

Car Care Corner

Give Your Car Or Truck The Makeover It And You Deserve

(NAPS)—Longing for the days when you felt good about driving your car, truck or SUV?

With the average new-car price over \$30,000, there are many reasons to hang on to the one you have. But maybe the one you have seems a bit too tired to keep.

What your car needs is a makeover.

A little nip-tuck, new shoes and a few shiny accessories can make your vehicle exciting again without breaking the bank. Consumers spend more than \$33 billion annually to personalize their vehicles, according to the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), the trade organization representing the automotive aftermarket industry.

"The possibilities are tremendous. You'd be amazed how just a few hundred dollars of accessories can completely change and enhance a vehicle's looks or performance," said Chris Kersting, SEMA president and CEO.

Here are a few things for a great vehicle makeover:

- 1) Wheels and Tires:** One of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to freshen up the look and improve the safety, comfort and performance of any vehicle is to get new "shoes"—a set of custom wheels and specialty/performance tires. There are literally thousands of combinations to choose from. Start at a local tire shop or specialty wheel store where they can tell you what fits your vehicle and budget, present some options and do the installation.
- 2) Mobile Electronics:** Another way to make your vehicle cool and more fun to drive is to install some modern mobile electronics. Today's selection of car audio equipment, navigation systems, backup cameras and more is broad and can fit a range of budgets. Plus, they can be installed on just about any vehicle and instantly make the drive more convenient.
- 3) LED Lighting:** Once the domain of clunky and inefficient incandescent bulbs, accessory lighting has moved to LED technology with nearly limitless applications. Fog lights, driving lights, work lights and even interior lights are now available in compact LED format, which uses less energy, emits less heat and can be many times brighter.
- 4) Running Boards:** If you're feeling like your truck or SUV has gotten taller since you've owned it, it probably means you're just a little less excited about climbing in and out of it. A set of running boards under the doors can make ingress and egress more comfortable and elegant. Don't like the look? There are running boards that can automatically extend and retract for a clean look and great functionality when needed.
- 5) Bed Organizers:** There's a lot of space in a pickup truck bed and not all of it is needed all the time. Bed organizers have roll-out drawers and load-carrying tops to keep cargo safe and organized.
- 6) Suspension Parts:** Like anything that happens gradually, springs and shocks often wear out almost imperceptibly, allowing for less control. A fresh set will get your ride feeling like new and help you drive safer. If you choose, you can even install upgraded models for better-than-new ride and handling.
- 7) Engine Performance:** There are several ways to make improvements to your engine. "Bolt-on" parts let your engine breathe easier for increased power and efficiency. If you're really serious, you may want to consider having a supercharger installed to increase horsepower significantly. There are kits for many popular cars and trucks, especially V-8s.
- 8) Restyling:** Improving your vehicle's looks goes beyond custom wheels. There are plenty of companies that make cosmetic body kits that, when properly installed, can make your vehicle look sportier or more aggressive.
- 9) Wraps:** If the paint on your car is worn out, consider getting it wrapped. Several companies offer hundreds of color and pattern options that are a good alternative to having your car resprayed. The best thing is, they're durable, removable and affordable, so you can change them as often as you like.
- 10) Car Care:** You'd be amazed at how much you can improve and protect the appearance of your vehicle with a good, old-fashioned deep cleaning and polishing. Automotive cleaners, soaps and waxes are available for all surfaces and materials and can be purchased at auto parts stores nationwide. "It never ceases to amaze me how innovative this industry is," said Kersting. "If you can think of a product you'd like to have, it's likely available. Visit your local auto custom retailer or go online to find the products you want. And if it's not available now, it soon will be!"



Your old vehicle can look better than new with just a few touch-ups and accessories.

