

**The Good Guide**

INTRO

# How to choose the safest, most eco-friendly car

**Want to find the safest, most eco-friendly and energy-efficient cars for sale in New Zealand? The Rightcar website at [rightcar.govt.nz](http://rightcar.govt.nz) makes it easy**

**O**ur cars make a big difference to our finances, road safety, air pollution and climate change. More cars than ever have great eco credentials and serious safety features—but how on earth do you decide which is the right car for you?

New Zealand has over 3.8 million registered vehicles and transport accounts for 44 percent of our national energy consumption. For a small country, we emit an awful lot of greenhouse gases, placing us in the top 25 percent of emitters in OECD countries. We also have a horrifying road toll: there are around 400 deaths on our roads every year. We could make a change to these statistics by moving to safer, fuel-sipping vehicles and becoming more responsible drivers.

The smaller and lighter your vehicle, the better its fuel efficiency. Today's compact cars are cleverly designed to make the most of their interior space and provide a comfortable driving experience. Safety features to look for when buying a vehicle include an anti-lock

braking system (EBS), electronic stability control (ESC), safety belt reminders and air bags—front, back and, in newer cars, sides.

While most vehicles in New Zealand's fleet run on non-renewable fossil fuels—petrol and diesel—biofuel blends are now available at Gull petrol stations. Car manufacturers are using new technology to make diesel and petrol engines more efficient, and there's a growing range of hybrid cars on the market that switch between electric battery power and conventional fuel. The way you drive and maintain your vehicle can also save you a lot of fuel—and the less fuel you use, the more money in your pocket. For tips on making your petrol dollars go further visit [fuelsaver.govt.nz](http://fuelsaver.govt.nz).

In future our vehicles probably won't rely on fossil fuels, but until then we need to select the best cars available—and that's where the New Zealand Transport Authority's Rightcar website ([rightcar.govt.nz](http://rightcar.govt.nz)) can help.

Rightcar uses a six-star rating system to compare vehicles over five categories: fuel

economy, driver safety, others' safety, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and air pollution. The star ratings identify the best (those with the most stars), the worst and the average performers.

A simple three-step process allows you to select vehicles and see how well they perform in each category. First, search for a vehicle—your own, or one you're considering buying—by entering the make and model or simply the number plate. Having found your vehicle you can then select others for comparison.

If you're buying a new car in 2010, all you need to do to make sure it's not a gas guzzling, toxic nightmare or a coffin on wheels is to hop online and check it out at [www.rightcar.govt.nz](http://www.rightcar.govt.nz). Over the next few pages we have manufacturers talking about their cars and their results from [rightcar.govt.nz](http://rightcar.govt.nz)—maybe you'll find the perfect car for you.

**For more information about Rightcar, go to [www.rightcar.govt.nz](http://www.rightcar.govt.nz)**



## RIGHTCAR'S TOP 10 TIPS

What to look for when buying a new car:

- 1** A better than average rating for likely harm to other road users. Your safety in a crash is important, but so is that of pedestrians and people in other cars.
- 2** Alternative power. Hybrid cars can be switched between electric battery power and conventional fuel. The range of hybrids on the market is increasing.
- 3** A good service history if you're buying used. Check modifications: if you're looking at an older car, make sure it hasn't had its catalytic converter (which cuts pollution) removed.
- 4** Airbags—preferably head-protecting side airbags.
- 5** Biofuel compatibility. Biofuels are becoming available at the fuel pump, so check with the manufacturer whether your car is compatible.
- 6** A manual transmission vehicle is generally more fuel-efficient than an automatic vehicle.
- 7** Electronic stability control (ESC) if you're buying a new or nearly new car; ABS brakes if you're buying used.
- 8** An engine smaller than two litres, or no bigger than you need for everyday life.
- 9** The best safety rating you can afford: the more stars the better and at least four stars for driver protection.
- 10** A car that runs on diesel, if it's manufactured since 2002. Diesel vehicles are generally more efficient, and modern diesels can be up to 30 percent more economical than petrol equivalents. But older diesel vehicles can be more polluting, so try to avoid older models or at least ensure that they're well maintained.

The Good Guide



HONDA CIVIC HYBRID



# Honda Civic

You'll love this sporty sedan with its advanced hybrid technology and spacious body

With more cars in the world than at any other time in history, Honda knows the importance of protecting the environment.

The Civic Hybrid meets environmental and fuel challenges head on. Honda has always held environmental consideration as a key building block, and the petrol-electric IMA Civic Hybrid proves that you can love driving and still care for the environment.

Perfect for zipping around the city or a weekend away, the easy-to-drive Civic feels like a much bigger car and will hold all your groceries, luggage and lanky teens.

The key to the hybrid system is that it recaptures lost energy during deceleration or braking and uses it to charge the batteries. So it's always charged and never needs plugging in.

Winner of the 2008 AA EnergyWise Rally's Supreme Award, the Civic Hybrid has advanced technology under the hood. At low speeds—say, picking up the kids from school—the Civic Hybrid can run purely on electric power.

The engine can shut down when stationary, or deactivate the engine cylinders when decelerating or cruising.

