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Chrysler to eliminate 15 dealers in Washington state

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Chrysler LLC plans to eliminate 789 dealerships, or about 25 percent of its dealers, including 15 in Washington.

The carmaker revealed the number in a bankruptcy court filing. [Click here](#) to download a PDF of the entire list.

It's expected that the dealers will have a right to appeal Chrysler's decision.

Chrysler is expected to notify each of the dealers before making the list public.

Privately held Chrysler filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in April in a deal that includes a partnership with Italy's Fiat.

Here are the Washington state dealers on the closing list and the Chrysler vehicles affected at each dealership:

- Alan Webb Dodge, Vancouver (Dodge, Dodge trucks)
- Bud Clary Jeep, Longview (Jeep)
- Cascade Autocenter, Wenatchee (Jeep)
- Columbia Chrysler-Plymouth, Longview (Chrysler)
- Hahn Motor Co., Yakima (Chrysler)
- Robert Larson's Chrysler Jeep, Tacoma (Chrysler, Jeep)
- Lee Peterson Motors Inc., Yakima (Jeep)
- Lescover Jeep-Eagle, Kennewick (Jeep)
- Milam Jeep, Puyallup (Jeep)
- Murray Motors Inc., Port Angeles (Dodge, Chrysler, Dodge trucks)
- Petes Garage Inc., Ritzville (Chrysler, Dodge, Dodge truck, Jeep)
- Roger Jobs Jeep, Bellingham (Jeep)

- Skagit Auto Center Inc., Burlington (Jeep)
- Tacoma Dodge Inc., Tacoma (Dodge, Dodge truck)
- Chrysler of Tri-Cities, Pasco (Chrysler).

General Motors Corp. also is expected to announce a plan to reduce its dealership ranks by 40 percent. Automotive News reported Thursday that GM has sent letters to nearly 1,000 underperforming dealerships, warning that their franchise agreements won't be approved after they expire in the fall of 2010.

At the end of 2008, GM has about 6,200 U.S. dealerships. In addition to the 1,000 warning letters, GM has said it expects to lose more dealerships through attrition.

Because Chrysler is in bankruptcy court, it will have less difficulty than GM in severing ties with dealerships because a judge can approve the move.

Chrysler seems to be following a strategy to close lower volume dealerships in less populated areas, and closing dealerships in close proximity to each other in more populated areas.

MD Johnson Inc. President Mark Johnson, whose company advises auto dealerships on mergers and acquisitions, had predicted that the impact in Washington would be in the smaller outlying areas where dealers might have been selling 50 or 60 vehicles a year.