Transportation

Pre-owned

1994 ACURA Legend: 4 door, leather, CD/ stereo, 6 cylinder power, regular service and smooth. 173K miles. \$2500. (210)488-8293. INDIVIDUAL

2009 BMW 335i: sports package, automatic, 63K, leather interior, mint condition, very clean, \$11,900. (512)767-8044. INDIVIDUAL

2008 BMW 535i: navigation, premium, automatic, fully loaded, very good condition, smooth, 121K, \$7700. (512)767-8044. INDIVIDUAL

2006 BMW 325i: one owner, flawless, 124K, cold a/c, runs perfectly, power features, \$5900. (512)577-7627.

2008 BMW 328i: Navigation. Excellent condition. 109K miles. Power seats. Sunroof. \$7990. (512)797-7903.

2003 BMW 525i: one owner, flawless leather, sunroof, power features, 119K, no issues, \$4950. (512)577-7627.

2005 CADILLAC CTS: silver, loaded, leather, sunroof, fog lights, keyless entry, 98K miles, \$4400. (512)577-7627.

2008 CADILLAC CTS: Fully loaded. 129K miles. One owner. Navigation. Bose surround system. \$9990. (512)797-7903.

2002 ACURA RSX: Type S. Good condition! \$5300. (512)368-1996. INDIVIDUAL

2010 ACURATSX Tech, sunroof, leather, automatic, \$11,800. Hablo Espanol. (512)808-3020.

2006 ALTIMA: Special Edition. V6, auto, cold a/c, very clean. \$4500. (512)769-6008.

CASH FOR cars, any make/ model, 1999- 2014. (512)923-4919.

2014 CHEVROLET Cruze LS: automatic, all power, 1 owner, super clean, 39K miles, \$10,995. (210)237-3044.

2010 CHRYSLER 300: Touring, navigation, fully loaded, 29K miles, V-6 3.5L, mint condition! \$9995. (512)767-8044. INDIVIDUAL

2007 DODGE Caliber: really good car, works great, 76K miles, automatic, \$3800. (512)748-8460. INDIVIDUAL

2004 CHEVY Cavalier: 2 door, 5 speed, \$1995. (512)923-4919.

2010 CHEVROLET Camaro 1LT: 75K, power features, \$16,900. Hablo Espanol. (512)808-3020.

2005 CHEVROLET Impala. Good condition. \$4300. (830)629-4042. INDIVIDUAL

1997 FORD E350: club wagon, 10 passenger, V8, auto, cold dual a/c, 85K. Texas State University, San Marcos owned. \$4500. (512)769-6008.

2010 NISSAN Xterra Off-road: 4wd, beautiful SUV, one owner. 158K. Looks and drives like new. Fully loaded. \$9,500. (512)650-0989. INDIVIDUAL

2004 GMC Yukon: really good truck, works great, white, 8 cylinder automatic, \$3800. (512)748-8460. INDIVIDUAL

2001 HONDA Civic: 157K, a/c works perfectly, 4 cylinders. \$2800. Hablo Espanol! (512)792-1413.

2015 HONDA Civic LX: great gas mileage, only 15K, 4 cylinder, \$16,900. Hablo Espanol. (512)808-3020.

2008 HYUNDAI Accent sedan: 82000 miles automatic, MP3/ Aux, new battery, 4 door, \$4,900. (512)767-5591.

2006 HYUNDAI Sonata: really good car, 122K miles, grey, automatic, 4 cylinder, \$3800. (512)748-8460. INDIVIDUAL

2011 HYUNDAI Sonata GLS: 115K miles, automatic, 4 cylinder, power, cold a/c. \$5950 obo. (512)701-1592.

2009 IMPALA: Everything works! Silver. Automatic. \$3800. (512)243-1856. INDIVIDUAL

2009 INFINITI G37: very clean, leather, navigation, sunroof, 84K, \$13,800. Hablo Espanol. (512)808-3020.

2007 INFINITI M35: fully loaded, navigation, 80K, leather interior, mint condition, super clean! \$9900. (512)767-8044. INDIVIDUAL

