



Seatbelts

FATAL 5

A seatbelt is one of the primary safety features of your motor vehicle and if worn correctly, will substantially reduce the risk of serious injury or death in a crash. In a crash, a person who is not restrained will continue to travel forward at the pre-impact speed until something stops them. This could be the steering wheel, dashboard or windscreen.

Functions of a seatbelt

The main functions of a seatbelt are to:

- cause the occupant to decelerate at the same rate as the motor vehicle in a crash
- spread the force of the impact over the stronger parts of the occupant's body (pelvis and chest area)
- prevent the occupant colliding with the interior parts of the motor vehicle
- reduce the risk of being thrown from the motor vehicle
- slow the speed of the occupant so that they impact safely with the airbag.

Wearing a seatbelt correctly

Always ensure seatbelts are adjusted firmly. In a crash, the occupant will experience high seatbelt loads as the seatbelt pulls against their body.

A seatbelt is worn correctly if:

- **The sash part of the seatbelt sits flat on the shoulder without touching the face or neck.**
- **The lap part of the seatbelt crosses low over the hips, not the abdomen.**
- **The seatbelt is not twisted.**

What the law says

Everyone travelling in a motor vehicle must be restrained. It is a driver's responsibility to ensure that all passengers in their motor vehicle are correctly wearing an approved seatbelt or child restraint.

For more information on child restraints visit www.mylicence.sa.gov.au

The penalties

- Driver not wearing a seatbelt – driver fined and loses three demerit points.
- Passenger 16 years and older not wearing a seatbelt – passenger and driver fined and each loses three demerit points.
- Passenger under 16 years not wearing a seatbelt – driver fined and loses three demerit points; if more than one passenger – driver fined and loses five demerit points.

The SA Police Road Safety Centre is a leader in road safety education, playing a vital role in reducing road trauma through enhancing the awareness, knowledge and skills of all road users through lifelong learning. For more information on our range of programs visit www.police.sa.gov.au/road-safety or use the QR code below to take you straight to SAPOL's road safety page. To book a FREE road safety session email SAPOL.RoadSafetySection@police.sa.gov.au

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