/Tranny/
Differential

Foreign & Domestic

10% OFF
Any Service
Over \$60

With coupon. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 10/31/15.

Looking For More Power?

SS Speed Secrets

"The Secret to Reliable Performance"

360-217-8150

Transmission Experts!

Service & Rebuilds • 28 Years Experience

\$99.95 TRANSMISSION SERVICE

Reg. \$125. With coupon. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 10/31/15.

Rear end auto accidents: Who is at fault?

By David Andrews
Premier Law Group

One of the most common questions I get as a Seattle car accident lawyer in a Bellevue injury law firm is whether or not a rear-end accident is automatically the fault of the "rear driver." The reason this question is asked so often is because the insurance companies representing the rear driver will oftentimes try to argue that the accident was the fault of the front driver. This article will explain why the insurance companies make this argument, and what you can do if they use it against you.

In the state of Washington,

there is no such thing as an automatic determination of fault. Many people believe that the rear car in a rear-end

can never be any sweeping generalizations about who causes certain types of accidents. The insurance



accident is always at fault, but the law states that this cannot automatically be the legal assumption. The fault in an accident must be determined on a case by case basis, so there

companies know this and will dispute fault in certain rear-end cases, including ones that are obviously the fault of the rear driver. They do this for a variety of reasons. For one,

Change the way you drive and save money



By Phil Cahill

If every time you fill up your car, you find yourself spending more and more, you should consider changing your driving habits. Just a few simple steps can result in real savings to your fuel bill. There are also the obvious environmental benefits too. Here's 11 steps for reducing your fuel bill.

1. Lighten The Load – It's amazing how quickly our cars can become cluttered. Children's toys, music, clothes, magazines often find their way into your car, and sometimes never leave it. Be ruthless and carry only what's essential for your journey. You'll save fuel and your car will be tidier too.

2. Keep Those Tires Pumped Up - Under inflated tires can have a serious impact on fuel efficiency. It's good practice to check that your tires are inflated to their recommended pressures once a week.

3. Think Aerodynamics - Why are Formula One cars so fast? What makes airplanes speed through the air? Powerful engines help, but aerodynamics is also

crucial. Think about your car's aerodynamics. Roof racks, roof boxes and cycle carriers create drag, which doesn't aid fuel economy at all. Unless they're needed, remove them.

4. Plan Your Journey - Getting lost isn't good for your pocket, or your blood pressure. Avoid taking a wrong turn by adding unnecessary miles to your journey, by planning ahead. Have directions close to hand so they can be referred to. If you've ever been sent up a dirt track by your sat nav, you'll know nothing beats having a good old fashioned map.

5. High Is Good - The general rule of thumb, is that where conditions allow, you should use the highest gear possible. Changing gear early and keeping revs down helps minimize fuel use.

6. Become A Chauffeur – It's all about driving smoothly and calmly. Avoid unnecessary stopping and starting, which uses more fuel, by leaving a large gap between you and the car ahead. Gradually slowing down and speeding up is far more fuel efficient, as keeping your car moving uses for less fuel than stopping and

starting.

6. Watch Your Braking - Slamming your brakes on at the last moment is terrible for fuel consumption. Anticipate the traffic conditions to use your brakes as little as possible. Try to roll up to junctions and traffic lights - simply lift your foot off the accelerator and anticipate where you will stop.

7. Switch Off If You're Not Moving - Stuck in a long queue? If your engines switched on, but you're not moving, you're using fuel to go nowhere at all. Switch the engine off until the traffic moves again.

8. Don't Always Buy The Cheapest Fuel – Researching fuel prices in your area is a great way to save money. However, if the cheapest fuel is more than a mile away, think twice before setting off on your journey. If it costs more in fuel to travel there than you'll save at the pumps, the economics don't add up.

9. Also, it's very tempting to fill that tank up. However, a full tank will add more weight, which in turn uses much more fuel. It's best to only buy what you need.

10. Switch Off The Air Conditioning – Heating, headlights, air conditioning - they all use power from the engine. So the moment they're not needed, turn them off and save fuel.

11. Along with the steps above, keeping your car well maintained will also aid fuel consumption. Regular car servicing is one way to keep your car in a good condition.

they hope that the accident victim will be overwhelmed with their challenge of the fault, and will take a low settlement offer as a result.