2011 KIA Soul. Alien green, automatic, great gas mileage, sunroof, \$10,900. Hablo Espanol. (512)808-3020.

2010 MAZDA 5: No mechanical issues, just passed inspection! 117K, 4 cylinders, ac, \$6000. (512)792-1413. INDIVIDUAL

2003 NISSAN Altima 2.5SL: Automatic, leather, CD Bose. Fully loaded, 4 door. \$4,400. (512)767-5591.

2008 NISSAN Altima: white coupe, all power, 59K, super clean, 6 cylinder, automatic, \$9500. (210)237-3044.

2004 NISSAN Armada: really good truck, works great, automatic, \$4800. Se hablo Espanol. (512)748-8460. INDIVIDUAL

2004 NISSAN Quest: 93K, leather edition, V-6, auto, cold a/c, excellent rubber, 7 passenger. \$5995. (512)769-6008.

2012 NISSAN Rogue S: very clean, leather, sunroof, 73K miles, \$11,899. Hablo Espanol. (512)808-3020.

2012 NISSAN Versa: works great, grey, 4 cylinder, automatic, \$4600. Se hablo Espanol. (512)748-8460. INDIVIDUAL

2010 FORD Focus SE: 70K miles. Automatic, power, cold a/c, good tires. \$6200 obo. (512)701-1592.

2004 HONDA Accord EX: 143000 miles 4 door, 5 speed, loaded, new tires, \$4,900. (512)767-5591.

2005 HONDA Civic LX: 152000 miles automatic, coupe, cold a/c, 2 door, \$4,500. (512)767-5591.

2012 KIA Forte EX: 87K miles. Automatic, 2.0L engine, power. \$6200 obo. (512)701-1592.

2009 KIA Optima LX: 73K miles. Manual, 4 cylinder, power, cold a/c. \$4200 obo. (512)701-1592.

2006 NISSAN Altima 2.5S: 113000 miles automatic, cold a/c, CD, single owner, \$5,500. (512)767-5591.

2002 NISSAN Quest: 6 cylinder, 158K miles, automatic. \$4150. (512)701-0269.

2012 NISSAN Versa SV: 69K miles, automatic, 4 cylinder, power, cold a/c. \$6350 obo. (512)701-1592.

2007 KIA Rio: \$8995. (512)646-0911.

2005 MONTE Carlo LT: \$9995. (512)646-0911.

2008 NISSAN Altima: \$9995. (512)646-0911.

2005 NISSAN Maxima: \$9995. (512)646-0911.



\$100- \$1000 paid for junk, scrap, wrecked cars and trucks. Towing included! Any year, make, model. (512)646-1721.

2007 TOYOTA Camry: flawless, 2 owners, no accidents, cold a/c, runs great, 177K, \$5800. (512)577-7627.

2003 VOLKSWAGEN Jetta: 2.0 engine, 185K, manual transmission, runs/ works good, \$2300. Hablo Espanol! (512)792-1413.

2008 VOLKSWAGEN Jetta GLS: automatic, all power, leather seats, sunroof, super clean, 104K, \$5995. (210)237-3044.

2009 VOLKSWAGEN Passat GLS: automatic, all power, runs great, super clean, 94K miles, \$6995. (210)237-3044.

2012 VOLKSWAGEN Passat SEL: all power, fully loaded, super clean, 71K miles, automatic, \$12,500. (210)237-3044.

2007 VOLKSWAGEN Rabbit MK5: 5 speed, fantastic car, well-maintained, 5 cylinder, \$5500. Text (512)750-0719. INDIVIDUAL

2008 VOLVO S40: 106000 miles 2.4l, automatic, sunroof, alloy wheels, power windows. \$6,500. (512)767-5591.

2012 VOLKSWAGEN Beetle: 2.0 Turbo, 36K! drives clean, \$13,900. Hablo Espanol. (512)808-3020.

Caution:
Outgrown clothing can lead to overgrown wallets.

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