

ENVIRONMENT

In brief:

Volvo's continued commitment to the environment is reflected in its 'clean inside and out' programme.

An air filter prevents dust, pollen and exhaust particles reaching the interior, while the Interior Air Quality System ensures that the air inside the cabin is always cleaner than that outside. All the trim materials comply with Oeko-Tex standards to create a healthier, emissions-free interior, helping to reduce the risk of an allergic or asthmatic reaction.

Another pioneering feature is Volvo's PremAir system, which converts up to 75% of the ground level ozone passing through the radiator into oxygen. Several of the engines in the range already also meet the stringent EU 2005 emission requirements.

The V70 is built in one of the automotive world's cleanest factories, with 85 per cent of each car able to be recycled and every new Volvo is backed by an Environmental Product Information (EPI) analysis. This is available at www.volvocars.com/epi.

Volvo also produces an annual Corporate Citizenship report, which is available at www.volvocars.com/citizenship.

In Full:

- 'Clean inside and out' environmental commitment
- Interior trim materials conform to Oeko-Tex standards and are allergen-free
- Cabin air filter removes dust, pollen and exhaust particles
- PremAir ozone system converts up to 75% of ground level ozone to oxygen
- Interior Air Quality System ensures cleaner air inside than out
- 85 per cent of the car can be recycled
- Several of the engines already meet stringent EU 2005 and the American ULEV (Ultra Low Emission Vehicle) emission requirements
- Each new Volvo is backed by an Environmental Product Information (EPI) analysis. This is available at www.volvocars.com/epi.

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Healthier Inside

According to the 2001 RAC Report on Motoring, the typical private motorist drives for over 250 hours each year, while in the same period, a company car driver spends an average of 425 hours inside their vehicle.

Yet, while most of us are aware of vehicle emissions and air quality issues, how many drivers know that the air inside their cars may also be harmful? Or that the metals, textiles and leathers used in car interiors can emit volatile substances, which activate allergies and skin conditions?

Many motorists don't realise their car could be increasing their risks of asthma, eczema, headaches, eye irritation or even a heart attack. In recent years, the number of people suffering from allergies and other forms of hypersensitivity has been growing rapidly.

Volvo's 'clean inside and out' programme to create emission-free cars is a healthy solution to the problem.

The interior of the Volvo V70 complies with a strict standard called Oeko-Tex, which sets maximum levels for dangerous substances contained in textiles and trim materials. All the leather upholstery and the trim fitted to the Volvo V70 meets Oeko-Tex standards. The components on the Volvo V70 that most frequently come into contact with the skin – the door handle, ignition key and safety belt locks – are also compliant with Oeko-Tex and allergen-free.

Air Quality

The Volvo PremAir[®] system makes a major contribution to air quality. It's an industry first and is available on every Volvo V70. PremAir[®] features a catalytic coating on the radiator that converts up to 75% of the ground level ozone passing through it into oxygen. It therefore reduces harmful pollutants in the local environment.

Every Volvo V70 also benefits from Volvo's Air Quality System. This constantly monitors the cabin environment to minimise odours and pollutants entering from the outside. It ensures that the air inside the car is always cleaner than that outside. The air-conditioning system also incorporates a cabin air filter that prevents dust, pollen and exhaust gas particles entering the car.

Corporate Citizenship

The Volvo V70's impressive aerodynamics (Cd 0.30) and sophisticated catalyst and engine management systems help to keep fuel consumption and emissions to a minimum. Several of the engines in the range already meet the extremely stringent EU 2005 and ULEV (Ultra Low Emission Vehicle) emission requirements and the Bi-Fuel models, in particular, make a major contribution to improving environmental standards. Natural gas (CNG) powered cars cut the emissions of carbon dioxide – which contributes to the greenhouse effect – by about 20% compared with the same car running on petrol. An LPG-powered Volvo V70 reduces carbon dioxide emissions by around 10%.

Volvo's commitment also extends beyond the car's immediate environment. It was one of the first manufacturers to use tools to evaluate the life-cycle environmental impact of its products. The system, known as EPI (Environmental Product Information) enables Volvo to evaluate the impact of its products and processes on natural resources, ecosystems and human health. This information is available to the public at www.volvocars.com/epi.

It's a strategy that's clearly paid dividends. The V70 is built in one of the automotive world's cleanest factories with emissions of solvents from the Volvo Torslanda plant in Sweden reduced by over 90 per cent since 1972. Plus, 85 per cent of each car can be recycled and every new Volvo is backed by an EPI. Volvo's annual Corporate Citizenship report is available on www.volvocars.com/citizenship.