



# SEAT BELTS



## Did you know?

- Seat belts are simple to put on and save lives.
- The penalty for not wearing a seat belt when driving is currently a £100 fine, rising to £500 if taken to court.
- The use of a seat belt by drivers and vehicle occupants was made compulsory in the UK.
- People not wearing a seat belt are 30 times more likely to be ejected from a vehicle during a collision.

If the vehicle has seat belts fitted, legally they must be worn.

Male drivers **aged 17 to 59** are most likely not to wear a seat belt.

Common reasons why people do not wear a seat belt include: habit or forgetting, not believing they provide a safety benefit, discomfort, peer pressure, thrill seeking and perceived lack of enforcement.

Most collisions involving non-belted occupants occur between **00:01 and 07:59**.

**27%** of drivers and passengers in fatal collisions were not wearing seat belts.

Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK where you can be issued with points as well as a fine for failing to wear a seat belt.



## Best practice tips:

Always wear a seat belt, even on short journeys.

Make sure there are enough three-point seat belts for everyone travelling in the vehicle, especially when using hired vehicles.



Before setting off, make it a habit to check that everyone in the vehicle is belted up, both in front and rear seats.

Before setting off, make it a habit to check everyone has their head rest properly adjusted. They can protect someone's neck from whiplash. If unchecked this can lead to severe injuries, paralysis, or death.



## People that do not need to wear a seat belt:

- A driver who is reversing, or supervising a learner driver who is reversing.
- In a vehicle being used for police, fire, and rescue services.
- A passenger in a trade vehicle investigating a fault.
- Driving a goods vehicle on deliveries that is travelling **no more than 50 metres between stops**.
- A licensed taxi driver who is 'plying for hire' or carrying passengers.

Visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for exemptions to wearing seat belts

Should a doctor say a seat belt does not need to be worn for a medical reason, they will issue a 'Certificate of Exemption from Compulsory Seat Belt Wearing'. This must be kept in the vehicle and shown to the Police if stopped.

