

Retrofitting Shoulder Belts

In Pre-1990/92 Vehicles with Only Lap Belts in the Back Seat

Buckling Up Saves Lives

Safety belts and child safety seats can mean the difference between life and death. Their use is essential to protect you and your loved ones from injury or death in a car crash. When shoulder and lap belts are used together, they provide much better protection than lap belts used alone. The shoulder belt restrains the upper body, reducing the chance of injuring the head or spinal cord.

Young children should use regular child safety seats until they weigh about 40 pounds. Children who have outgrown child safety seats should use booster seats until they are tall enough (approximately 4'9") to fit properly in vehicle belts. However, booster seats can only be used if there are shoulder belts as well as lap belts.

It is safer for passengers, especially children, to ride in the back seat than in front. In some states, children are required to ride in back. If the back seat of your car has only lap belts, you can improve the protection there by adding shoulder belts.

Installing Shoulder Belts in the Back Seat

Until the 1990 model year, most cars had only lap belts in the back seat. Shoulder belts have been required in the outboard (side) positions in the back seats of new sedans, station wagons, and hatchbacks made starting in December 1989. The same requirement applies to vans, SUVs, and pickup trucks starting with 1992 models.

Many manufacturers voluntarily offer "retrofit" kits for installing shoulder belts in older sedans, station wagons, and hatchbacks. This is possible because most cars made since 1972 have places (anchor points) to install shoulder belts. These anchor points are reinforced so they are strong enough to withstand the force on the shoulder belt in a crash. Kits are also made for some pickup trucks, vans, SUVs, and convertibles.

Kits are available only for outboard seating positions. **Shoulder belts cannot be added in the center of the back seat of older vehicles.** Some current vehicles have center-rear shoulder belts, but such safety belts are not required at this time.

Some kits include only a shoulder belt to be used with the existing lap belt. Others have a new combination lap-shoulder belt to take the place of the lap belt. Some kits contain two belts so you can retrofit both outboard positions; others have only one set. Some are available to match the color of existing belts; others come only in black.

The list on the following pages includes the makes, models, and years for which kits should be available through dealerships. The manufacturers expect dealerships to order them and be able to install them for you. However, not all dealerships are aware of these parts or have experience installing them. Therefore, the kit you need may not be easy to obtain. In that case, you may want to call the national customer service number for the manufacturer (provided with the list).

Installing a Retrofit Kit

It is important to use the safety belt kit made for your vehicle. Shoulder belts should only be installed if the vehicle has specific anchor points for shoulder belts.

You may be able to install the belts yourself if you have the necessary tools and skills. Otherwise, you will need to find a dealership or mechanic who is willing and able to do the job. The belts must be installed correctly to provide maximum protection.

Using a Generic Shoulder Belt Kit

While it is best to use a safety belt made specifically for your vehicle, it may be easier to get and install a generic lap-shoulder belt. Some auto parts stores and catalogs have lap-shoulder belt kits that meet federal safety standards and might fit your vehicle. **However, unless the vehicle was designed with strong anchor points for shoulder belts, this should never be done.** Shoulder belts should not be added to a vehicle not found on the list below unless the manufacturer confirms the location of strong anchor points. Manufacturer customer service numbers are included, in case you wish to inquire further.

Sources for generic kits meeting federal standards:

- J.C. Whitney: lap-shoulder belt with retractor, \$129.99: www.jcwhitney.com.
- E-Z-On Products lap-shoulder belt with retractor, model 48-R: www.ezonpro.com or 800-323-6598 (call for distributor location)

For more information about passenger safety:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Auto Safety Hotline
888-DASH-2-DOT or 800-424-9153 (tty)
www.nhtsa.gov

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.
Safe Ride Helpline
800-745-SAFE (English), 800-747-SANO (Spanish)
www.carseat.org

List of Shoulder Belt Retrofit Kits by Manufacturer

Kits are provided on a voluntary basis. Some manufacturers have no kits because their vehicles had shoulder belts prior to 1990 model year. Others do not offer such kits. Some were not selling vehicles in this country prior to 1990.

Note: All retail prices are for parts only and do not include any dealer charges that may apply. Prices and information have been supplied by the manufacturer and are subject to change.

The numbers in parentheses listed after the retail prices indicate the number of seating positions per retrofit kit.

DaimlerChrysler Corporation 800-992-1997

Make /Model	Model Year(s)	Retail Price
AMC		
Alliance	1984-88	\$46 (2)
Encore	1983-88	\$46 (2)
Chrysler		
Conquest	1987-88	\$30 (1)
Fifth Avenue	1977-89	\$45 (2)
Laser	1984-86	\$45 (2)
LeBaron coupe	1987-89	\$45 (2)
LeBaron GTS	1985-89	\$45 (2)
New Yorker	1982-89	\$45 (2)
Town and Country Wagon	1982-88	\$45 (2)
Dodge		
400	1981-83	\$45 (2)
600	1983-88	\$45 (2)
Aries	1981	\$45 (2)
Aries Station Wagon	1982-88	\$45 (2)
Caravan	1984-90	\$45 (2)
Grand Caravan	1987-90	\$45 (2)
Charger	1984-87	\$45 (2)
Colt 3-door	1987-88	\$30 (1)
Colt Sedan	1987-88	\$30 (10)
Colt Vista	1987-88	\$30 (1)
Daytona	1984-89	\$45 (2)
Diplomat	1977-89	\$45 (2)
Lancer	1985-88	\$45 (2)
Omni	1979-89	\$45 (2)
Raider	1987-88	\$30 (1)
Ram Charger	1987-89	\$72 (2)
Ram Wagon	1987-90	\$46 (2)
Shadow	1987-88	\$45 (2)
Eagle		
Premier	1988-89	\$46 (2)