Secondly, the insurance company may try this as a delaying tactic. If they can delay the victim from actually filing a claim against them until the statute of limitations passes, then there will be nothing that the injured victim can do. Lastly, if you hire an attorney who is afraid of taking cases to court, the insurance company may do this to negotiate your settlement to a very low number. They know that a lawyer like that will not want to risk challenging their argument of fault, so they can use this to settle at a figure that is much too low for your case.

The best way to defend yourself against these tactics is to speak with an experienced personal injury attorney. There is no way to determine exactly what you should do without knowing the full details of the accident and resulting injuries. Bewary of lawyers who guarantee they can settle your case in a short period of time, because these are the types of attorneys that the insurance companies can easily take advantage of.

For more information visit www.plg-pllc.com

Five simple tips for safe towing this summer

(BPT) - With the summer months ahead, people will be towing boats, jetskis, campers, landscaping equipment, ATVs and more.

Towing can be tricky so it's important to plan ahead and emphasize safety. Operating a vehicle becomes a whole new task when another set of wheels is hitched to the back. Neglecting small details may result in a bumpy ride or even cause damage to the load being towed, and overlooking the bigger issues could cause accidents.

Take steps to stay safe and keep your towing loads secure by using these tips as a checklist before hitting the road.

- Be aware of your vehicle's towing capacity. No matter how powerful the engine, there's always a limit on how much it can tow. Reference the vehicle's owner's manual to learn how much weight can be attached.

- Choose the right hitch and ball mount. Matching the trailer and tow vehicle to a hitch class is critical for safe towing. There are five classes of trailer hitches, each designated for the combined total weight of the load and trailer. When selecting a hitch you also need to choose the correct ball mount to match the receiver tube and to raise or lower the hitch

ball as needed. Brands like Ultra-Tow from Northern Tool Equipment provide a variety of options to fit any towing need.

- Plan pit stops. Variables can change quickly when towing. On the way to your destination, plan to stop every 50-60 miles to check the lights, brakes and tires on the trailer. It is also important to make sure the load has remained evenly distributed.

- Inspect and maintain. Towing a heavy load puts tremendous stress on any vehicle, no matter how powerful it is. Routine maintenance is especially important in this situation. Make sure your vehicle is in good condition as towing stress can quickly make small issues larger.

- Exaggerate margin for error. Driving too fast increases the sway of the trailer and makes it more difficult to stop quickly. It's important to have enough room between other vehicles, take wide turns and know the trailer's tunnel clearance.

Benjamin Franklin said that, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This logic certainly applies to towing. Taking common sense measures will greatly decrease the chance of towing mishaps that quickly derail the best-laid plans.

Get or replace a keyless remote



By James Jacob

Car owners can save on a new or replacement remote entry (Fob) by going to third party service providers without compromising the service or product quality. Read on to find out how.

With most manufacturers incorporating these devices in their cars, they have almost become standard features in most cars today.

Thieves are also aware of them, and some of them who are tech savvy have found out ways to hack into these devices and steal the vehicle.

However, they are still one of the best and certain ways to keep your car safe.

Keyless remotes allow you to lock and unlock your car doors from a distance. After getting out of your car, one push of a button on the keyless remote ensures that all the doors of

your car are safely shut, no need to check each. Likewise, you can set the alarm while you are away.

There could be typically two reasons for which a car owner buys Fobs. The first could be that he/she owns an older car model that was manufactured without the keyless functions and wants one installed. Another is the case of losing the Fob. This is a common situation. In these cases the owner can either go to the original car manufacturers and ask them to install or program the device for him/her, or go to other third party shops for the same. The latter are considered preferable as it provides considerable savings.

However, some experts also advise that you can do the

programming by yourself. This (as per the instructions) can be done with a spare key which you might have received with the original one. With the spare key and a manual of the vehicle you can learn to re-program the device. This, if done successfully, could be cost saving, in fact a cost free method to get your device back to work.

Some prefer this job to be done by a professional. If you are looking for a keyless remote, you can find one easily on the Internet. You can just type in the car make or model name with a related keyword, for example - Cadillac remote or Cadillac Fob key and so on.

