



# buying a safer vehicle comparison checklist

Features		Vehicle 1		Vehicle 2		Vehicle 3			
Consider these features if you're in the market for a new or used vehicle. This checklist will help you find the safest vehicle in your price range.		Make _____ Model _____ Year _____ Price _____ MPG or L/100 km _____		Make _____ Model _____ Year _____ Price _____ MPG or L/100 km _____		Make _____ Model _____ Year _____ Price _____ MPG or L/100 km _____			
seatbelts	Height adjustable shoulder belt	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N		
	Shoulder belt in all rear seats	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N		
	All seatbelts have pretensioners	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N		
ESC	Electronic stability control	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N		
	Advanced front airbags	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N		
	Side airbags with head protection	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N		
ABS	Anti-lock brakes	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N		
	Meets my child seat needs	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N		
used cars	Independent inspection	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N		
	Tire tread	good/average/marginal/poor		good/average/marginal/poor		good/average/marginal/poor			
	Number of kms	_____		_____		_____			
<b>more info</b>									
_____									
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crash test ratings	NHTSA crash test ratings: <a href="http://www.safercar.gov">www.safercar.gov</a>	★ ★ ★ ★ ★		★ ★ ★ ★ ★		★ ★ ★ ★ ★			
	IIHS crash test ratings: <a href="http://www.iihs.org">www.iihs.org</a>								
	Frontal offset	good/average/marginal/poor		good/average/marginal/poor		good/average/marginal/poor			
	Side impact	G	A	M	P	G	A	M	P
	Roof strength	G	A	M	P	G	A	M	P
	Head restraints	G	A	M	P	G	A	M	P
Rear crash	G	A	M	P	G	A	M	P	

## why buy a safer vehicle?

It's the right price, looks good, and is the perfect size for what you need, but have you considered if the car's safety features will protect you and your passengers?

Buying a vehicle with high standard safety features can reduce the likelihood that you'll get in a crash and the severity of injuries you experience from a crash.

So when buying your next new or used vehicle consider upgrading to the safest one you can afford. You'll be protecting yourself, your passengers and even the drivers you're sharing the road with.

## recommended safety features

**Seatbelts** are the most important safety device in a vehicle.

- Look for shoulder harnesses on all rear seats. This is especially important for children in booster seats.
- Height adjustable shoulder belts ensure the seatbelt fits properly.
- Seatbelt pretensioners retract the seatbelt to remove excess slack in a crash. These can dramatically reduce the severity of injuries.

**Airbags** offer the best protection when combined with a seatbelt.

- Advanced front airbags have sensors to measure occupant's size, seat position and crash severity to determine the inflation levels for front driver and passenger airbags. They reduce the risk of airbag-related injuries.
- Roof mounted curtain airbags offer head protection to all passengers during side impacts and in many cases, rollovers.
- Seat mounted side airbags offer increased protection for side impacts.

**Electronic Stability Control (ESC)** helps the driver maintain control during high-speed turns or on slippery roads. ESC works best at reducing the risk of rollover, particularly with sport utility vehicles, and some vans and pickup trucks.

Approximately 48% of serious road crashes in Canada are the result of loss of control. Studies show that ESC could reduce these by 20–40%. ESC will be mandatory on all new models in 2011 (2012 model years).

**Anti-Lock Brakes' (ABS)** primary purpose is to prevent a car's wheels from locking. This allows the driver to maintain steering ability and avoid skidding while braking. ABS was developed in the mid-80's and is standard equipment on most, but not all, passenger vehicles sold today.

**Tires** — Many used vehicles come with inadequate tires. Check the tread for wear and ensure the tire pressure is correct. If you live in a seasonal climate, ensure that you have a good set of four proper winter tires. Check inside the driver's door frame for information or ask your local tire retailer.

**Child Seat needs** — Make sure that the vehicle has proper tether hooks and LATCH anchors for your child seat.

Child seats will only be effective if they are properly installed. This information will be in the vehicle manual, and further assistance is available through the Child Passenger Safety Information Line, 1-877-247-5551, or at [icbc.com](http://icbc.com)

**Safety Check** — If you are buying a used vehicle, consider having a safety check performed on it.

## crash test ratings

NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) and IIHS (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety) are vehicle testing facilities in the United States. They test the crash-worthiness (how well a vehicle protects its occupants in a crash) of vehicles.

Combined, the two sites test front, side, rear impact and rollover safety, and offer an up-to-date rating of cars, trucks, and even car seats.

Learn more by visiting their websites:

- [www.iihs.org](http://www.iihs.org)
- [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov)



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