# Vehicle Safety Recalls

Join the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) safety initiative to educate the public about the importance of checking vehicles for open safety recalls.

# Talking Points

**General**

* *Safe Cars Save Lives,* and every vehicle recall is a safety-related issue, which means it’s essential to get the repair done immediately.
* NHTSA provides a free user-friendly recall look-up tool that allows you to check for open safety recalls for your vehicles, motorcycles, or automotive equipment, such as tires and car seats.
* If your vehicle is affected by a safety recall, contact your local dealership to schedule a recall repair as soon as possible. Remember: Every recall is fixed **FOR FREE**.
* If you have a used vehicle, you may not be receiving your vehicle’s recall notices. This is why it is important to take the initiative: Sign up for safety recall alerts to make sure you’re informed about recalls that affect your safety.

**Check for Recalls at NHTSA.gov**

* Checking for safety recalls is free and easy.
* Visit [NHTSA.gov/recalls](http://www.NHTSA.gov/recalls) and enter your license plate or your vehicle’s 17-digit vehicle identification number, also known as your VIN. In seconds, you'll know if your vehicle has an open safety recall.
* Look for the VIN on the lower portion of your car's windshield on the driver’s side. Your VIN is also located on your car's registration card, and it may be shown on your insurance card.
* NHTSA’s free [VIN or License Plate Look-Up Tool](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cangela.astrup.ctr%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5C3D59GOJB%5CNHTSA.gov%5Crecalls) will provide details on any unrepaired recalls on your vehicle — for at least the past 15 calendar years. It provides details on unrepaired safety recalls from major automakers, motorcycle manufacturers, and some medium and heavy truck manufacturers.

**Get Recall Alerts From NHTSA**

* NHTSA’s [SaferCar app](https://www.nhtsa.gov/safercar-app) can also help keep you informed about your vehicle. Download the app and enter your vehicle’s VIN, as well as your car seats, tires, or any other automotive equipment information and NHTSA will send you an alert if a safety recall is issued on them. The app is available for iOS and Android.
* Why the [SaferCar app](https://www.nhtsa.gov/safercar-app)? With [SaferCar](https://www.nhtsa.gov/safercar-app) you get crucial information in real time. Download the app and set up your virtual garage, then add your vehicles, as well as related equipment like tires, trailers, and car seats. The app notifies you of all related recalls and points you to local dealerships handling vehicle repairs. The app also helps you quickly make an appointment to get your car fixed for free.
* If you've already downloaded the SaferCar app, now is a good time to make sure your vehicle and equipment information are up-to-date in the app.
* At NHTSA.gov/Recalls, [sign up for Recall Alerts](https://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/subscriptions). If your vehicle is included in a future recall, you’ll receive an email letting you know.
* Drivers may also access NHTSA’s [investigations and recalls resources page](https://www.nhtsa.gov/resources-investigations-recalls), which contains interactive recall and recall completion rate dashboards.

**Air Bag Recall**

* An urgent air bag recall is still ongoing, currently the largest vehicle recall in U.S. history.
* The defective air bags have caused injuries and deaths.
* [Find out if your vehicle is involved in this recall at NHTSA.gov/Takata.](https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/takata-recall-spotlight)

**Annual Recalls**

* *{Insert Stats}*
* Unfortunately, millions of vehicle recalls go unrepaired every year, which puts drivers, passengers, and others on the road at risk.

**Check for Recalls Regularly**

* NHTSA urges drivers to check for recalls at least twice yearly.
* Drivers are encouraged to add “check for vehicle safety recalls” to their vital spring and fall to-do list, which may also include checking smoke detector batteries.
* NHTSA hosts a **Vehicle Safety Recalls Week** each year in March.

**Report a Vehicle Safety Issue**

* Speak up! If you think your vehicle may have a safety-related defect that isn’t part of a current recall, submit your vehicle safety complaint at [NHTSA.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov/report-a-safety-problem) or by calling the agency’s Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236. Even one complaint could be enough to trigger a safety recall.

For more information, visit [NHTSA.gov/Recalls](https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls).