

Junk yards aren't just full of junk



Vincent Muzzio



Vincent Muzzio
Fort Worth Automotive Examiner

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Are you driving around the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex in an old car or truck? Is it extremely hard to find certain parts, or even worse, when you do they are overpriced? You may need to go on a junk yard scavenger hunt. There are many junk yards located throughout North Texas that may have what you're looking for at a fraction of the price. All you need to do is put in a little time doing research and planning. Finding parts at a junk yard and pulling the parts off yourself saves you a

considerable amount of money. You can find almost any automotive part you are looking for, from ashtrays and seats to doors, engines, and exhaust systems.

The first objective to junk yard parts hunting is to figure out exactly what parts you are looking for and take pictures of each item with a digital camera. With a list of parts and pictures you won't be wasting time wondering around the junk yard without an objective and you'll have photographs to verify if the parts you find are the correct ones you are searching for.

Next, do a little research on the internet. Search for junk yards in your area. Some

junk yards have an inventory on their website that lets you search for the car or truck you are looking for. For example, **Pick-N-Pull** has 45 locations across the United States and Canada that you can search for specific makes and models and will give you the specific locations, years of vehicles, and even the row number that the car is on at that location. This saves you a tremendous amount of time that would be spent calling each junk yard to ask if they have the certain vehicle or parts you are searching for. The other option if the junk yard doesn't have an online inventory is to call each one individually. This can be frustrating but may pay off if you find the car or parts you are looking for.

Once you have found the locations of the junk yards with the parts or vehicles you are looking for, you need to decide on a route. The best route in most cases is to start at a junk yard closest to your house and work in a circle visiting junk yards until you reach the last one. This would be a good time to print a map with all the locations marked in order with the description of which cars are at each location. You may need to set aside a full day in order to check out all locations.

Now that you have your junk yard scavenger hunt planned, ensure that you have cash (some junk yards charge a small fee, usually a couple dollars, to get in) and a set of basic tools. The tools you take will depend on what you are looking for. It's important to take any tool you think you may need while packing light at the same time. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty and shoes you don't mind getting muddy. Work gloves and safety goggles are strongly suggested for personal safety.

When at the junk yards, take your time and try to have a good time. There are many nostalgic and interesting vehicles to be seen. You could say it's like walking through automotive history. When you find the vehicles you are looking for look through it carefully and thoroughly. Some parts may be thrown in the trunk, under a seat, or on the ground near the car. Keep a careful eye out for junk yard dangers like sharp objects, glass, snakes, scorpions, and hornets or wasps.

Hopefully, at the end of the day, you have found what you were looking for and at a fraction of the retail price. Going junk yard scavenger hunting can be a great experience and can even be a bonding time between father and son or even husband and wife. You will find that with careful planning and execution, you will have a fun and productive adventure at the junk yards.

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