It looks as sleek as its petrol powered peers, but underneath lies a special breed of engine: Honda's latest generation Integrated Motor Assist (IMA) system, combining a high-tech 3-stage i-VTEC, i-DSI engine with an intelligent, ultra-thin electric motor. The combination of a high-torque electric motor with a clean, efficient petrol motor delivers a better response than a 1.8-litre conventional petrol engine. It uses less fuel, produces fewer emissions and betters the stringent Californian ULEV (Ultra Low Emission Vehicle) levels.

The Civic Hybrid is not a car that goes after engineering prizes or headlines. It's about making an everyday environmental contribution in a spacious car that's easy to drive and doesn't compromise on performance.

To find out more about the Honda Civic Hybrid, visit [www.honda.co.nz](http://www.honda.co.nz)

HOW DOES IT RATE?	
<b>Description</b> Honda Civic Hybrid Sedan 1.3 5DR	Hybrid car: Sedan, five seats, 1339cc 85kW petrol engine, CVT. For a list of vehicle features see <a href="http://www.honda.co.nz">www.honda.co.nz</a>
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
<b>Fuel economy</b>	★★★★★ 4.6 litres/100 km = \$1,370/year For details, see <a href="http://Fuelsaver.govt.nz">Fuelsaver.govt.nz</a>
<b>SAFETY</b>	
<b>Driver safety</b>	★★★★★ Based on ANCAP rating for 07+ models with front+side+head airbags
<b>Others' safety</b> Pedestrians only	★★★★☆ See <a href="http://www.ancap.com.au/results/231">www.ancap.com.au/results/231</a>
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>Pollutants</b> More stars means less pollution	★★★★★ Based on test regime EUR3
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</b> More stars means less CO <sub>2</sub> emitted	★★★★★ 106 gram/km = 1.48 tonnes/year For details, see the carbon calculator

The Good Guide



SUZUKI SWIFT SPORT



# Suzuki Swift

It's punchy, economical and designed for safety. What's not to like about the Swift Sport?

Performance and environmental responsibility don't always go hand and hand when it comes to vehicles, but the Suzuki Swift Sport is an exception.

Tear your eyes away from the attractive Swift Sport and jump behind the wheel. If you're a driving enthusiast or just looking to spice up your daily commute, you'll love the feel of this sporty little number.

The 1.6-litre Swift Sport offers a high-performance ride while being a very fuel-efficient choice for an environmentally conscious driver. Its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions figure of 179g/km compares favourably to other vehicles of its capabilities.

The five-speed gearbox makes maximum use of the engine's power and provides short, positive gear changes. The Swift's braking has been upgraded and the suspension stiffened to cope with the added performance.

The Swift Sport will satisfy anyone looking for a fantastically zippy performance car, but its

impressive safety package means it's perfect for those who also have precious child-sized cargo to consider.

The safety features of the Swift Sport include ASB (anti-locking) brakes on all wheels, and ESP (electronic stability programme) which provides traction and stability control. Inside, it has a collapsible steering column, a head impact protection structure and six airbags. Since its world debut in 2005, the Swift has become the best performing car in Suzuki's history. The Sport's chief engineer, Kazuya Tsugawa, describes it as a performance car designed not only for the professional driver but also for beginners.

The Swift Sport is a well-balanced vehicle and offers fun, safety, style and fuel economy all rolled into one. From learner to seasoned professional, it'd be hard to find anyone who wouldn't be impressed by the Swift Sport.

To find out more about the Suzuki Swift Sport, visit [www.suzuki.co.nz](http://www.suzuki.co.nz)

HOW DOES IT RATE?	
<b>Description</b> Suzuki Swift Hatch 1.6 5DR Sport	Small car: Hatchback, five seats, 1586cc 92kW petrol engine, 5-gear manual. For a list of vehicle features see <a href="http://www.suzuki.co.nz">www.suzuki.co.nz</a>
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
<b>Fuel economy</b>	★★★★★ 7.5 litres/100 km = \$2,230/year For details, see <a href="http://Fuelsaver.govt.nz">Fuelsaver.govt.nz</a>
<b>SAFETY</b>	
<b>Driver safety</b>	★★★★★ Based on ANCAP rating for 05+ models with front+side+head airbags
<b>Others' safety</b> Pedestrians and other road users	No rating available
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>Pollutants</b> More stars means less pollution	★★★★★ Based on test regime A79/01
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</b> More stars means less CO <sub>2</sub> emitted	★★★★★ 172 gram/km = 2.41 tonnes/year For details, see the carbon calculator

**The Good Guide**

**RIGHTCAR**  
govt.nz

MINI COOPER D



# The MINI Cooper D

**Who would have thought New Zealand's most fuel efficient car could be this much fun to drive?**

**M**INI's reputation for fun, fashion and a 'go-kart' driving experience is legendary. What isn't so well-known is that the recently launched diesel-powered MINI happens to be the most fuel-efficient car in New Zealand.

With a combined average fuel consumption figure of 3.9 litres per 100 kilometres, the MINI Cooper D shares the title with the Toyota Prius hybrid, which has identical figures. However, the MINI's 'fuel-mising' is achieved without sacrificing power, or its trademark driving style.

