

Walk on Wheels



If you've noticed an extra spring in your step recently, look down. It's possible that you're walking on sidewalks made from old tires. Created by a California company called Rubbersidewalks and currently being used in Canada in sections of Kelowna and Vancouver, the interlocking modular tiles are composed of 100-percent-recycled crumb rubber from discarded tires. Just one tire can create a square foot of sidewalk. While cement sidewalks are often foiled by Mother Nature in the form of invasive and destructive tree roots, rubber sidewalks can be trimmed to fit around existing roots and the tiles can be temporarily removed to deal with any underlying issues. The sidewalks offer good traction, even in the rain, and don't deteriorate in colder temperatures. There's even an added bonus for the clumsy among us: you're less likely to break any bones if you take a tumble.

Fly Buy

Looking to make your next car purchase a memorable one? Consider combining it with a European vacation. Several European carmakers, including Volvo, Mercedes-Benz and Porsche, have programs that allow you to pick up your new car straight from the factory, drive it around Europe and then return it to them, so they can ship it back to Canada for you.

Not only can this cut down on vacation costs, but there's also the potential to save some money on the purchase of the car. And sometimes the carmakers throw in VIP perks: while factory tours are pretty standard, some companies add an extra level of service to make your purchase special. Volvo provides complimentary round-trip airfare to their factory town—Gothenburg, Sweden—and a free night's stay at a hotel in the city. The Porsche experience can include, in addition to dinners and cocktail receptions, an opportunity to take test rides with Porsche's professional drivers on the famous Weissach test track near the automaker's factory in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen, Germany.



Less Leasing?

When it comes to buying a car, times are a-changing, but maybe not as much as you think. General Motors of Canada and Chrysler Canada are trying to encourage more customers to finance, rather than lease, their new vehicles by cutting back on leasing incentives. While the financial arm of Chrysler LLC has already stopped offering leases to U.S. consumers, Canadians will still have a leasing option but at a higher cost than before. Incentives will be redirected toward better interest rates on purchasing. At press time, GM and Chrysler are the only companies making the move in this country.



Some people think lobsters don't have much personality. They're right. A bit of butter will bring them out of their shell.

Scott Fraser
Lobster Fisherman, Advocate Harbour

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