Get transmission repairs done on time

By Walker Wild

Regular maintenance of the transmission system will eliminate frequent transmission repair work. Essentially the transmission fluid must be changed at regular intervals. If the vehicle is old or is being used all the time, the frequency of fluid change should be higher and there should preferably be an auxiliary cooler. The

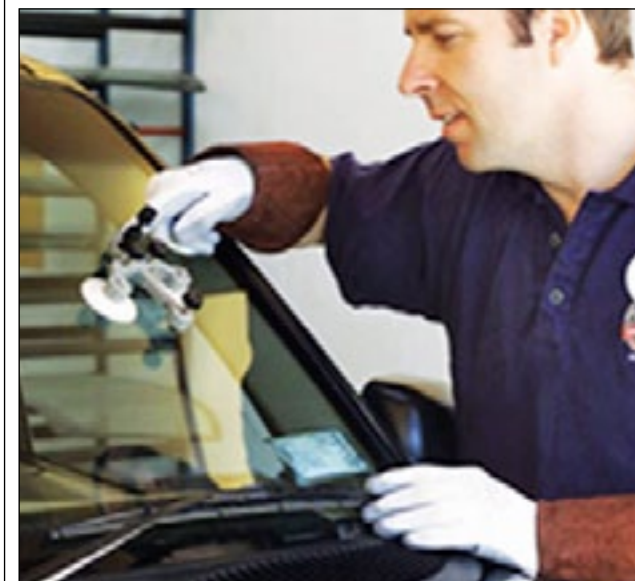
level and condition of the transmission fluid should be checked frequently so that it can be topped up if the level falls at any time. It is also necessary to check for leaks by inspecting the ground on which the vehicle is parked overnight. The area around the radiator and the air ducts should be free of any obstructions. The belts and hoses of the vehicle should be checked. At traffic stoppages,

you should shift into neutral for automatic transmissions and release the clutch in manual transmissions. In mountainous terrain, overdrive should not be used.

The above mentioned tips are necessary to avoid costly transmission repairs. However, if at any stage, you notice a problem, you should not hesitate to take the vehicle to a transmission repair shop immediately because a small

problem might turn into a big one if it is not attended to at the right time. Although transmission repair, whether automatic transmission repair or manual transmission repair can be expensive, it is advisable to do so in the initial stages to avoid greater expenditure in the future. Moreover, regular transmission services will go a long way in getting better mileage and performance.

Will insurance cover my rock chip repair?



By Shannon Egan

So, you are driving home from work and a big, invasive semi truck cruises past you sending loose gravel hurling towards your windshield. Bam! One cracks the glass causing a small starburst shaped chip. You wonder if it is worth fixing and if your insurance will cover it. Will you have to pay a deductible?

Generally, most car insurance companies offer rock chip repair coverage in place of windshield replacement. This is because a rock chip is much easier to replace and a lot less expensive. Rock chips are repaired by injecting a special resin into the damaged area. The resin is cured and polished to restore the glass.

Most car insurance companies will waive the deductible. However, be wary of signing up with the few companies that do not. If rock chips are frequently hitting your windshield you could end up paying about \$50 for each repair and hundreds more to replace your windshield.

No matter what the size or shape, the rock chip general rule of thumb is: get it fixed immediately. Despite this warning, most people do not honor it which is too bad. Why? Because rock chips have a tendency to spread quickly and this could result in complete windshield replacement. This can be caused by normal and unexpected movement, excessive moisture, and extreme temperatures.

Check out chrome accessories for your car or truck

By Virgo Fleet

By upgrading with chrome accessories, it has now become much easier to add a little style and exquisiteness to your trucks and cars without spending a fortune.

Chrome accessories keep your vehicle shining in the sun thereby heightening the look of your truck in minutes. They not only add an attractive look to your truck, but they also are highly durable.

Many truck owners in today's world believe that only by adding a perfect final touch with chrome accessories do their trucks look complete. Chrome gas door covers, chrome wheel skins, chrome

mirror covers, chrome billet grilles, chrome ventvisors, bug shields, chrome fender trim, chrome wheel covers, chrome door handles, chrome rocker panels are a few chrome accessories that are in high demand for trucks. These accessories usually have a quick and easy no-drill installation.

Chrome accessories can be added to the front, sides and back of any truck. Sticking chrome accessories on your truck can offer the style you wish to have by adding stainless steel decals, mirror covers, head lamp trim, tailgate handles, window visors, fender trim, mud flaps, and handle covers. In

every angle, these chrome accessories would allow your truck to shine. The more chrome you add to your truck, the more it will shine. Chrome grilles and stainless steel fender trim are the wise options to be added to any truck or car. There are a wide variety of chrome accessories that are easy to install for plenty of makes and models.

