



Colorado's statewide campaign to enforce seat belt and child restraint laws.



Buckle Up, Colorado.

Colorado's Seat Belt Laws

Seat Belt Law - The driver is responsible for buckling up and ensuring that all passengers covered by the law are buckled up.

Drivers and front seat passengers must buckle up.

- The minimum fine is \$18.
- Drivers can be ticketed when they are stopped for another violation.

Child Passenger Law* - The driver is responsible for buckling up and properly restraining young passengers in the front and back seats of the vehicle. The law requires the following:

- Infants must ride in a rear-facing child safety seat until they are at least one year old and weigh at least 20 pounds.
- Children ages one to four years who weigh 20 pounds up to 40 pounds must be restrained in a forward-facing child safety seat.
- Children who weigh over 40 pounds or who are at least four years old but less than six years old must be properly restrained in a child booster seat or with a child safety belt-positioning device, unless they are 55 inches tall.
- Children who are at least six years old or at least 55 inches tall, must be properly restrained with the motor vehicle's safety belt.
- The minimum fine is \$58.80
- Drivers can be ticketed for violating the law.

Graduated Driver Licensing Law – The driver is responsible for buckling up and ensuring that all passengers covered by the law are buckled up.

Drivers under age 17 are restricted to only one passenger in the front seat and may only have as many passengers in the back seat of the car as there are seat belts. The driver and all passengers must be buckled up.

- The minimum fine is \$40 and two points against the minor's driving record.
- Drivers can be ticketed for violating the law.

For more information about the Child Passenger Safety law and car seats, visit www.carseatscolorado.com. Have a question about car seats? Call 1-800-LUV-TOTS (1-800-588-8387) or in the Denver metro area call 303-239-4625.

4/05

Strictly Enforcing Colorado Seat Belt Laws to Save Lives





Wondering how a seat belt can save your life, save you money and make your family and friends really happy?

Take the *Click It or Ticket* Quiz.

If I'm in a traffic crash, how can a seat belt help?

- a. Keep the steering wheel out of my chest.
- b. Keep my face from colliding with the windshield.
- c. Keep me from being thrown into other passengers in the vehicle.
- d. Keep me from being thrown out of the vehicle.

Answer: All of the above. A seatbelt can keep you in your seat in the vehicle, preventing serious injuries and even death.

How many unbuckled drivers and passengers died in Colorado last year?

- a. Nearly 100
- b. Nearly 200
- c. Nearly 300
- d. Nearly 400

Answer: c. Nearly 300 (282)

If everyone had buckled up how many lives would be saved?

- a. About 10 percent or nearly 28 lives
- b. About 25 percent or nearly 70 lives
- c. About 50 percent or nearly 140 lives
- d. None, seat belts don't make a difference

Answer: C. Nearly 140. Each year hundreds of Coloradans face life without their loved ones for one simple reason: they didn't buckle up.

If I don't buckle up and I'm thrown out of the vehicle what will happen?

- a. I'll land on a soft grassy spot along side the highway.
- b. I'll end up safe and far away from the crash scene so I can flag someone down for help.
- c. I'll be able to get statements from everyone involved and help the police with their investigation.
- d. I'll fly through the windshield, window or open door and land on the pavement where I could be run over by my own vehicle.

Answer: d. The fact is that being ejected from a vehicle is one of the worst things that can happen to you. The other answers are myths.

Don't young drivers have a better chance of surviving a traffic crash so they don't need to buckle up?

- a. Young drivers survive more traffic crashes because they listen to better music while they're driving.
- b. Young drivers have better reflexes so they can avoid traffic crashes.
- c. Young drivers can see better so they're better drivers.
- d. Young drivers are nearly four times more likely to crash than the average Colorado driver.

Answer: d. Sorry, good music, reflexes and eyesight won't help you survive a crash. Young drivers need to buckle up. Seat belts are the most important factor in surviving a crash and young drivers are most likely to crash.

Why would a police officer or state trooper bother to stop someone for a seat belt violation?

- a. Law enforcement officers would rather write tickets than pull another unbuckled dead or seriously injured child, teen or adult from a traffic crash.
- b. Increasing seatbelt use 3.2 percent (from 79.3 percent currently to 82.5 percent) will save 14 lives and 182 serious injuries annually in Colorado.
- c. Increasing seat belt use 3.2 percent will reduce the economic cost of traffic crashes in Colorado by \$45 million every year.
- d. The Colorado State Patrol and 107 local law enforcement agencies participate in *Click It or Ticket*, a statewide campaign to enforce seat belt laws.

Answer: All of the above. Law enforcement officers across Colorado will be writing seat belt tickets. So buckle up and ask others to buckle up. Avoid a ticket; help Colorado save precious resources and save a life - yours or someone you really care about.