



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. A poorly adjusted seatbelt will allow the occupant to move forward in a crash and increase the risk of head contact with the motor vehicle interior. 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.

This publication has been prepared as a public service initiative by South Australia Police and, while every care has been taken in its preparation, no warranty is given nor representation, either express or implied, made regarding the accuracy, currency or fitness for purpose of the information or advice provided and no liability or responsibility is accepted by the State of South Australia, its instrumentalities, South Australia Police and their agents, officers and employees for any loss suffered by any person in consequence of any use and reliance placed by any person upon the said information or advice.



**SAFER
JOURNEYS**



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
KEEPING SA SAFE



**Government
of South Australia**