



Marin County Civic Center • 3501 Civic Center Drive, #427
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Buying a Car: Resources at the Civic Center Library



➤ *Where can I find listings of cars for sale?*

The Civic Center Library keeps the classified ads of the following newspapers at the Reference Desk. Classified ads for these newspapers are also available online.

- *Marin Independent Journal*: <http://www.marinij.com/>
See also Marin Motorway: <http://motorway.insidebayarea.com/>
- *Press Democrat*: <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/>
- *Oakland Tribune*: <http://www.insidebayarea.com/cars>
- *San Francisco Chronicle*: <http://www.sfgate.com/cars>

S.F. Bay Area Craigslist: Cars and Trucks

<http://sfbay.craigslist.org/car/>

The classified ad website Craigslist provides listings of cars for sale in the San Francisco Bay Area. Posting to Craigslist is free, and new listings appear daily.

Yahoo! Shopping: Automotive

http://dir.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Shopping_and_Services/Automotive/

Yahoo!'s subject directory features a list of automotive-related websites for shoppers. Categories include buyers' services for used vehicles, dealers, collectibles, and financing.



- *Where can I find price information, and ratings of new and used cars?*

Books and Magazines

[Car and Driver](#)

This magazine contains profiles of new cars, comparison tests, and feature articles.
Magazine Area: Library owns from 1970 to the present

[The Car Book](#) Gillis, Jack. Center for Auto Safety.

This annual publication ranks the latest automobiles “in terms of warranty, safety, fuel economy, complaint ratings, and price range.” It is published by the Center for Auto Safety, an advocacy organization founded in 1970 by Ralph Nader and Consumers Union. Consumer Area: R 629.222. Library owns from 1990 to the present

[Consumer Reports](#) [April issues]

Published by Consumers Union, a nonprofit research organization, this magazine features reports and ratings of foods, drugs, electronics, household items, and other products. April issues are devoted to automobiles, featuring vehicle ratings and reviews, articles on trends in the automotive industry, and lists of the best and worst new and used cars. Consumer Area: Library owns from 1967 to the present

[Kelley Blue Book](#)

The Blue Books are the standard guides for determining new- and used-car values. The guides provide original retail prices, wholesale and retail values, and charts for calculating how additional equipment features and mileage impact the worth of the vehicle. The library owns various editions of the *Blue Books*, mostly dating back 10 years. Ask at the Reference Desk for assistance.

- The Blue Books are also available online at <http://www.kbb.com/>

[New Cars & Trucks Buyer's Guide](#) Edmunds.com.

This guide reviews the latest cars and trucks “sold in the United States with a base price under \$100,000” (quote from 2006 edition). Information for each car includes editor and consumer ratings and comments, MSRPs (manufacturers’ suggested retail price), specifications, and safety features. The guide also features a list of the editors’ most highly rated cars for the year, and tips on finding and buying the right car. Much of the content in this resource is also available on Edmund’s website at www.edmunds.com.
Consumer Area

For additional materials, search the MARINet catalog <http://marinet.lib.ca.us/> under the following subjects:

- [Automobiles – purchasing](#)
- [Trucks – purchasing](#)
- [Used cars](#)



Databases

[InfoTrac Magazines](#)

This database contains full-text articles for over 5,000 magazines, including *Consumer Reports*, *AutoWeek*, *Automotive News*, and *Motor Age*. The database is available in the library, and articles may be printed at no charge. It is also accessible from home with a MARINet library card. For more information on home access, check our website at <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/LB/main/authentication.cfm>.



Websites

Car Buying Tips

<http://www.carbuyingtips.com>

This website provides tips on “car buying, leasing, and avoiding dealer scams.” It also discusses the advantages of shopping online, and includes a list of recommended websites that provide free quotes on new cars.

Facts for Consumers: Buying a Used Car

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/autos/usedcar.htm>

This website from the Federal Trade Commission features tips on buying a used car, including information on payment options, warranties, service contracts, dealing with problems, and other topics.

Fuel Economy

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/>

Designed to “help car buyers choose the most fuel-efficient vehicle that meets their needs,” this website from the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lists the annual fuel cost, amount of greenhouse emissions, and MPG (miles per gallon) data for automobiles dating back to 1985.

- Consumer Area R 629.253. Library owns the print edition of the [Fuel Economy Guide](#) from 2000 to the present

Green Vehicle Guide

<http://www.epa.gov/emissweb/>

This guide from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency “gives information about the environmental performance of vehicles” dating from 2000 to the present. It also features a FAQ on green vehicles, emission standards, and related information.

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety/ Highway Loss Data Institute

<http://www.iihs.org/ratings/>

The website of this nonprofit research organization includes safety ratings of current vehicles “based on performance in high-speed front and side crash tests plus evaluations of seat/head restraints for protection against neck injuries in rear impacts.”

Keys to Vehicle Leasing

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/leasing/>

This website from the Federal Reserve Board contains information on vehicle leasing. It discusses how leasing is different from buying, and offers tips on negotiating terms and comparing offers. It also includes a sample leasing form, and a glossary of leasing terms.

Recalls.gov

<http://www.recalls.gov/nhtsa.html>

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration provides “recall information including vehicle and equipment campaigns from 1966 to present. The campaigns include motor vehicle products which experienced a safety-related defect or did not comply with federal motor vehicle safety standards.”



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