



# ADJUSTERS FORUM

## GPS Systems

GPS systems; the answer to all your direction needs are now one of the most affordable and useful accessories that can be added to a vehicle. Go ahead and throw away your paper map books and delete MapQuest from your Internet favorites; these technologies are now past their prime. With a GPS system in your car you should never again hear “Why don’t you stop and ask for directions”. Getting lost will be a thing of the past. Take a look around next time you’re at a stop light and you may be surprised to see how just how many GPS systems are attached to the windshields of the cars stopped next to you.



This article will examine some of the most common features found in today’s GPS model and look at what differentiates a \$200.00 model from a \$ 500.00 model.

*Screen Size* - usually the first feature most people will notice is the size and quality of the screen. Typical screen sizes now start at 3.5” for automotive models and go up from there. It is important to make sure the model you’re considering will be big and bright enough for you to easily control and see even in bright sunshine.

*Maps* - while not as easily identified as screen size, the maps provided with the GPS model are equally important. Does the unit you’re looking at supplied with all the maps you’ll need? Also worth considering is can these maps be easily updated and at a reasonable price?

*Text To Speech* – while all current automotive GPS systems will provide you with some level of verbal directions, you may want more than basic turn by turn directions “turn left in 200 meters” perhaps you’d prefer more advanced directions like “turn left in 200 meters on to Elm Street”. This is Text to Speech!

*Lane Assistance* - is one of the latest advancements in direction assistance. With lane guidance voice and visual direction keep you in the proper lane making upcoming turns easier.



*Voice Recognition* - can be a great time saver. With voice recognition you no longer have to input the information through the touch panel on the screen. You simply say the street name and address and the GPS programs your route for you.

GPS Systems today can do more than just provide directions. Here is a short list of some of the extra features available in today’s models:

*FM Transmitter* – This allows you to play MP3’s and navigation instructions through the car stereo.

*Bluetooth* – Hands free calling from your Bluetooth equipped cellular phone

*Back up Camera* – The GPS system becomes a video screen providing you with a clear view of what behind you when the car is put in reverse



*Photo & Video Playback* – pretty self explanatory

*Internet Connectivity* - not a common feature at this time, but it has the capability of increasing the convenience and functionality of the unit.

Like most consumer electronics technologies the prices of GPS systems continue to fall. Well equipped models are now available for under \$ 300.00 and more basic models with good functionality can be purchased for less than \$ 200.00. With the wide range of brands, models and prices that are available it’s important to try and determine which features are important and likely to be used before you make your purchase. It also not a bad idea to do some on line research to see the opinions of others who have already purchased the model you’re considering. As always the experts at ClaimControl are also available to help you in making your decision.

If you have a topic you would like to see in a future issue or if you have a question you would like answered, please forward the details to [info@claimcontrol.ca](mailto:info@claimcontrol.ca). Watch for our next article on Netbook Computers

If you know someone who would be interested in receiving **Adjusters Forum** click [ClaimControl](#)