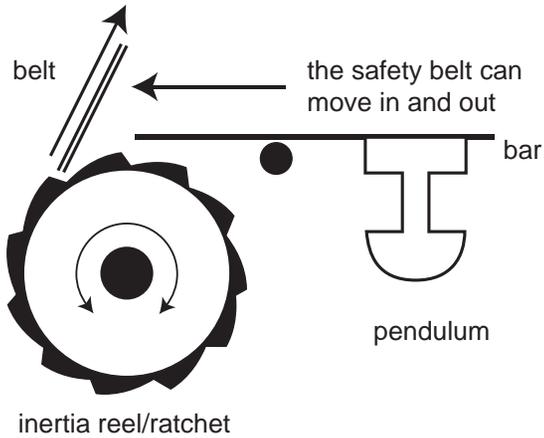
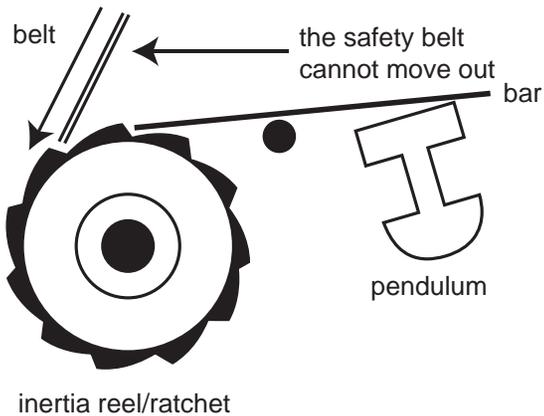


How Your Safety Belt Works



Normally, the pendulum and bar are in the rest position. The reel holding the belt is free to rotate. The belt moves freely in and out.



In a collision or sudden stop, the pendulum moves forward under the force of the impact, causing the bar to engage the ratchet. The reel and safety belt now lock in position and the individual is held firmly in place.

Safety Belt Facts



In Kansas, one person is killed approximately every 24 hours in an automobile crash.

You have a 100% chance of being involved in an automobile crash in your lifetime.

The best protection in an automobile crash is your safety belt.

Kansas Safety Belt Law

Kansas law requires all front seat occupants to wear safety belts. Additionally, all occupants under the age of 18 must wear a safety belt whether they sit in the front or the back seat. All children under the age of 4 must be transported in an approved child safety seat.

In 2007, Kansas passed a law making it legal for police officers to pull over any vehicle containing unrestrained occupants under the age of 18 without having another reason for the stop. Each violator may be fined \$60.

How Effective are Safety Belts?

According to statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, every 14 seconds, someone in America is injured in a traffic crash. Every 12 minutes, someone is killed in a crash. Tragic as these statistics are, they would be much worse if no one buckled up.

Proper use of lap and shoulder belts reduces the risk of fatal injury to front seat passenger car occupants by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%.

Safety belts are certainly effective enough to be worth buckling up.

When should Safety Belts be Worn?

Everyone in an automobile, van or truck should wear a seat belt. They should be fastened before every trip, no matter how short or long the distance. Three out of four traffic deaths occur within 25 miles of home. Four out of five crashes happen at speeds of less than 40 mph. Without belts, people have been killed at speeds slow low as 12 mph.

Remember air bags are designed to work with safety belts, not to replace them.

How should Safety Belts be Worn?

The lap belt should fit snugly and as low on the hips as possible. During an accident, this spreads impact forces over the hip bones reducing the chance of injury.

Shoulder belts should be worn over the shoulder and across the body diagonally. The shoulder belt should never be worn under the arm.

If the shoulder belt rubs against your neck, move a few inches toward the center of the car to allow the belt to ride more comfortably. Some automotive stores carry seat belt attachments that may help relieve the problem.

Pregnancy and Safety Belts

Studies have shown pregnant women involved in motor vehicle accidents are far safer when they wear a lap and shoulder belt. Without a seat belt, a pregnant woman can be thrown into a rapidly opening air bag. A movement of such force could injure or even kill the mother and her unborn child.

The American Medical Association advises pregnant women to wear lap belts as low on the pelvis as possible for their own safety and the safety of the fetus. In cold weather, pregnant women are not advised to fasten safety belts over several layers of clothing. The multiple layers of fabric could let the belt creep up. Expectant mothers should let the car warm up, unbutton their coats and pull the lap belt snugly over their hips and as few layers of clothing as possible. The shoulder belt should go across the chest away from the neck.

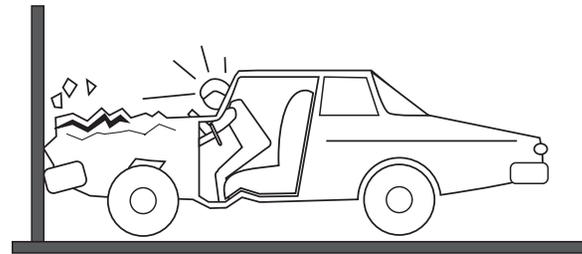
A Note to Senior Citizens

Using safety belts may seem like an inconvenience, but the habit of "buckling up" is well worth it. Safety belts are more effective in reducing injuries for persons age 55 and over because elderly adults are more likely to be injured in a motor vehicle accident.

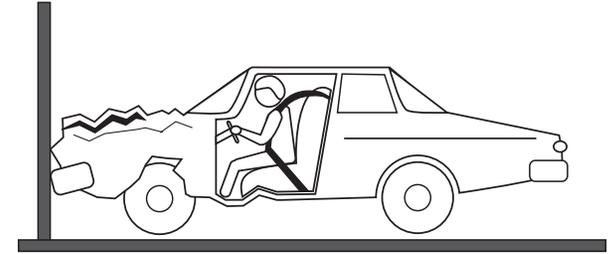
Wearing your safety belt not only makes your trip safer, you also set a good example for your grandchildren.



Within 1/10 of a second, the car has come to a stop, but the occupant continues to move forward.



Within 1/50 of a second after the car stops, the unbelted occupant slams into the steering wheel, dashboard or windshield. This is the second collision.



With effective safety belts, the person stops before hitting the steering wheel, dash or windshield.