**1. Replace Your Stock Exhaust for More Horsepower and Better Gas Mileage**

**2. Gain Horsepower with an Aftermarket Exhaust**

Have you ever wanted to add a little extra horsepower to your vehicle while making it sound awesome at the same time? Whether you're a die-hard car enthusiast or someone who just enjoys a little extra fun when you hit the throttle, adding an aftermarket exhaust is one of the most popular ways to upgrade your vehicle for power gains, better fuel economy, and a better overall engine exhaust sound.

 **How an Aftermarket Exhaust Helps Performance**
The best way to explain how an aftermarket exhaust system will help you achieve your horsepower and fuel economy goals is to compare it to how a drinking straw works. Let's say you have a thick chocolate malt and two different straws - one small in diameter and one large in diameter. You have no problem getting the contents of the malt through the straw with the larger diameter straw, but the small one has problems, it takes more effort to get the malt’s contents moving through the straw and up to your taste buds.

An exhaust system works in much the same way except that instead of trying to extract a substance, it is trying to get rid of one, and in this case, it's the engine’s exhaust. Most vehicles come from the factory engineered with the smallest, cheapest, easiest exhaust setup that a corporation can get away with while meeting all government and company standards. But these setups create a traffic jam of exhaust called back-pressure, and back-pressure disrupts the cycle of the engine causing loss of power and loss of fuel economy.

Having an aftermarket exhaust system installed frees up the exhaust traffic jam. It's like throwing out that smaller straw for your malt and exclusively using the bigger one. On aftermarket exhausts, the mufflers and exhaust pipes are much bigger making the engine struggle less when pushing out the exhaust. And when the engine struggles less, it can work harder at performing better.

**An Exhaust That Will Last a Lifetime**
Another benefit of an aftermarket exhaust is its lifespan. Most exhaust systems that come standard from the factory are made with cheap materials and are designed to need repair after a certain number of miles/hours of running time. This not only saves money on the cost of production but also keeps you coming back to the dealership for repair.

If you purchase an aftermarket exhaust from a top brand name company that has been around for a while, you probably won't have to worry about having your exhaust system repaired ever. Most aftermarket exhaust systems come constructed in high-quality stainless steel, and with a lifetime warranty. In fact, if you're eyeing an exhaust system that does not have those standards, I would steer clear.

 **So Many Choices, How Do You Decide?**
It's true, there are a lot of different brands of exhaust systems out there and one can be overwhelmed if they're not sure what they are looking for. For the average shopper, you should really be focused on what kind of sound upgrade you want. The reason why sound is probably the most important part of purchasing an exhaust system is because every company will state its claim that they sell the best performing exhaust system on the market. But it's a little well-known fact that for almost all applications, from company-to-company, you will gain about a max of 2-to-5 percent horsepower and 2-to-5 percent better fuel-economy overstock. No exhaust company has yet to prove they have an exhaust system that can substantially outperform another.

So, let's just say you have a little hot rod you want to put an exhaust system on. Again, with performance gains being much the same from company-to-company, your biggest question to ponder will probably be how you want your prized possession to sound. Do you want your hot rod to sound loud and proud, do you want it to purr like a kitten, or somewhere in-between?

**That Old School Sounding Exhaust**

 **If you are looking to give your hot rod a thunder-from-down under sound, here are three companies that stand as leaders in the aftermarket exhaust system industry and some features they have to offer.**

**Dynomax –** Dynomax stuffs their mufflers with a Continuous Roving Fiberglass material. This helps give the sound of your vehicle a modest exhaust rumble, plus it comes in at 1-to-2-dB. lower than its competitors. So if you want to sound good but not wake up the neighbors, this might be the system for you.

**Magnaflow –** Magnaflow stuffs their mufflers with high-quality steel wool. Their stuffing technology creates a rapid popping sound in the exhaust that has been loved by car guys for decades. They also have a reputation for having one of the lowest interior resonance sound - loud on the outside - but you can have a conversation with your passengers on the inside.

**Flowmaster –** Flowmaster is probably the most popular high-performance exhaust system for the high-performance enthusiast. Instead of using a muffler stuffing technology, Flowmaster uses chambers in the mufflers to get the sound they’re looking for. This offers consumers a much louder, lower rumbling sound from their exhaust. A lot of car guys also like the idea of not having a stuffing inside of the muffler. Some claim that the stuffing technology can cause big problems with cars that get driven a lot.

**Newer Aged Sounding Exhaust

For the car guy who is not looking for an old-fashioned hot rod rumble, here are two other exhaust brands that can give your vehicle an aftermarket sound without sounding like you’re ready for the racetrack.**

**Borla –** The Borla exhaust company got its start by making special exhaust systems for car companies like Porsche and Rolls Royce. Borla has a nice hollow but tamed sound to their systems and has a good reputation for making your car not feel like it is rattling apart. A characteristic you might notice with Flowmaster or Magnaflow.

**Corsa –** Corsa is well-known for its ability to purr quietly at low and mid-range RPMs. This makes their exhaust systems great for comfortable cruising, but make no mistake, when you get into the throttle it makes enough noise to let people know you're coming.

Needless to say, if you are looking to get a little extra horsepower and a little better fuel economy out of your vehicle, an exhaust system is a great place to start. You can make other upgrades first, but one thing you must keep in mind, if you start upgrading your engine's performance before you upgrade your exhaust, you may not be doing yourself much good. If your engine can’t get rid of the exhaust back-pressure efficiently, your other upgrades may not have much of an effect on how the engine performs.