



# CONSUMER RESOURCES

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## AUTOMOTIVE

**Car and Driver** <http://www.caranddriver.com/>

The site contains a buyer's guide for autos manufactured in the last two years and can be searched by manufacturer, vehicle type, price range and more.

**Car Talk** <http://www.cartalk.com/content/car-info>

Hosted by the popular National Public Radio show, this site has a wealth of information about buying, selling, and repairing your car.

**Fuel Economy** <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/>

This is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency site, which allows you to compare gas mileage, greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution ratings, and safety information for new and used cars and trucks. There are also gas mileage tips, links to other auto sites, and safety information.

**Gas Buddy** <http://www.gasbuddy.com/>

Tracks and charts gas prices across the U.S. and Canada. The Trip Cost Calculator is especially useful.

**Insurance Institute for Highway Safety** <http://www.iihs.org/>

You can find information on accident facts, state and highway laws, crash test results, and news releases about safety for cars, drivers, and pedestrians.

**NADA Guides** <http://www.nadaguides.com/>

A place to find values and other resources for used cars, classic cars, motorcycles, boats, recreational vehicles, and manufactured homes.

## CHARITIES

**Charity Navigator** <http://charitynavigator.org/>

This organization is one of the America's largest independent charity evaluators. You can find up to date information on over 5000 of the country's largest charities

**Charity Watch** <http://charitywatch.org/>

This non-profit charity watchdog group tracks 600 charities. You can see the list of their top-rated charities and receive tips for making donations. There is a donation requirement of \$50.00 in order to receive a copy of their *Charity Rating Guide and Watchdog Report*.

**IRS** <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p526/ar01.html>

The Internal Revenue Service provides the information you need on deductible contributions such as when and what you may deduct, limits on deductions, what records to keep, and how to report your deduction with Publication 526.

## **CONSUMER INFORMATION**

**Consumers Union** <http://www.consumersunion.org/>

The non-profit Consumer Reports publisher maintains this website. Find general consumer information through their search engine or get involved with their consumer campaigns.

**Consumer Search** [www.consumersearch.com](http://www.consumersearch.com)

This site distills reviews from several sources to provide bottom-line information, and guidance on a wide range of product categories.

**Consumer World** <http://consumerworld.org/>

Browse this website for shopping tips, information on consumer agencies, news, and resources to keep you informed. Also, the site offers a price checker feature which compares prices across several stores.

**Greener Choices** <http://www.greenerchoices.org/>

The non-profit Consumer Reports Publications maintains this site to help consumers make more environmentally friendly product choices. There are pages of advice on autos, appliances, home & garden, electronics and food. The site also contains up-to date articles on recycling, chemical alerts, understanding product labels and more.

**Household Products Database** <http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/index.htm>

Learn more about the health and safety of products in and around your home. The site allows you to search by product type, name, manufacturer, or ingredient, and provides information about what is in these products, their potential health effects, safety, and handling.

## **CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**Better Business Bureau** <http://www.bbb.org/>

This website will help you locate your local better business bureau, get helpful consumer tips, learn how to make informed charitable contributions and more.

**Consumer Action Website** <http://www.usa.gov/topics/consumer.shtml>

Find out how and where to file a complaint letter or read helpful consumer tips on an array of popular topics, such as identity theft and how to be a smart consumer.

**Federal Communications Commission**

<http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/consumer-publications-library>

Discover the answers to frequently asked question or file complaints regarding Internet service, satellite dishes, cell phones, and cable and radio broadcasting.

**National Do Not Call Registry** <https://donotcall.gov/>

Stop telemarketers from calling your home by registering your telephone number on the National Do Not Call Registry.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

**Bankrate Monitor** <http://www.bankrate.com/>

Find and compare rates among larger banks for mortgages, auto loans, home equity loans, savings, college finance, credit cards, and checking accounts. Also, provides a variety of calculators to help plan monthly budgets.

**Credit Reports** <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action>

Consumers are entitled to a free annual credit report from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion once every 12 months. To obtain your free credit report, visit this central site.

**Federal Reserve Board** <http://federalreserve.gov/consumerinfo/default.htm>

Find a wealth of information on this site about banking accounts, identity theft, leasing, mortgages, consumer credit, and personal finance.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

**Buying Drugs On-line** <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ProtectYourself/default.htm>

Protect yourself with these resources from the Food and Drug Administration. The site offers tips for buying medicines and medical devices online safely and how to report suspicious web sites or products. Also, the site provides a list of recent recalls and alerts.

**Food Safety Issues** <http://www.foodsafety.gov/>

This "Gateway to Government Food Safety Information" lets you find the latest information on food recalls and other food related safety issues. The site has links for Recalls & Alerts, Keep Food Safe, Food Poisoning, News & Features, and much more.

## IDENTITY THEFT / FRAUD

### Federal Trade Commission

<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft>

This website is a one-stop national resource to learn about identity theft. It provides detailed information to help consumers “deter, detect, and defend” against the crime of identity theft.

### Identity Theft Resource Center <http://idtheftcenter.org/>

This non-profit organization’s website has links to victim and consumer resources, scam alerts, and current laws all in the effort to help you deal with identity theft. There is also a section for teens alerting them to the dangers of identity theft.

### Recalls/Scams <http://recalls.gov/>

The Federal Citizen Information Center lists the items most recently recalled by the federal government and industries.

### National Fraud Information Center <http://fraud.org/>

From elder fraud to scams on businesses, this website provides tips, statistics and complaint forms for consumers.

## Looking in the Library?

Automobile Buying Guides	629.22		
Consumer Reports	Reference Section-640.73		
Credit Information	332.024		
Drug/Medical Information	615.058		
Identity theft	332.024	364.163	362.88
Fraud Issues	640.73		
NADA Guides	Reference Section		
	Marine Guide-623.820-623.8202		
	Recreational Vehicle-381.45		