While adding chrome products to your trucks or cars, what highly matters is your imagination. Since these are shining materials, it depends on the taste of the individual to tart up his own vehicle. There are a plenty of chrome products designed to fit your specific make

and model that makes your vehicle catch the brilliance of sun and reflect the glow of evening lights. Chrome accessories play a vital role in transforming your wheels into your very own custom work of art.

Chrome accessories that are custom designed typically take only minutes to install. They can be fitted on the most popular vehicles and perfectly match the OEM (original equipment manufactured) chrome. These chrome products do not require cutting and drilling, and you can simply "peel and stick" using the pre-applied tape that is designed particularly for automotive use. It can hold



Stainless steel fender trim is a wise option to make your car or truck look great.

up in heat, cold, water and all weather factors and therefore is extremely durable. Mirror covers and tailgate handle covers can be installed quickly and easily within seconds.

Door handle covers are usually sold in sets to cover all of your doors and can be installed easily with the automotive two-sided tape system.

Why you should choose ceramic brake pads

By Brian Wells

Ceramic brake pads are the choice of reason when it comes

to make a replacement.

There are many advantages and disadvantages that come along with each type of pads,

for example, how much noise it makes, the wear on the car, the dust it gives off. These are just a few.

So why do I encourage you to look into ceramic? The reasons are many. Here are just a few.

They don't make that annoying sound when you hit the brakes and they are proven to have better stopping ability.

Ceramic gives off less dust than metal pads and have been proven to last up to five times longer than average pads. That means that even though you may pay more for them now,

you'll be saving a lot more later on.

Another reason that you will be saving money is because unlike other types of pads, ceramic is very easy on the rotors. Usually the clamping of pads to the rotor not only changes the color of the wheel, but it also wears out the rotor, causing you to replace the rotor more often.

Some high performance

pads come with laser made grooves letting all of the excess dust out away from the wheel.

Almost 60 percent of car manufacturers use ceramic brake pads, partially because of the stricter requirements today for brake performance.

So for the above mentioned reasons, plus your safety, take a good look into ceramic brake pads when it comes time to replace yours.

Main Street Glass NEW NAME <i>Same Owners</i>	Windows to Windshields Rock Chip Repair 360-217-8443 Serving the Greater Monroe area since 1992 201 East Main • Monroe
---	--

Whitfields Auto Licensing



- Auto/Truck Parts
- Supplies
- Performance Accessories
- Brake drums & rotors turned
- Flywheels resurfaced
- **Best of all, we're locally owned!**



Highway Auto Supply
360-794-4151



ALL Makes & Models



Open 7 Days
 Mon - Fri 8am-7pm
 Sat 8am-6pm
 Sun 9am-4pm

**20014 Hwy 2
Monroe**
 (East end of town,
 next to Country
 Clipper Hair Salon)

New Car Technology May Take The Wheel out of Human Hands

(NewsUSA) - Google has been making news for its work in a ground-breaking area: driverless automobile technology.

A prototype of Google's new self-driving car – a two-passenger electric vehicle with buttons to turn the vehicle on and off, but no steering wheel, accelerator pedal or brake pedal – was unveiled in May 2014. Without a driver at the wheel, the car is instead guided by a light detection and ranging (LIDAR) rotating sensor on the vehicle's roof that scan the vehicle's surroundings to determine its driving route as well as to identify such obstacles as pedestrians,

bicyclists and other cars.

While Google is widely considered a front-runner in the development of such advanced automation technology, the major automakers are also getting into the race. Albeit at a more conservative pace, they're introducing automated features that perform specific tasks – such as adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning and collision-avoidance braking – to their new car models.

According to a report by Lux Research, cars with these so-called "Level 2" features are expected to account for 92 percent of a worldwide \$87 billion-per-year autonomous

car market by 2030. Only 8 percent of the market will go to "Level 3" cars, which would be primarily driven autonomously, but would allow drivers to regain control of the vehicle in an emergency.

In addition, the research firm doesn't expect any fully automated vehicles on the road by 2030. "We consider that ultimate level, Level 4, to be full autonomy, where you just get in and you don't interact with the car at all," explained Cosmin Laslau, lead analyst at Lux Research. "And we don't think that's coming by 2030. The biggest opportunity that we see will be actually from the Level 2 features, which are the more

conventional advances that we're already starting to see come onto the market from higher-end developers."

