

>> SMALL CAR

Dodge/Plymouth Neon



2000 model shown

The Dodge and Plymouth Neon twins boast a relatively roomy interior and a choice of two four-cylinder engines. Neons equipped with the manual transmission are difficult to drive smoothly, and the three-speed automatic steals a lot of power. A four-speed automatic arrived for 2001. Both 2.0-liter engines sound harsh, and fuel economy is unimpressive. The ride is jittery and stiff. A sporty R/T version debuted for 1998. The Neon was redesigned for 2000, when the coupe was discontinued. It provides secure handling and excellent braking. But a noisy cabin and uncomfortable ride remain.

Major redesign: 1995, 2000. **Safety equipment:** Dual front air bags standard. Side air bags available from 2001. ABS available. **Drive wheels:** Front.

RELIABILITY HISTORY						
TROUBLE SPOTS	Dodge Neon					
	96	97	98	99	00	01 02 03
Engine	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cooling	○	○	○	○	○	○
Fuel	○	○	○	○	○	○
Ignition	○	○	○	○	○	○
Transmission	○	○	○	○	○	○
Electrical	●	●	●	●	●	●
Air conditioning	●	●	○	○	○	○
Suspension	○	○	○	○	○	○
Brakes	●	○	○	○	○	○
Exhaust	○	○	○	○	○	○
Paint/trim/rust	●	○	○	○	○	○
Body integrity	●	●	○	○	○	○
Power equipment	○	○	○	○	○	○
Body hardware	○	○	○	○	○	○
RELIABILITY VERDICT	X	X	X	X	-	✓

Insufficient data

PRICES			
1996	\$2,000-\$4,000		
1997	\$2,000-\$4,000		
1998	\$2,000-\$4,000		
1999	\$2,000-\$4,000		
2000	\$2,000-\$4,000		
2001	\$4,000-\$6,000		
2002	\$6,000-\$8,000		
2003	\$8,000-\$10,000		

CRASH-TEST RESULTS			
Model years	Offset	Full-frontal	Side
1996	Poor	○/○	NT
1997	Poor	○/○	NT
1998	Poor	○/○	○/○
1999	Poor	○/○	○/○
2000	Marg.	○/○	○/○
2001	Marg.	○/○	○/○
2002	Marg.	○/○	○/○
2003	Marg.	○/○	○/○