And being a diesel, the MINI has proven capable of outperforming these factory-quoted fuel-economy figures. In 2009, the MINI Cooper D set a fuel economy record, driving the length of New Zealand averaging fuel usage of just 3.5 litres per 100 kilometres for the entire journey.

The MINI Cooper D uses an efficient turbo-diesel engine combined with innovative features such as start/stop technology, to

prevent fuel wastage when idling. Known as 'MINIalism', these innovations come from an award-winning technological approach making all new MINIs—diesel or petrol—among the most fuel-efficient cars on the market.

As well as reduced fuel consumption, the MINI Cooper D offers a crisp manual transmission, lively acceleration and a five-star ANCAP safety rating.

With its distinctive style and infinite options for personalisation, the MINI Cooper D is a modern classic that will turn heads. Take it to the beach, out to brunch, to the movies. You'll want to take your MINI everywhere.

Ever since its inception in the 1960s, the MINI brand has enjoyed cult status with a passionate following of forward-thinking, thrill-seeking fashionistas. Now with its outstanding eco-credentials, the future for MINI looks bright. Bright green, in fact.

**To find out more about the MINI Cooper D, visit [www.mini.co.nz](http://www.mini.co.nz)**

HOW DOES IT RATE?	
<b>Description</b> MINI Cooper D Hatch 6M 2DR 1.5	Compact car: Hatchback, > \$40k, four seats, 1598cc 80kW diesel engine, 6-gear manual. For a list of vehicle features see <a href="http://www.mini.co.nz">www.mini.co.nz</a>
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
<b>Fuel economy</b>	★★★★★ 3.9 litres/100 km = \$1,260/year For details, see <a href="http://fuelsaver.govt.nz">fuelsaver.govt.nz</a>
<b>SAFETY</b>	
<b>Driver safety</b>	★★★★★ Based on ANCAP rating for 07+ models with front+side+head airbags
<b>Others' safety</b> Pedestrians and other road users	★★★★☆ Based on ANCAP rating for 07+ models with front+side+head airbags
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>Pollutants</b> More stars means less pollution	★★★★★ Based on test regime EUR4
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</b> More stars means less CO <sub>2</sub> emitted	★★★★★ 102 gram/km = 1.42 tonnes/year

**The Good Guide**

**RIGHTCAR**  
govt.nz

SUZUKI ALTO



# Suzuki Alto

**Here's a stylish, little vehicle that offers an affordable, high-quality and secure driving experience**

**T**he least expensive new car on the New Zealand market is not only an environmentally friendly motor vehicle but also one of the most fuel-efficient.

If you're living in the urban jungle you'll enjoy the stylish new Alto and its fantastic green credentials. It's so affordable to run it will leave you with extra cash for the farmers' market and you'll have no problem parking the petite Alto when you get there.

Environmentally the new Alto is ahead of its time, with 85 percent of its components recyclable and 95 percent recoverable. The Alto has also been made free from all environmentally hazardous substances.

Its economical 1000cc, three-cylinder petrol engine, combined with an aerodynamic body, has enormous advantages for fuel economy. The Alto's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions measure an industry-leading 133g/km.

New Zealand's Suzuki automobile sales manager Gary Collins says aspiring Alto buyers

will recognise the Alto's strong fuel economy, environmental and safety benefits. "This is the most aerodynamic car ever produced by Suzuki and a more efficient shape than exotic sports cars such as the Ferrari F430," says Collins.

The aerodynamic styling means driving the Alto is a breeze—and quiet, too. It is the smallest car of the Suzuki world strategic models but is cleverly designed to have a roomy interior. You can pop the groceries in, and the kids, and have confidence your Alto has been built with safety in mind.

The Alto body has crushable structures that absorb energy, frames that disperse impact away from occupants and a strong cabin structure. It is the only car in its class with six airbags as standard.

Suzuki believes people should be able to enjoy economical, eco-friendly motoring without sacrificing style, comfort, or performance.

**To find out more about the Suzuki Alto, visit [www.suzuki.co.nz](http://www.suzuki.co.nz)**

HOW DOES IT RATE?	
<b>Description</b> Suzuki Alto Hatch GL 1.0 5DR	Micro car: Hatchback, < \$25k, four seats, 996cc 50kW petrol engine, 5-gear manual. For a list of vehicle features see <a href="http://www.suzuki.co.nz">www.suzuki.co.nz</a>
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
<b>Fuel economy</b>	★★★★★ 4.8 litres/100 km = \$1,420/year For details, see <a href="http://fuelsaver.govt.nz">fuelsaver.govt.nz</a>
<b>SAFETY</b>	
<b>Driver safety</b>	★★★★★ Based on ANCAP rating for 09+ models with Dual front+side airbags
<b>Others' safety</b> Pedestrians and other road users	★★★★☆ Based on ANCAP rating for 09+ models with Dual front+side airbags
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>Pollutants</b> More stars means less pollution	★★★★★ Based on test regime A79/02
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</b> More stars means less CO <sub>2</sub> emitted	★★★★★ 110 gram/km = 1.54 tonnes/year