Let's debunk some of the myths about diesel powered vehicles.

1. Diesel Burns Dirty

This was true years ago. Since 2006, however,

U.S. diesel vehicles have been required by

law to use ultra-low-sulfur diesel or USLD. Modern diesels are soot-free and have a smaller carbon footprint.



Matt Vail

2. Diesels Are Sluggish

Not any more. They are as fast off the line as similar gasoline-powered cars. If your idea of fun is to spend an afternoon test-driving new cars, go take a spin in a diesel BMW or Porsche.

3. Diesels Are Loud

Back in the day, you could hear a diesel motor from a mile away. Today's diesels run quiet.

4. Diesels Have a Bad Resale Value

Actually, diesel vehicles have a lower depreciation rate.

Another often-overlooked benefit is lower risk of fire. Diesel fuel is less flammable and won't explode like gasoline.

Diesel engines require parts that are heavier and stronger. At Vail's Automotive, we occasionally service diesel cars and trucks with over 300,000 miles/500,000 kilometers. The heavy-duty parts make diesel vehicles a little more expensive new, but due to the extra burliness, diesel engines last a lot longer. This is one of the reasons Cummins diesels inspire such a loyal following.

Cons? Cold weather starting. Diesel engines can be hard to fire up when the temperature drops. However, an engine block heater can solve this problem. Talk to your friendly and knowledgeable Vail's Automotive service advisor for more information.

If you are in the market for a new vehicle that's easy on fuel, you might want to explore your diesel options. You'll save money and may qualify for a tax credit if you buy a clean diesel vehicle. Of course, diesels require regular maintenance like any other vehicle and the services are usually a little more costly due to the nature of the engines. But the extra cost is offset by the better fuel economy and longer engine life.

Bottom line? The diesel vehicles on roads today are not your grandfather's diesel.



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