

BUYERS SAFETY CHECKLIST

Crash protection

- Three point seat belts
- Seat belt pretensioners
- Dual front airbags
- Curtain airbags and side impact protection
- Side airbags
- Knee airbags
- An anti-whiplash system
- Adjustable head restraints
- Cargo barrier
- Crumple zones

Driver comfort

- Adjustable seating position
- Adjustable steering wheel
- Adjustable seatbelt height
- Electric adjustable mirrors
- Sufficient head and leg room
- Good all round visibility with no obstructions /blind spots from the driver seat
- Easy to use of instruments/controls eg cruise control, wipers
- Comfortable seating and lumbar (lower back) support
- Power steering

Child Safety

- Does the car suit your needs for child restraints/seats?
- Can a child restraints be correctly fitted and properly adjusted and provide protection for your children

Child restraint regulations require children aged up to 7 years to be seated in approved child restraints see www.transport.tas.gov.au/safety/child_restraints

howsafeisyourcar.com.au



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BUYERS GUIDE

SAFETY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FEATURE A CAR CAN HAVE



Cars are given a one to five star rating (five being the highest), based on results from the Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) or Used Car Safety Ratings (UCSR) report. ANCAP safety ratings are based on data from tests performed in a crash lab and UCSR are based on data from real world crashes. Ratings are available on ancap.com.au and howsafeisyourcar.com.au, as well as safety feature specifications.



Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources

Tasmanian
Government

BUYING A SAFE CAR

ESSENTIAL SAFETY FEATURES INCLUDE

BUYERS SAFETY CHECKLIST

If you are looking for a new or used car, safety features need to be considered as the highest priority to protect you and your family.

Using this guide will help you make the most informed choices when purchasing a car that has the best safety performance.

Why is it important to consider safety?

In a crash situation, different cars offer varying levels of occupant protection. Car manufacturers can include different combinations of features which impact on the safety of your car. These safety features are generally grouped into three categories:

- Crash Avoidance Features - features that help you to avoid being in a crash, like **electronic stability control (ESC)**, **anti-lock braking systems (ABS)** and **traction control**
- Crash Protection Features - features that help to protect you in a crash, like **seat belts**, **curtain airbags** and car crumple zones
- Driver Features - features that add to the safety of your car by making driving easier and more comfortable, such as seat height adjustment

Driver and passenger protection depends on your car's structure, its driver and passenger restraints and related protection devices working together as an integrated system.

A strong cabin that can withstand severe impacts

Crumple zones outside the cabin to absorb the forces exerted in a car crash

Effective restraint of drivers and passengers to reduce the likelihood of injury from interior features of the car; to prevent ejection from the car and to reduce the potential for soft tissue injury such as whiplash.

You can make much more informed decisions about how well different cars will protect you in a crash and how manufacturers have integrated safety features by referring to the Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) safety ratings and Used Car Safety Ratings (UCSR).

ANCAP recommends 5 star rated vehicles. Accept nothing less.



ANCAP
Safety ★★★★★

Young Road Users

Young drivers are more likely to buy older used cars but they also have a much greater risk of crashing than more experienced drivers, particularly in the first 12 months of solo driving. This makes the selection of their first car even more important.

Second hand doesn't have to mean unsafe because fortunately, there are a range of second hand cars that are affordable and provide good levels of protection.

Remove this section and complete to compare and help make your choice when choosing your next car.

Does the car have all the safety features you want within the designated price range?

Driveability

During the inspection and test drive, did the car operate to your satisfaction? Consider this in terms of:

- Steering
- Braking
- Road handling (e.g. cornering, riding over bumps)
- Overtaking
- Reversing
- Ease of parking
- Blind spot issues
- Turning circle

Crash avoidance

- Anti-lock braking system (ABS)
- Electronic stability control (ESC)
- Emergency brake assist (EBA)
- Traction control
- Active cruise control
- Reverse camera and/or sensors
- Automated daytime running lights
- White or another highly visible colour
- Intelligent speed adaptation (ISA) system