

USED CARS: THE MOST RELIABLE MODELS & THE ONES TO AVOID

BEST OF THE BEST These are the top used sedans, wagons, and SUVs available in four different price ranges. Each performed well in our testing when they were new and have been consistently reliable over time. All of them come with standard Electronic

Stability Control (ESC) during the model years listed. **WORST OF THE WORST** These are used-cars that have had multiple years of much-worse-than-average reliability among the 2003-2012 models. All of the vehicles are listed alphabetically.

Best of the Best Less than \$10,000

>SMALL CARS

Pontiac Vibe 2009

This sensible wagon's 2009 redesign brought standard ESC and stronger, more fuel-efficient engines. A twin of the Toyota Matrix, it has a flat load floor. Pontiac's demise means you can find the Vibe at a cheap price.

>SEDANS

Hyundai Sonata (4-cyl.)

2008 and Acura TSX 2004 The economical and efficient Sonata has a decent ride, secure handling, and a four-cylinder that returned 23 mpg overall. The

TSX is a more upscale and sportier alternative.

>SUVs

Toyota RAV4 (4-cyl.)

2004 The RAV4 was redesigned in 2001, but it wasn't until 2004 that it got standard antilock brakes and ESC. It has nimble handling, good brakes, easy cabin access, and a strong engine. 21 mpg overall is decent for an AWD SUV.

\$10,000-\$15,000

>SMALL CARS

Honda Fit 2011 and Mazda3 2011

The Fit is an excellent choice among hatchbacks. It has amazing space

utilization; responsive, agile handling; and an efficient four-cylinder that returns 30 mpg overall with an automatic transmission. For a bit more refinement, look for a Mazda3 hatchback or sedan.

>SEDANS

Honda Accord (V6)

2006-07 and Acura TL 2005-06

An excellent choice among used cars, the Accord's smooth V6 is economical and strong, the ride is comfortable and compliant, and reliability is excellent. The four-cylinder version is nice but didn't get ESC until 2008. A more luxurious option is the Acura TL.

>SMALL SUVs

Toyota RAV4 (4-cyl.)

2006-08 and Honda CR-V 2005-07

The 2006 RAV4 gained more interior room, a V6, and an optional third-row seat. The four-cylinder has nimble handling, very good 23 mpg overall, and a versatile cabin. The CR-V is a sportier, if somewhat noisier, alternative.

>MIDSIZE/LARGE SUVs

Toyota Highlander (V6)



Honda Fit 2011

2004-07 and Infiniti FX 2003-04

The Highlander is quiet and comfortable. We got 19 mpg overall with the V6. The interior is roomy and the controls are easy to use. A third-row seat was optional and a hybrid version was added in 2006. The Infiniti FX is a sportier two-row alternative.

\$15,000-\$20,00

>SMALL CARS

Toyota Prius 2010-11 and Hyundai Elantra (sedan) 2011-12

At 44 mpg overall, the Prius delivers the best gas mileage of any non-plug-in, five-passenger vehicle. The 2010 redesign brought more room, better brakes, and sound but not agile handling. For a more enjoyable driving experience, look for a Hyundai Elantra sedan.

>SEDANS

Toyota Camry (4-cyl.) 2010-12 and Infiniti M 2006-07

Expect impressive 26 to 27 mpg overall with the four-cylinder Camry in addition to a roomy cabin and superb reliability. If a powerful engine and luxurious interior move you, opt for the Infiniti M V6.

>SUVs

Honda Pilot 2007-08 and Mazda CX-9 2009

The Pilot combines a roomy cabin, good driving dynamics, seating for eight, and respectable fuel economy in a package that isn't too big to fit in your garage. But road noise is a bit pronounced. The CX-9 is more agile and has a roomier third-row seat.

\$20,000-\$25,000

>SEDANS

BMW 328i 2009, Infiniti G 2009, and Toyota Avalon 2010

The 3 Series combines agile handling, a taut ride, good brakes, and powerful six-cylinder engines in a comfortable, if slightly snug, interior. The Infiniti G is a similarly sporty alternative. Look for the Toyota Avalon if you want a roomy interior and lots of comfort.

>SUVs

Acura MDX 2007-08 and Lexus RX 2008

The Acura MDX is a well-rounded, family-friendly SUV. It has a strong and refined V6 powertrain that gets 17 mpg overall, a firm but pleasant ride, a well-appointed cabin, comfortable front seats, and a third-row seat. The Lexus RX is a smaller two-row option that's quieter inside.



Acura MDX 2007

Worst of the Worst

BMW 7 Series
 BMW X5 (6-cyl.)
 Chevrolet Uplander
 Chrysler PT Cruiser
 Chrysler Town & Country
 Dodge Caravan

Dodge Grand Caravan
 Dodge Journey
 Dodge Ram 2500 (diesel)
 Ford Explorer (V6, 4WD)
 Ford F-250 (diesel)
 GMC Acadia
 Jeep Wrangler (4-door)

Kia Sorento (V6)
 Mercedes-Benz GL-Class
 Mini Cooper S
 Nissan Armada
 Saturn Outlook
 Saturn Relay
 Volkswagen Touareg

Copyright of Consumer Reports Buying Guide is the property of Consumers Union and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.