



JUNE 2010
Newsletter

AT A GLANCE

U.S. Improving in
Auto Quality

Exceeding Goals

Distracted Driving

Green Tips of the
Month

U.S. Improving in Auto Quality

The results of the 2010 JD Power & Associates Initial Quality rankings held quite a few surprises this year. For the US, Ford held the lead with 12 models in the top 3 of their respective segments, while GM received the same honor for 10 of their models. For the first time since this report began 24 years ago, Ford made its way into the top 5.

Rounding out the top were Porsche, stealing the top spot from Lexus, and Acura, who took a dramatic leap from the 14th spot to the 2nd. Although Toyota's luxury line, Lexus, took 4th overall, Toyota tumbled from 6th place to 21st reflecting a turbulent year of recalls. Despite a challenging year, Chrysler saw improvements with its nameplate moving from 31st place to 23rd, Jeep moving up 6 places to 27th, and Dodge holding at 28th.

Trailing behind? Land Rover, Mini Cooper & Mitsubishi.

The report is based on more than 82,000 purchasers and lessees of 2010 vehicles within the first 90 days of ownership. Consumers are polled on 228 possible problems, including malfunctions and design issues.

Exceeding Goals

In our last newsletter, we reached out and asked for your support in helping us raise money for Walk MS 2010. Our goal at that time was to raise \$5,000 in donations to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in support of one of our own who was diagnosed with MS in 2009.

The outpouring of support and stories was unbelievable! Thanks to our amazing network of friends, family, & partners we were able to raise over \$11,000.



Thank you for your donations, your stories, and most of all... your support!

Distracted Driving

From Automotive Fleet Top News June 18, 2010

States are aggressively pursuing solutions to distracted driving, according to a new report from the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA). According to their report "Curbing Distracted Driving: 2010 Survey of State Safety Programs," there are numerous methods states are implementing. Among these solutions are stronger laws, increased data collection, new education programs, public/private partnerships, and a growing reliance on new media to spread the message.

- 28 states, Washington D.C., & Guam now ban text messaging by all drivers.
- 35 states are working with other state agencies and private employers to address distracted driving.
- 37 states and D.C. have public information/education campaigns to warn about the dangers of distracted driving.

Additional information on this study, and on GHSA, is available at www.ghsa.org.

Green Tips of the Month

From Ideal Bite

5 Easy Green Tips!

1. Use safe bottles. Many baby and adult water bottles are made from a plastic that contains the toxin bisphenol A (BPA). Opt for BPA-free water bottles to avoid toxins in the body and in the environment.
2. Turn off water while brushing. Turning off the water between rinses can save at least two gallons in one brushing session.
3. Pay bills on-line. It's usually free, and you'll never miss another payment. If all U.S. households viewed and paid bills electronically, we'd save 18.5 million trees and 15.8 billion gallons of water per year. Plus, save up to \$148 per year on stamps.
4. Zap phantom loads. 40% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while they're turned off. Plug devices into power strips and switch off each night.
5. Drive efficiently. At 45mph and above, save gas by rolling up your windows and cranking the AC.

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