



[Welcome](#) [About Us](#) [OC Green Guide](#) [Green Tips](#) [Community](#) [Contact Us](#)

[Back to Interviews and Articles](#)



Eco-Friendly Car Care

Monday, March 10, 2008

With the number of hours Orange County commuters spend driving, our cars can be one of the ways we can go Green with the most impact. Now everyone, rush out and buy a Green vehicle. I know, I know... not going to happen, and it doesn't have to happen. Making your car's environmental foot print a lot smaller doesn't mean you have to reinvent the wheel, or the car for that matter. There are several things you can do **to** your car, as well as things you can do **in** your car, that will help it be more Green.

My favorite kind of Green moves are the ones that help me, as well as the environment. In addition to the quantity of time we spend in our cars, the quality of the driving matters as well. Stop and go driving, the kind we are often forced to do in Orange County can cause our cars to perform much less efficiently, putting out up to eight times the air pollution caused by traffic flowing regularly. While it's nice to think that you will be able to use public transportation or carpool every morning, it's not always possible. Whether you make it a carpool or you are driving solo, take time in the morning to check out the traffic report for your morning commute. Caltrans offers [a real time map](#) that shows the speed of traffic throughout the county. Google also offers a [map](#) that you can take with you on your web-enabled mobile. Using these tools you can help the environment as well as save yourself some time and stress while you're at it.

Now that you have your route laid out so you can speed right along, *don't*. Cars are built to go the speed limit. Just like operating your car at a slower speed can lead to inefficiency, going too fast can do the same. While your going the speed limit, go with the traffic. The speed and stop style of aggressive drivers can lead to just as much extra pollution as stop and go driving.

Now that we have you driving your car greener, let's get your car doing its part. Your car's output is a direct result of the things you put into it, and to some extent the thing you put on it.

Every product you use on the surface of your car; interior or exterior is in constant contact with the environment. We often think of the big thing but the little details like, what do I (or my car wash) use to wash my car? When that's done, what kind of products are being used on the exterior to wax it or seal it? What is being used to make my tires shine like that? Is the shampoo used to clean the interior environmentally friendly? If you don't know, then it is likely the products being used aren't very Green. While there are Green products popping up everywhere, [Eco Touch](#) provides a line of Green products that are designed for use with your car.

Even more than EcoTouch, or any other car care products, I like nothing. That's right, I like to sit around while my car is washed by someone else. The only thing that prevents me from doing this is questioning my impact on the environment. Problem solved, ProntoWash offers a car wash with a very green approach. The company focused it's design technology creating a low pressure sprayer that, in combination with the a low foam detergent uses only 1.3gallons of water per wash. With locations currently in [Newport and Irvine](#) (Exact locations: bottom of this article) gaining attention for their convenience as well as the eco-friendly business model, they are sure to pop up all over Orange County.

Now that we have the outside of your car going Green let's get inside.

One of the simplest things you can do is keep your car clutter free; it is safer for driving, reduces the weight of your car, and makes it more efficient. With the amount of time we spend in our cars, we know what they should sound like. If you hear something out of the ordinary, get it serviced. Obviously anything making your car work so poorly that it is audible, is also going to effect how efficient your car is.

Once you've arrived at the service station take some steps to make sure your car is at its Greenest. When you get the oil changed, use the oil recommended in your owners manual. Oil that is thicker than necessary just forces the engine to push harder. The last stop on your way out of the service station is making sure your tires are set to the proper inflation. This will improve your fuel efficiency as well as reduce tire wear. The longer we can keep those tires on your car the less rubber piling up around the world.

None of these may have the biggest impact, but as with all of our efforts to go Green it is the accumulation of things that will help us turn the environment around.

ProntoWash Locations:

[Newport Corporate Tower](#)
[4100 Newport Place Dr, Newport Beach, CA. 92660](#)

[Irvine](#)
[2600 Michelson Dr, Irvine, CA. 92612](#)

[Irvine Allergan](#)
[2525 Dupont Drive, Irvine, CA 92612](#)

[Irvine Spectrum](#)
[71 Fortune Drive, Irvine, CA. 92618](#)

www.ocgreenguide.com