

About the Used Car Safety Ratings

Your choice of car can make all the difference if you are involved in a crash. Our Used Car Safety Ratings provide you with a crash safety rating that shows how well each vehicle protects its driver from death or serious injury in a crash.

So if you are thinking of buying a car, check out its safety rating. There are lots of safe, less expensive cars to choose from. In fact, some of the most affordable used cars are among the safest.

Some vehicles can significantly reduce your chance of being seriously injured in a crash, and even can help avoid a crash altogether. Your vehicle also needs to offer good protection to other road users, such as people in other vehicles, or those walking and cycling, if it collides with them.

Vehicles identified as a 'Safer Pick' provide good protection to their own driver, cause less serious injury to other drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists in a collision, and have a lower risk of being involved in a crash in the first place, including reversing crashes.

These ratings are based on the latest data from real world crashes and are supported by rigorous research. Many new vehicle models and vehicles with low sales are not covered in these ratings because there is not enough information to accurately rate them.

Vehicle safety research that informs safe vehicle choices can be found at www.monash.edu/muarc/vsrg

If you're thinking about buying a vehicle not listed here, search for it on the ANCAP website at ancap.com.au



How these safety ratings are calculated

Safety ratings are created by using records from over 8 million vehicles involved in police-reported road crashes. The vehicle's size, weight, design, and safety features, such as airbags and types of seat belts, are all taken into account.

The Driver Protection Ratings show the risk of death or serious injury resulting in hospital admission to the driver of the vehicle in a crash. The ratings do not assess the risk of being involved in the crash in the first place, which can be influenced by vehicle technology, driver behaviour, vehicle condition and the road environment. Factors such as who drives these vehicles and where they are driven were taken into account when analysing the data.

The Driver Protection Ratings have been adjusted for factors such as driver gender and age, type of road user, speed limit at the crash location, number of vehicles involved and the year and location of crash.

Additional ratings are calculated that estimate the injury risk the vehicle poses to other road users in a crash, and the likelihood of being involved in a crash based on the crash avoidance features fitted. These additional ratings are used along with the Driver Protection Rating to designate vehicles as a 'Safer Pick'.



Vehicle safety features

Newer vehicles are usually safer than older ones. They provide more protection in a crash as they use high strength materials and have features like airbags, improved impact crumple zones and collapsible steering columns. More and more vehicles are also being fitted with features that can help avoid a crash or reduce the severity if a crash does occur. These safety features include:

Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB), including Pedestrian and Cyclist Detection

Anti-lock Brake System (ABS)

Blind Spot Warning

Brake Assist

Electronic Stability Control (ESC)

Front, side, curtain and knee airbags

Lane departure warning and lane keep assist

Seatbelts with pretension devices designed to work with airbags

Traction Control

Reversing sensors and/or cameras

In many used cars these features are optional or available only in some variants. It makes sense to choose the car that has the best driver protection rating but also the greatest number of safety features fitted as they can reduce your risk of death and serious injury in the event of a crash, or can even prevent a crash in the first place. ESC, AEB and reversing sensors or cameras have been shown to be especially effective in helping to prevent crashes.

Crash test videos demonstrating the benefits of choosing a safer car, and the effectiveness of some safety features, can be found at:

<http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/vehiclesafety/safety-ratings.html>

Find out more

For more information about buying a safe used vehicle, visit the website or call the phone number of the agency nearest to you:

New Zealand
New Zealand Transport Agency: rightcar.govt.nz
Phone: 0800 699 000

New Zealand Automobile Association: aa.co.nz/ucsr
Phone: 0800 500 333 (option 2)

Australia
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development: www.infrastructure.gov.au
Phone: 1800 075 001

New South Wales
NRMA: mynrma.com.au/motoring-services/reviews/safety.htm
Phone: 13 11 22

NSW Centre for Road Safety: roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/vehiclesafety/safety-ratings.html
Phone: (02) 8202 2200

Queensland
Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland: www.tmr.qld.gov.au
Phone 07 3114 5844 or 132 380

RACQ: RACQ Motoring Advice: www.racq.com.au
Phone: (07) 3666 9148



South Australia
Department of Planning, Transport & Infrastructure
My Licence: <http://mylicence.sa.gov.au/safe-driving-tips/safer-vehicles/buying-a-safe-car>

RAA: raa.com.au
Phone: (08) 8202 4689

Victoria
RACV: racv.com.au
Phone: 13 72 28

Department of Transport: <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/vehicle-safety/buying-a-safe-car/used-car-safety-ratings>
Ph: 13 11 71

Transport Accident Commission:
howsafeisyourcar.com.au

Western Australia
Road Safety Commission: rsc.wa.gov.au
Phone: 1300 999 772

RAC: rac.com.au
Phone: 13 17 03



Used Car Safety Ratings Buyer's Guide

Make the safest choice



2019-20

