



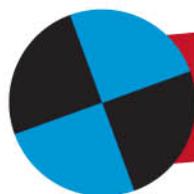
Be safe with **SIDE AIR BAGS**

While side air bags can help keep adults safe in side-impact crashes, the devices can seriously injure or kill people—especially children—if the person’s head or chest is near the air bag when it inflates. Side air bags aren’t required in vehicles, although some manufacturers may use them to meet some federal safety requirements. If not used for that purpose, you can have a dealer turn them off without getting permission from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Contact your vehicle manufacturer for specific information about your side air bag system.

WORKING TOGETHER: **Air bags and seat belts**

Air bags are designed to work best with seat belts. Air bags save lives and prevent injuries, but they can’t replace seat belts. Seat belts prevent people from being thrown from a vehicle in a crash. And seat belts can keep you from getting too close to the air bag when it inflates. In rare cases, air bags can seriously injure or kill drivers and passengers—especially children—when they inflate.

So even though your vehicle has air bags, **buckle up.**



**DRIVER AND FRONT PASSENGER
SEATS SHOULD BE MOVED AS FAR
BACK AS PRACTICAL.**

For more information on air bag safety, please visit:
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/airbags>

Air Bags: Proven and Effective

Air bags and seat belts save lives. NHTSA estimates that air bags saved 7,224 lives between 1987 and July of 2001. And that number increases every year as air bags become more common on America’s roads.

For more detailed information about air bags, please see “Buying a Safer Car” or “Buying a Safer Car for Child Passengers” at www.nhtsa.gov/cars/testing/ncap

Call NHTSA’s toll-free Auto Safety Hotline

1-888-327-4236

TDD 1-800-424-9153

4 STEPS FOR KIDS



**BUCKLE UP
AMERICA**

Every Trip. Every Time.

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR **AIR BAG:**

**Buckle up – and put the
kids in the back**



SEAT BELTS

CHILDREN IN THE BACK

Keep your kids safe

Children 12 and under can be hurt or even killed when air bags inflate. Young children should be placed in the back seat—**away from the air bags**—and in a restraint that’s right for their age and size, whether it’s a child safety seat, a booster seat or a properly fitting seat belt.

Infants (children under 1 year old) should always be placed in rear-facing infant seats. And infants should **NEVER** ride in the front seat of a vehicle with passenger front or side air bags.

Some vehicles don’t have a back seat or have a back seat that’s too small for a rear-facing infant seat. These vehicles may have an on-off switch for the front passenger air bag as standard equipment. Owners of these vehicles can shut off the air bag when traveling with children.



IF YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PUT A CHILD IN THE FRONT SEAT, PLEASE VISIT THIS WEB SITE:
[HTTP://WWW.NHTSA.GOV/PEOPLE/INJURY/CHILDOPS/NEWTIPS/TIPS.HTML](http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/childops/newtips/tips.html)

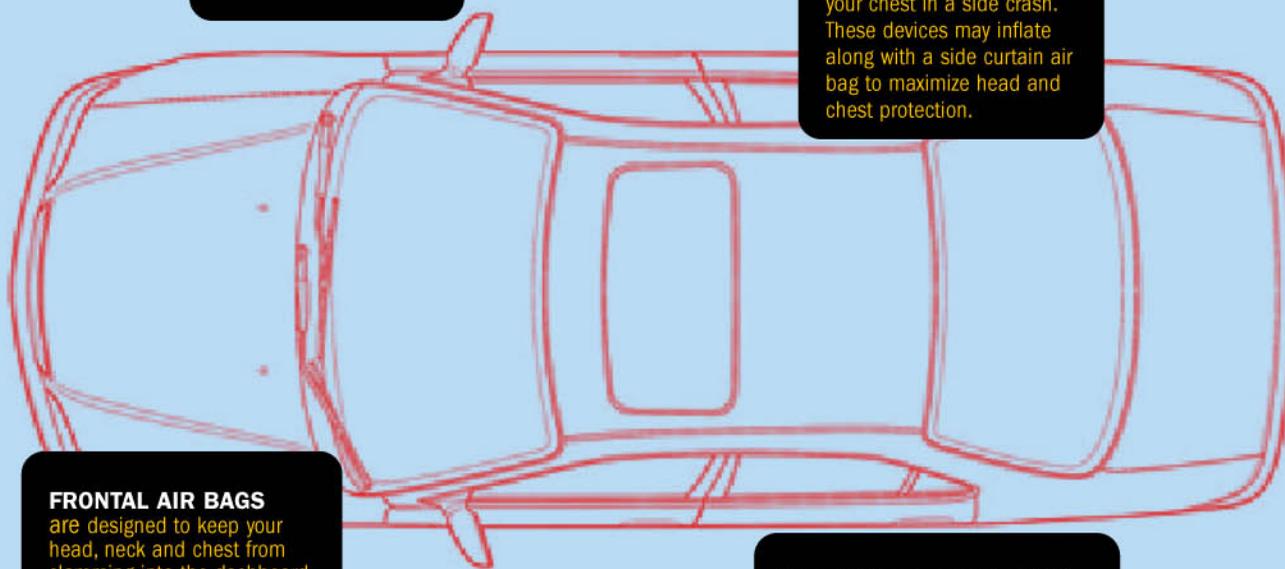


WHAT KIND OF AIR BAGS DO YOU HAVE?

All cars built since 1998 and all light trucks and vans built since 1999 have driver and front right passenger air bags. Even if your vehicle was built before 1998, you might have frontal air bags. Now, most automakers also offer side air bags or window curtain air bags, which may protect people in the front seat (and in the rear seat in some vehicles) on the side of the vehicle that is hit in a side crash. These devices may inflate during a rollover crash to prevent you from being thrown through a window.

SIDE OR ROLLOVER WINDOW CURTAINS drop down from the roof along the window to protect your head if your vehicle is hit in the side or rolls over.

DOOR-MOUNTED SIDE AIR BAGS come out just above the armrest and protect your chest in a side crash. These devices may inflate along with a side curtain air bag to maximize head and chest protection.



FRONTAL AIR BAGS are designed to keep your head, neck and chest from slamming into the dashboard, steering wheel or windshield in a front-end crash. Air bags inflate when a vehicle collides with another vehicle or with a solid object like a tree.

SEAT-MOUNTED AIR BAGS come out through the seat back cushion closest to the door on the side where your vehicle is hit. These devices inflate in two sizes: The smaller air bags protect your chest, while the larger ones protect your chest and head.



To find out what kind of air bags are installed in your vehicle, look for the words “air bag” or the letters “SRS” or “SIRS” on your steering wheel, dashboard, sun visor label or sides of the door frame. Your owner’s manual will also list the types of air bags you have. You can also visit <http://www.nhtsa.gov/cars/testing/ncap> to learn what safety features your vehicle has.

Shutting OFF Your Air Bags



The vast majority of people don’t need to disable their front air bags. Almost everyone is

safer with air bags than without them. But there are exceptions. Your air bag may need to be shut off:

- If a person has a certain medical condition
- If the driver can’t sit at a safe distance from the driver air bag and still operate the vehicle properly
- If children under 12 can’t be placed in the back seat
- If your infant can’t be placed in the back seat

Vehicle owners in these or other situations can get permission from NHTSA to have repair shops or car dealers install on-off switches for their air bags.

* To learn more about when air bags can be shut off and for on-off switch request forms, please visit: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/airbags>