

Mike's Mobil Inc.

Shop Talk

HYBRIDS - RIGHT FOR YOU?

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With gas prices looming around \$3.00 per gallon these days there has been a lot of talk about hybrid vehicles. Most people do not know what a hybrid vehicle is, how it works or its benefits to the consumer. Most hybrid vehicles average approximately 50 miles per gallon. Hybrid vehicles are also environmentally friendly. These vehicles produce much less emissions than current gasoline powered vehicles.

A hybrid vehicle is a vehicle that uses two forms of propulsion. All of the hybrid vehicles currently available in the United States use a gasoline engine and an electric motor to move the automobile. The gasoline engine is used when there is a need for quick acceleration, high speeds, or the power to get up that big hill. There are times when the vehicle will be solely under the power of the electric motor. These include backing up and light acceleration up to a certain speed. The electric motor supplements the power of the gasoline engine. Therefore, the gasoline engine is much smaller, can use less fuel and produces less emissions than a normal vehicle.

When a normal gasoline vehicle is at idle it produces emissions and it wastes fuel since the car is running, but not moving. However, when a hybrid vehicle is not moving the gasoline engine will shut off automatically. This uses no fuel and produces no emissions while the car is stopped. As the accelerator pedal is pushed the electric motor is used to move the vehicle. When the automobiles computer determines the gasoline engine is needed it will automatically be turned on. This transition occurs so smoothly the consumer is unable to notice it. The only way to tell which motor is running the vehicle is an indicator light on the dashboard.

One myth about hybrid vehicles is that the expensive battery pack will fail and the consumer will need to spend a lot of money to replace it. This is not true. The high-voltage battery packs have been proven to be very reliable. Most studies show a service life of approximately 15 years and 200,000 miles. Toyota had some issues with their earlier battery packs and voluntarily recalled them. They were repaired at no cost to the con-



Toyota Prius

sumer. Honda had some problems with cars that were not driven for more than three months at a time. This problem was researched and a solution was found. There is now a warning label inside the hood of Honda Hybrids stating that the vehicle needs to be run at least thirty minutes every three months or the service life of the high-voltage battery may be shortened. Current battery packs in use today are much more reliable than the original ones.

The number of hybrids currently on the road is increasing daily. Ford, Toyota, and Honda have been leading the way in hybrid vehicles. These cars have some new, exciting, and state of the art technology.

HYBRIDS - RIGHT FOR YOU?

Continued

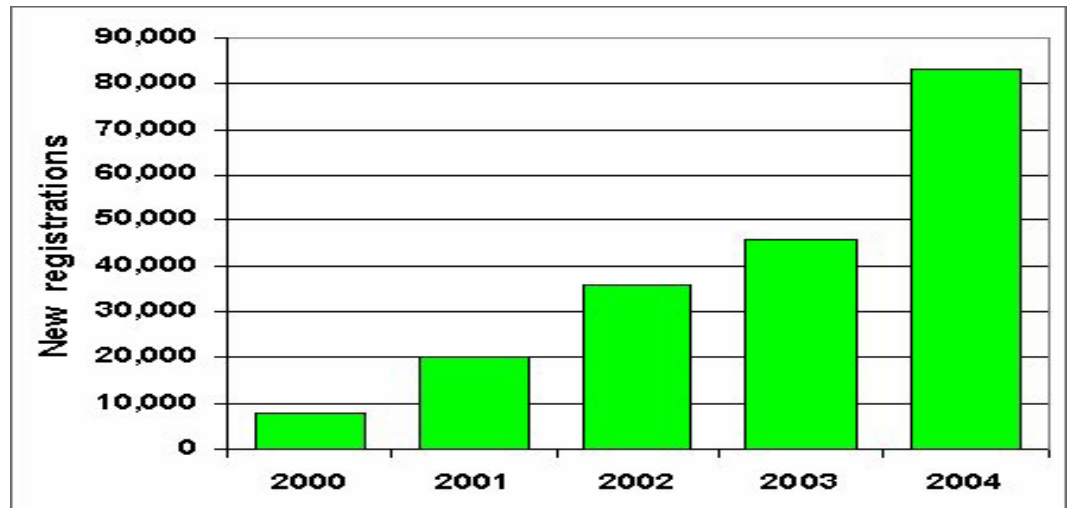
“The number of hybrids currently on the road is increasing daily.”

These cars are reasonably priced, require a comparable amount of maintenance, and are environmentally friendly. Hybrid vehicles should be seriously considered when the consumer is looking at a new vehicle.

Other than the dealership where the vehicle was purchased there are few, if any, independently owned auto repair facilities currently ser-

ving these vehicles. Mike’s Mobil has recently purchased a hybrid vehicle for use and research. Automotive technicians at Mike’s Mobil have also received training in properly servicing these vehicles. And we look forward to servicing any of your vehicles including hybrids.

Adam Frank
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Hybrid Vehicle Registration 2000-2004



Cabin Air Filter

Cabin Filters, Why Change Them?

Did you know that some autos have a cabin air filter, an “air purifier” built into the air conditioning system? A cabin air filter is like a filter on a home furnace or air conditioner. It removes dirt, dust and pollen from air that enters the passenger compartment through the vehicle’s HVAC (heating ventilation

and air condition) system. Today, cabin air filters are found in about 80% of all new vehicles. If your vehicle is year 2000 or newer, there’s a good chance it’s equipped with a cabin air filter.

There are two types of cabin air filtrations sold: single and multiple stage filters. A sin-

gle stage filters trap larger airborne dust, the largest soot, and big allergens like pollen, and are mostly made of paper. The second is multi-layer cabin air filter, typically using some activated carbon which reduces toxic gases and odors. Not all vehicles have the multi-layer cabin air filter avail-

Cabin Filters, Why Change Them? Continued

able, check with Mike's Mobil Inc. to find out if the multi-layer cabin filter is available for your vehicle.

Lots of cars are running with dirty, clogged cabin filters. During the hot summer months, contaminants, such as pollen, dust, mold spores and smog, can easily enter the vehicle's passenger compartment through the air conditioning, heating and ventilation systems, making the air

in the car six times dirtier than the air outside. Not only will the inside air be effected but the air conditioning and heating performance will be degraded if the filter is not serviced.

Owner's manual usually recommend replacement of cabin air filters every 15,000 miles, but may have to be changed sooner depending on environmental circumstances. If you have musty odors in

the vehicle it could be a sign that your cabin air filter needs to be changed. If you are unsure if your cabin air filter has been changed or needs to be changed Adam, Craig, or Gene at Mike's Mobil Inc. would be happy to check your cabin air filter and let you know if it is needed.

Mary Fox
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