

MAXIMIZING RESALE VALUE

Summertime is the perfect time for car owners looking to upgrade their ride

Dealerships are often hot spots for deep discounts on both new and used cars.

But don't forget about sprucing up the one you'll be trading in. You can get more money out of your current car at transaction time if you make sure it's up to par.

Dealerships use resources like Kelley Blue Book or the National Automobile Dealers Association to calculate the worth of your car on the used market.

Obviously, factors such as age and make of your car are out of your control. Some models have great reputations for holding their value, while others may require expensive parts and extensive labor for repair.

While you may not be able to do much to change these dynamics, what you can impact is your car's condition. How you maintain your car over the course of ownership can make a big difference in how much money you can expect when the time comes to trade it in.

CLEANING TIPS

- Carry out a thorough cleaning inside and out every two weeks. This will help keep the interior fabric free of dirt that can fray its color. It also will save your exterior paint finish from being harmed by a buildup of pollutants.
- Fix dings promptly before they turn into rust spots. Just like any other maintenance, the quicker you take care of a small issue, the less likely it is that it will snowball into a massive one.
- Park far away from other cars or shopping carts. This will help you avoid dings or scratches that can require expensive fixes.
- Avoid smoking or eating in your car. Cigarette burns and food stains can drop your car's value in a hurry.
- Never neglect oil changes, which when done regularly can lengthen the life of your engine.



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