

Seatbelts

ON AVERAGE **78** People are seriously injured each year on Western Australian roads due to lack of proper seatbelt use.¹

25 People on average are killed on Western Australian roads due to a lack of proper seatbelt use.¹



Over the past five years, **20% of people who died in a crash on WA roads were not wearing a seatbelt.**

THE FACTS

Wearing a properly adjusted seatbelt or restraint **reduces the risk of fatal or serious injury by half.²**

In a crash, a person unrestrained by a seatbelt will continue to travel forward at the speed the vehicle was travelling until something stops them.

This could be the steering wheel, dashboard, windscreen, the road, the seat in front of them or another person in the vehicle.

THE RULES

It's an **offence to not wear or incorrectly wear a seatbelt in Western Australia**, further, all drivers must ensure that passengers travelling in their vehicle are appropriately restrained.

Remember, wearing a seatbelt incorrectly can be just as bad as not wearing one and can lead to severe injuries or death.

THE PENALTIES

Penalties for failing to wear your seatbelt correctly start at \$550 and four demerit points.

HOW TO WEAR A SEATBELT

Next time you're buckling up make sure that:

- The chest belt runs over the **middle of your shoulder and diagonally across your chest**.
 - The lap belt sits snugly over the hips.
 - The seatbelt is taut, no twists or slackness.
 - Bulky clothing is removed, as these can reduce the effectiveness of the seatbelt.
- You never share a seatbelt with a child on your lap.
 - Remember: Children under the age of seven years must be restrained in an appropriate child car restraint.
 - Children aged seven and up must use a child restraint unless they can wear an adult seatbelt properly.

SAFETY CAMERAS

There are now enforcement cameras which can detect incorrect and non-use of seatbelts in vehicles.



OFFENCE

Driver: No seatbelt



OFFENCE

Driver: Incorrectly worn seatbelt, under arm



OFFENCE

Driver: Incorrectly worn seatbelt, under leg



OFFENCE

Front seat passenger: Incorrectly worn seatbelt, under arm

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Visit rsc.wa.gov.au/safetycameras

1. Road Safety Commission (2025). Figures are based on the Main Roads WA crash data from 1 January 2019 – 31 December 2023. Data extracted 6 March 2024.
2. NHTSA. (2001). Fifth/Sixth Report to Congress: Effectiveness of Occupant Protection Systems and Their Use. (Report No. DOT HS 809 442). Washington, DC: Author. [https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/search:DOT HS 809442](https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/search:DOT%20HS%20809442) Accessed 08/07/15