Mazda5 posts 'excellent' score in ratings

The Mazda5 microvan posted an "Excellent" score in Consumer Reports' ratings, as part of a test in the September issue that featured three different types of family movers. Although smaller than a standard minivan, it is ideal for families on a budget.

Also included was the Ford Flex EcoBoost three-row SUV and the redesigned Toyota Sienna minivan which posted "Excellent" and "Very Good" test scores, respectively. The Mazda5 previously earned a Top Pick designation in CR's Annual Auto Issue in the Family Hauler category.

It is versatile and relatively roomy, despite its modest size. It has sliding rear doors, a small third-row seat, and seating for up to six.

Consumer Reports opted to retest the '5 after it was upgraded for 2010, with electronic stability control.

While both the front-wheel-drive and all-wheel-drive versions of the Toyota Sienna posted "Very Good" test scores and it is a very good vehicle, it doesn't measure up to the previous model, which had been CR's top rated minivan for three years.

It is still roomy and efficient with a smooth ride, but a drop in interior fit and finish and quietness, among other things, contributed to an overall drop in score.

It now ranks below the top-rated Honda Odyssey and roughly on par with the Kia Sedona.

This is the second version of the Flex tested by Consumer Reports. This version is equipped with Ford's EcoBoost engine which is turbocharged with direct-fuel-injection technology to optimize performance and fuel economy.

The improvement boosted this version of the Flex to the top of the midsized three-row SUV category, below only the Toyota Highlander Hybrid, which was rated an "Excellent" road test score.

A new model, the Honda Accord Crosstour crossover model was also tested for this issue and posted a "Very Good" score. Like the Acura ZDX and BMW X6, the more affordable Accord Crosstour has a tall stance and all-wheel drive, but the coupe-ish design hurts visibility, rear access, and cargo space.

While the Mazda5 is Recommended, the Toyota Sienna and the Flex EcoBoost are too new for Consumer Reports to have reliability data.

—Metroland Newspapers
Carguide Magazine

Loyalty Can Be Costly

Shopping Around Still The Key To Saving On Car Insurance

How Much Is Your Loyalty Discount Really Worth?

If you're like most consumers, you worry that switching insurance companies means losing your "loyalty discount". The truth is that switching insurance companies may cause you to lose your loyalty discount (*if you had one in the first place*), but that doesn't necessarily mean you'll pay more for car insurance or that you can't save a bundle in the end. The fact is, some insurance companies may provide a small discount on your premium if you've been with them for a long time – but that small discount can quickly become irrelevant if another company has a rate for you that is significantly less than what you're currently paying. After all, what good is 5% off of an annual rate of $1,500 (a $75 savings) if you could pay $1,100 (a $400 savings) with another company?

How Much Do Rates Really Differ Across Companies?

The rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. And with so many insurance companies providing car insurance in Ontario, odds are you are not currently insured with the company that offers the best rate for your driving profile. This is where InsuranceHotline.com can help by providing an independent, unbiased rate comparison from over 30 top insurance companies to find you the lowest rate available for your profile. Even better, once your lowest rate is found, InsuranceHotline.com can connect you with a licensed insurance broker or agent to seal the deal. It's Fast, Safe and FREE.

Start Saving Your Money Now

InsuranceHotline.com helps you save your money by making insurance companies compete for your business. With free quotes from over 30 top insurance companies, InsuranceHotline.com is the simplest and easiest way to make sure you aren't overpaying for your car insurance. So don't wait another minute. Go online to InsuranceHotline.com and start saving your money now.

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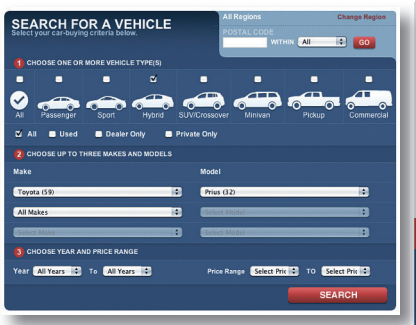
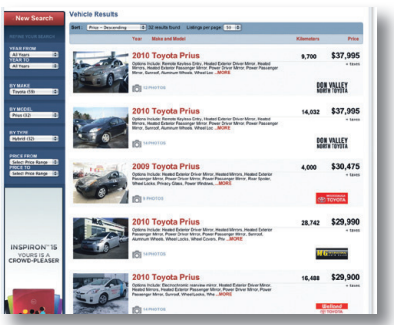
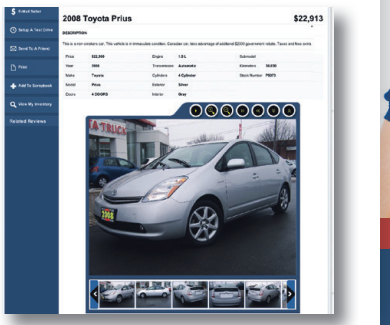
STEP 1
Search tens of thousands of vehicles.



STEP 2
Refine your search by proximity, makes, models, price and more.



STEP 3
Review detailed vehicle descriptions and 360° views of each vehicle.



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