Hermann Winner, director and professor of automotive engineering at Germany's Technische University Darmstadt, agreed. "We will start with a partially automated car, then a highly automated one," he said, adding that he doesn't expect a completely autonomous car on the market for the next 40 years. "The big challenge to total automation is getting safety approval. Even if you assume the system is ready by 2020, approval is going to be problematic."

Should you make repairs or buy a new car?



Sometimes it makes sense to go ahead and pay to have a vehicle repaired. If the car is paid for and there is no damage to the frame, it may even be wise to go as far as having the engine replaced or rebuilt. You

can avoid that high payment for a new car, along with the greater insurance coverage demanded by the institution loaning you the money for the car. Only liability is required on a car that has been paid off.

If you are certain only a new or a newer used car will do, get online and research which car is right for you. Then research car insurance. It is easier to rate and cover a driver over 25 who has not had tickets in the last three years, has a

stable work history, and a good credit report.

To get the best possible financing, get pre-approved for a car loan. When you go car shopping with financing already in place you are in a much stronger negotiating position. This also means you had the chance to look for the best terms among loans.

Armed with information on vehicle values, knowledge of insurance charges on the types of vehicles you prefer, and pre-approval on a car loan it is time to go shopping.

Call or email your local dealerships with your specifications and ask them what their best price would be. Pursue the two lowest bidders and tell them you have an offer lower than theirs and see if

they will make you a better deal. With a written quote you have solid information with which to bargain. Now you're equipped to get the best deal possible.

Article Source: www.ArticleGeek.com

Back-up cameras are excellent tools for safety

By Mrtn Aston

Back-up cameras are amazing products to help you avoid accidents.

If your car has a small rear window or you drive a large vehicle, then you know it's not easy to see everything behind your car.

This is not a small issue as there's a good chance that you'll damage your car, someone else's car or might run over a child standing behind your car. These cases are quite common in driveways and tight parking places.

However, by installing a high quality back-up camera you can easily solve these issues and be safe.

The image of everything behind your car is displayed on your screen or mirror and shows you all of the potential dangers and obstructions.

There are numerous types of back-up cameras

on the market. Some can be installed inside the body of the car where you can't see them while others can be mounted on the bumper or some other part of the car to give you a clear view. In many cameras, night vision is also available.

The bottom line is that car accidents are extremely devastating. Such accidents are either fatal or leave physical injuries that people have to endure for the rest of their lives. You can avoid such situations by taking precautions. Back-up cameras are amazing tools to ensure the safety of you and your family.



By Jalapeno Jones

It usually happens at the most inopportune time – the car breaks down or dies altogether at a critical moment. You are in a panic to buy something, anything, to get your life back on track and moving according to schedule again. But don't let yourself feel pressured to purchase the first decent deal you come across. If necessary, get a rental car for a few days so you can think clearly without being clouded by the inconvenience of being without a vehicle.

Tip

Battery Check

Contrary to popular belief, summer highs rather than winter lows pose the greater threat to battery life, according to the non-profit Car Care Council. Have your battery checked today!

Award Winning

TRIM CRAFT
CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY

Street Rod Upholstery
to Sofas and Chairs!

425
338-2935

10204-A Airport Way
Snohomish

Automotive mobile devices ideal for teenage drivers

(BPT) - Many parents worry when their teens start to drive. Distracted driving, inexperience and simple carelessness are all reasons for parents to be concerned. The added distraction of a cellphone and all its available functions bring even more reasons to worry.

While it would be great if parents could keep a watchful eye every time a teenager is behind the wheel, it's just not possible. In this age of technology, can parents have more peace of mind when their newly licensed teenage driver is on the road?

"Parents can make use of vehicle monitoring devices," says Chris Kersting, president and CEO of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA). The trade association represents the \$33 billion automotive specialty equipment industry

that includes thousands of products that are available to enhance a vehicle's styling, performance, comfort and convenience. "These devices can help relieve some parents' anxieties about their teen driver and can even improve teen driving habits."

Here are some devices to consider for anyone who wants to keep tabs on teenagers behind the wheel.

