

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED VS USED: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



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If you've spent any amount of time shopping around for used cars, you've probably taken note of the many options to buy a certified pre-owned (CPO) vehicle. While it may not be obvious at first glance, there are some pretty significant differences between used and certified pre-owned automobiles.

We want to answer some of the questions you may have about these two different types of cars. To find out everything you need to know, keep reading our comprehensive guide today!

What is a CPO Vehicle?

One of the biggest questions many drivers have when they start looking for used cars is, "What is a CPO vehicle?" In short, a CPO car is a used one that comes with unique benefits from the manufacturer's approval. As such, CPO vehicles are often an enticing choice for drivers who want a vehicle that's a little newer than what they'd typically find on the used market.

Every manufacturer has different requirements for their CPO models, so what benefits you can expect from your vehicle depend on which brand you're looking at.

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What Are the Benefits of CPO Vehicles?

Traditionally, CPO cars have extended manufacturer warranties attached to them as part of the manufacturer CPO program. The size of this extended warranty and what's covered under it can vary from manufacturer to manufacturer, but an extended warranty is the common benefit across CPO programs.

In addition to this, drivers who get ahold of a CPO car can enjoy unique benefits, such as 24/7 roadside assistance and a CARFAX® Vehicle History Report™.

Overall, going with a CPO car for your next daily ride can be a huge boost in your peace of mind.

What Are the Benefits of Used Cars?

Something you may be asking yourself after learning about the many benefits of buying certified pre-owned is, "What are the benefits of buying a used car?" They do present some of their own benefits that make them an enticing option for a variety of drivers.

One of the major benefits of choosing a used vehicle is that there are many older models on the market. As a result, you can get yourself a classic car, if you'd like.

You can also find a wider range of offers on used cars because many of them are simply too old to qualify as CPO. If you're looking to find more great deals on a car, it's not a bad idea to extend your search to used ones.



What Makes a Car “Certified Pre-Owned?”

Now you may be asking yourself, “How does a manufacturer determine which cars become ‘certified?’” You may be pleased to know that manufacturers put a lot of work into determining which vehicles earn the title of “certified.” While every manufacturer is different, you can be sure that each car must meet rigorous standards every time.

As an example, let's take a look at the conditions for a Toyota model to be considered for its CPO program. To start, each vehicle that's considered for the program must be no more than six years old and have no more than 85,000 miles on the odometer. If the car doesn't meet one of these requirements, it can't be considered CPO.

Once the car has successfully passed these initial requirements, it must then pass a 160-point inspection. This comprehensive inspection covers everything from engine performance under a number of conditions all the way to whether the vehicle history report shows a clean record.

If the vehicle is able to pass this extensive 160-point inspection, it's provided with a 12-month/12,000-mile Comprehensive Warranty. Drivers are even given a 7-year/100,000-mile Limited Powertrain Warranty. Finally, Toyota also includes a 1-year Roadside Assistance program with their CPO vehicles.

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What's Covered Under CPO Warranties?

CPO warranties can be a huge help for drivers looking to keep themselves protected from random malfunctions. If there's an issue with your vehicle, a warranty can ensure that you have the necessary repairs covered by the manufacturer. However, you may be wondering what you can expect to be covered under a manufacturer's warranty.

Using Toyota as an example once again, drivers will be pleased to find that the models covered by a 7-year/100,000-mile Limited Powertrain Warranty offer quite a lot of coverage.

The main part that the Limited Powertrain Warranty covers is for the outside of the engine. However, that's not the only place you'll have peace of mind with after years of driving. You'll also have it for covered parts inside the engine, including the camshaft, timing belt, cylinder heads, and oil reservoir. You can be sure that even after heavy use, your engine will be well taken care of.

Of course, with coverage that goes beyond the engine, you'll find that your automatic transmission is cared for, as well. You'll have coverage on parts like your torque converter, transmission mounts, transfer/transmission case, and more when you have this warranty by your side.

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Unique CPO Extras

Earlier we mentioned that CPO vehicles often come with extra unique benefits. Every manufacturer is different in the benefits they offer, along with how their benefits work, but it's always a good idea to consider what some of them can do for you.

As we stated before, Toyota includes a 1-year Roadside Assistance program with the purchase of one of their certified pre-owned vehicles. This specific program provides you with roadside assistance 24/7, 365 days a year. That means you can be sure you have the care you need, no matter what the conditions are.

Drivers who contact their roadside assistance provider will be provided with whatever service they need to get the car working again. Within Toyota's program, roadside assistance workers will help with changing out flat tires, providing gas to get you driving again to the next gas station, and even jump-starting your battery.

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Why Read a CARFAX® Vehicle History Report™?

A common benefit among many CPO programs is the inclusion of a CARFAX® Vehicle History Report™. This benefit is helpful for a number of reasons, mainly because it provides a look into the conditions the vehicle has been through. For many CPO programs, this report is included as part of the vehicle's "certified" status.

One of the best things about vehicle history reports is that they can tell you about previous accidents the car has been in. This will give you a strong idea of what condition the car is in right now. You can even learn if this vehicle has had flood or hail damage reported on it at any point in its life.

The report is also great for checking to see what kind of maintenance history the car has experienced. This report will tell you whether it's received regular maintenance, so you can be sure your vehicle is in excellent shape. Finally, this report will tell you what the vehicle was used for, whether it was personal use, rental use, or even as a taxi.

Overall, having a CARFAX® Vehicle History Report™ can be a huge help in determining whether a certain car is right for you. It's always a good idea to look at a car's vehicle history report before bringing it home, and CPO models make it easy for you to get ahold of the report for yourself.

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Certified Pre-Owned vs Used: Which Option Is for You?

At the end of the day, it's up to you whether certified pre-owned or used is right for you. That's why it's important to take into consideration all your options when looking into your next vehicle.

Certified pre-owned is a fantastic option for a wide number of drivers. These vehicles are newer and have met more rigorous standards in order to be sold. If you want to have a bit more comfort on your way to work, choosing a vehicle that's been certified by its manufacturer can be a great option.

However, if you want to find a wider range of vehicles with different model years, used cars are great options. Shopping for a used car can be a great way to find a deal on a car that may be otherwise difficult to find. With that being said, used vehicles don't feature the unique benefits that CPO models have, so you'll have to consider that during your car search.

Find Your Next Used or Certified Pre-Owned Car with Us

There are so many vehicles to choose from. One of the easiest ways to get ahold of a pre-owned vehicle in great condition is to search through our used and certified pre-owned selections.

To get started on finding the vehicle for you, take a look through our inventory today!

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