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Ewwwww! 5 worst rental car smells

July 28, 2009



Travel can be an olfactory experience, by which I mean everything smells. Even your rental car.

Hertz [recently teamed up](#) with Fresh Wave to use its IAQ technology to eliminate unwanted odors in its cars. When I heard the news, I had to ask Hertz if it had a list of the worst rental-car smells. In fact, it does.

Here are the five biggest offenders:

5. Old car smell.
4. Trash odors.
3. Pet smells.
2. Heavy fragrances.
1. **Cigarette smoke.**

“Addressing odor problems is a common challenge for any rental car provider,” said Kent Seavey, a division vice president for Hertz. “It can keep cars off the road and result in dissatisfied customers.”

Hertz may not be the only car rental company that would benefit from air-freshening technology, according to my friends at the [Budget Travel blog](#).

Of course, there’s also [a low-tech option](#) for fumigating rental vehicles. But really, wouldn’t rather have one that smells good from the moment you unlock the door?

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