Bluetooth

While you don't want your teen texting while driving, it's equally as important to make sure that he's not talking with his phone glued to his ear. A vehicle with Bluetooth capabilities will ensure a safer hands-free experience - not to mention you can call him knowing he can answer you without taking his hands off the wheel or his eyes off the road. Choices range from a standalone universal

Bluetooth kit, FM transmitters or a new Bluetooth-enabled car stereo system.

GPS tracker

You can easily track a vehicle's movement using a GPS tracker. These handy devices can be mounted in any car, sometimes using only a magnet, and will report back to your computer or smartphone. Advanced features include alerts letting you know if your teenager is driving out of a pre-designated area. Trackers typically require a monthly subscription service fee.

Plug-in diagnostic port adapters

Plug-in diagnostic port adapters plug into your vehicle's onboard diagnostic port (OBDII). The OBDII connects to the car's brain and when accessed, can provide a plethora of information on how the car is being driven. Every car sold after Jan. 1,

1996 was required to have an OBDII port, so most vehicles on the road today include this port. Numerous plug-in adapters are available to monitor driving habits and gather reports, including speed monitoring, harsh braking, location displays and more. Most adapters also require a service subscription in order to provide text or email alerts on activities you wish to monitor.

Hardwired telematics systems

A hardwired vehicle tracking system eliminates the possibility of your teenager finding and removing the diagnostic port adapter. Hardwired systems also provide real-time information and can pinpoint locations more accurately than a plug-in unit. These systems provide the same features such as speed tracking and

notifications when your teen exceeds speed thresholds, and have built-in motion sensors to detect rapid acceleration or rapid starts. When real-time information is important, a hardwired system, while more costly and time consuming up-front, has real advantages.

Cellphone blockers

Some aftermarket products available today can actually block cellphone usage when your teenager is driving, going a step beyond vehicle tracking or telematics. These cellphone blockers can be configured to block numerous phone capabilities, including texting while driving, taking photos and using applications. It can even block all incoming



and outgoing phone calls, except from numbers you specify (i.e. mom and dad). Like a plug-in or hardwired telematics system, cellphone blockers connect to the vehicle's telematics system. Along with blocking the most distracting functions of a phone, cellphone blockers also monitor and report speeding, driving habits and provide location identification.

For more information about the latest mobile electronic devices visit www.semaignited.com.

Save money when buying a car

(StatePoint) Play your cards right and you can save big when replacing your car. The key is knowing where there's real money on the table.

Here are five proven ways to maximize savings when purchasing a vehicle, according to the experts at Autotrader, the leading online marketplace for buying and selling cars.

• Target Mid-Level Models

Before pulling the trigger on the fully loaded model of a car, compare its price to the model line's base price. The loaded version could cost around 50 percent more than the stripped-down special.

You could probably buy the base model of a considerably nicer car for the same money. Target a mid-level specification of your chosen vehicle with meaningful upgrades.

• Consider CPO

Your heart may be set on a particular new car, but when did the current version of that car debut?

For example, the brand-new Honda Accord at your local Honda dealer will be a 2015 model, but the same platform, features and styling have been in use since 2013. You'll get essentially the same car if you buy a used 2013 or 2014 vehicle.

Plus, like Honda, most manufacturers' certified pre-owned (CPO) programs include full reconditioning by factory-trained technicians, along with a competitive warranty.

Consider purchasing lightly used models for thousands less than new. With a few exceptions, the CPO warranty makes it almost like buying new. Many brands even offer extras, such as a free satellite radio trial and free maintenance and roadside assistance.

If you're looking into CPO programs, consider such brands as Honda, Chevrolet, Ford, Kia and Lexus.

• Buy from Dealer Stock

Buying from dealer stock often requires flexibility, because you're choosing from what the dealer ordered, as opposed to ordering exactly what you want. But on the flip side, dealers have a strong incentive to move existing inventory.

For substantial savings, take a good look at available inventory among all the

nearby dealerships, and distant dealerships that offer long-distance delivery, to see if there's anything close to what you want.

• Pay Attention to Finance & Insurance

Finance & Insurance (F&I) is where dealers make a lot of their money. The key is to be a hard-nosed, well-informed shopper. Listen to what the

dealership has to offer, but be ready with a backup plan that includes your own financing options. Make sure you read all the fine print on any warranties offered. There

are good deals to be had, but it's also easy to be taken to the cleaners. Those with excellent credit may be offered factory rebates and 0 percent financing.