



Re-Think the Value of your Old Vehicle

Did you know that there were over 12 million new vehicles sold last year in North America? That number is actually down from a record 17 million from a few years earlier. Over time these millions of new cars become millions of old cars and will be in need of responsible disposal. Years ago old vehicles were left to sit and deteriorate... today many automobile recycling enterprises realize their value, and the value of playing a proactive role in protecting the environment.

The role of a certified, professional automobile recycler like **Parts U Pick** is quite complex. When a vehicle enters our environment, it is thoroughly evaluated and key serviceable parts are removed, tested, and placed back on the market for sale. Parts such as engines, transmissions, and even body parts are made available for purchase by body shops, garages, car dealers and price-savvy mechanics. The impact that an automobile recycler can have on saving resources and energy is staggering! Instead of using new materials and the cost of producing and shipping new parts, a viable serviceable used part is put back on the road again.

Even after the feasible parts are used, the rest of the vehicle still has significant value. Bodies are crushed, shredded and sorted into different materials. Currently in North America, over 75% of an automobile is easily recycled. In Europe and Japan green advocates are pressing the automobile industry to realize 95% recyclability.

70% of a late model vehicle's weight is made up of steel and cast iron, and more than 40% of all new steel in North America comes from this recycled metal. Lighter metals such as aluminum, copper, zinc and magnesium make up a much smaller percentage of a vehicle's total weight but are still a significant volume. Consider this: it is more cost-effective to recycle aluminum than it is to mine the ore and produce new aluminum. Not only is it environmentally responsible, it requires much less electrical energy.

About 24% of a vehicle becomes "automotive shredder residue" (ASR), which includes materials such as plastics, adhesives, rubber, glass, dirt and foam. Current automotive manufacturing initiatives favour the use of more plastics to reduce vehicle weight and increase fuel economy. Parts made with rubber can be separated out and re-used in a different form. For instance, some automobile manufacturers now make engine gaskets out of shredded tires. Materials such as glues, resins and foams may not be as easily recycled, but they may be used as fuel sources to power recycling facilities. Scientists are continuously working to discover new and innovative uses of these and other vehicle materials.

So there is ever-increasing value in retired vehicles realized by the Certified Automobile Recycler in your community. If you opt to choose recycled parts for your vehicles, we applaud your commitment to the environment.