

First Choice Auto Detail Newsletter

A Newsletter for drivers who care about their vehicles

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Increasing gas prices leads search for alternative to oil dependency

There are a few options. First option is buying a hybrid vehicle. Hybrid vehicles use a regular internal combustion engine with an electric motor to aid in running the vehicle.

This does improve gas mileage in most vehicles but you still have to pay for gas.

The benefit of Hybrids is that the gas you purchase lasts longer. In some cars the additional price of the vehicle doesn't equal the amount you save on purchasing gas. For example the Lexus RX 350 costs on average of \$40,000 to

\$43,000 whereas the Lexus RX 350 Hybrid will cost you \$55,000-\$60,000. The incremental difference of \$15,000 indicates that you would have to own the vehicle for 8 or more years to see the actual savings. When you consider the average person upgrades to a new car every 3-4 years, going with the Hybrid option means keeping that vehicle for a long time. This is a quick fix to a growing oil

dependency problem. The second choice is a vehicle that runs off of E85. E85 is 85% Ethanol which is made from corn and sugar cane as well as

15% gasoline. The advantages to this kind of vehicle are that they burn the fuel cleaner than their E85 inept counterparts. E85 significantly reduces our dependence on oil. The fuel economy that is lost because E85 burns faster is made up by E85's improvement in performance and the decrease in price per gallon. E85 is on

average .60 cents less than regular unleaded gas and much less in states with high corn production. Because most car makers are including the E85 option in all newer cars the only issue for E85 makers will be meeting demands. In Central Texas, stores that plan on carrying it are HEB and Walmart. Some states including Oregon, will make it mandatory that all gas stations carry E85 in the next year. ■



Owner's Sidebar

Have your vehicles had a Carnauba hand wax?

Waxing protects your vehicles from the heat. Prolonged exposure results in oxidation, fading as well as peeling in the clear coat or paint. We advocate that vehicles on average be waxed every 3 months depending on the color and how often they are washed. Because wax deepens the color, show vehicles are often layered with up to 20 coats.

If you would like a particular topic addressed, feel free to email me.

Dan Tavernier

Preventive ways to maintain a boat clean boat this Summer

It's important to dry your boat off when you pull it out of the water or when you get home. We recommend purchasing a bottle of Ducky to remove water spots that don't come off. Make sure to keep a good wax on the outside and vacuum out any leaves or dirt that get tracked into your boat. Wipe down all the seats to clean any dark smudges and any lotion that accumulated on the seats. Purchase a bottle of vinyl conditioner to apply on the seats and all vinyl. This will prevent the vinyl from drying and cracking. ■



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