



Seat Belt Safety

Putting on a seatbelt is one of the safest and wisest decisions any driver or passenger can make. Not buckling up can cause you to be thrown out of the vehicle, further risking serious injury or death. In addition, the force of an air bag also poses a significant risk when you are not wearing a seatbelt.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), buckling up in the front seat of a passenger car can reduce the risk of a deadly injury by 45 percent.

In 2017, there were 10,076 people killed in crashes in the United States who were not wearing a seat belt. In 2018, 532 unbuckled vehicle occupants were killed in crashes across California.

Seat belts have been proven time and time again to save lives in crashes. In 2017 alone, seat belts saved around 14,955 lives.

In California, the fine for not wearing a seat belt is \$162. California is one of 34 states with a primary seat belt law, which means law enforcement can pull someone over for not wearing a seat belt without any other traffic violation being committed.



Back seat passengers are **3 times more likely to die** in a crash if they are **not** wearing a seat belt.

Source: NHTSA

Wearing the Belt



Place shoulder belt across the middle of the chest and away from the neck.



Lap belt should rest across your hips, not your stomach.



Never put the shoulder belt behind your back or under your arm.



If you drive older car with only lap belts, check with the vehicle maker about how to add new shoulder/lap belt to car.



Ask your dealer about belt adjusters, which can help you get the best fit.

Child Safety Seats

Buckling up properly also includes making sure your child is in the correct child safety seat.

Here are the requirements under California law:

- Children under two years old, 40 pounds and 40 inches must ride in a rear-facing car seat.
- Children under the age of eight must be secured in a car or booster seat.
- Children who are 8 years old or 4' 9" may be secured by a booster seat, but at minimum must be secured by a safety belt.