Make /Model	Model Year(s)	Retail Price
Jeep		
Cherokee/ Wagoneer	1979-90	\$46 (2)
Grand Wagoneer	1984-90	\$46 (2)
Plymouth		
Caravelle	1982-88	\$45 (2)
Colt 3-door	1987-88	\$30 (1)
Colt Sedan	1987-88	\$30 (1)
Colt Vista	1987-88	\$30 (1)
Gran Fury	1977-89	\$45 (2)
Horizon	1979-89	\$45 (2)
Reliant	1981-89	\$45 (2)
Reliant Station Wagon	1982-88	\$45 (2)
Sundance	1987-88	\$45 (2)
Turismo	1984-87	\$45 (2)
Voyager	1984-90	\$45 (2)
Grand Voyager	1987-90	\$45 (2)

Ford Motor Company

800-392-3673

Make /Model	Model Year(s)	Retail Price
Ford		
Crown Victoria Sedan	1979-89	\$50 (2)
Crown Victoria Station Wagon	1979-89	\$50 (2)
Escort Hatchback	1981-89	\$50 (2)
Escort Station Wagon	1984-89	\$50 (2)
Festiva	1988-89	\$50 (2)
Mustang 2-door	1981-89	\$50 (2)
Probe	1989	\$50 (2)
Taurus Sedan	1986-87	\$50 (2)
Taurus Station Wagon	1986-87	\$50 (2)
Tempo	1984-89	\$50 (2)
Thunderbird	1987-88	\$50 (2)
Tracer Hatchback	1987-89	\$50 (2)
Tracer Station Wagon	1987-89	\$50 (2)
Mercury		
Capri	1981-86	\$50 (2)
Continental	1982-87	\$50 (2)
Cougar	1987-88	\$50 (2)
Grand Marquis Sedan	1979-89	\$50 (2)
Grand Marquis Station Wagon	1979-89	\$50 (2)
Lincoln Town Car	1980-89	\$50 (2)
Lynx Hatchback	1981-87	\$50 (2)
Lynx Station Wagon	1984-87	\$50 (2)
Mark VII	1984-89	\$50 (2)
Sable Sedan	1986-87	\$50 (2)
Sable Station Wagon	1986-87	\$50 (2)
Topaz	1984-89	\$50 (2)

General Motors Corporation

Make /Model	Model Year(s)	Retail Price
Buick 800-521-7300		
Century	1982-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
LeSabre/ Electra	1977-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
Park Avenue/ Electra	1985-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
Regal	1988	\$43 (1)
Riviera	1979-87	\$99 (2)
Skyhawk	1982-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
Skylark	1985-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
Cadillac 800-458-8006		
Brougham	1977-88	\$99 (2)
Deville	1977-88	\$99 (2)
El Dorado	1979-87	\$99 (2)
Fleetwood	1977-88	\$99 (2)
Seville	1980-87	\$99 (2)
Chevrolet 800-222-1020		
Beretta	1987	\$99 (2)
Camaro	1978-88 (b)	\$99 (2)
Caprice	1977-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
Cavalier	1982-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
Celebrity	1982-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
Chevette	1976-97	\$99 (2)
Citation	1980-85	\$99 (2)
Corsica	1987	\$99 (2)
Monza	1978-80	\$99 (2)
GM Trucks 800-462-8782		
Astro / Safari	1984-88 (c)	\$50 (1) \$99 (2)
Blazer (Utility)	1983-88	\$99 (2)
Chevy / Sport /Rally Van	1984-87 (c)	\$75 (1) \$99 (2)
Full Size Pickup	1979-86 (d)	\$84 (2)
Suburban	1987-88 (d)	\$84 (2)

Make /Model	Model Year(s)	Retail Price
Oldsmobile 800-442-6537		
Custom Cruiser	1977-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
Station Wagon		
Cutlass Calais	1985-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
Cutlass Ciera	1982-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
Cutlass Supreme	1988	\$99 (2)
Delta 88	1978-87	\$99 (2)
Firenza	1982-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
Omega	1980-85	\$99 (2)
99/98 Regency	1973-88 (b)	\$99 (2)
Toronado	1979-87	\$99 (2)
Pontiac 800-762-2737		
Bonneville	1978-80	\$99 (2)
Bonneville	1986-87	\$99 (2)
Firebird	1978-88 (b)	\$99 (2)
Grand AM	1985-88	\$99 (2)
Grand Prix	1988	\$43 (1)
1000	1976-86	\$99 (2)
Phoenix	1980-85	\$99 (2)
Safari Station Wagn	1977-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
6000	1982-88 (a)	\$99 (2)
Sunbird	1978-80	\$99 (2)
Sunbird	1982-88 (a)	\$99 (2)

(a) In 1988 General Motors equipped some retrofit kits with one belt instead of two belts for the left and right outboard seating positions. The cost of the kits with one belt is \$49.50.

(b) In 1988 General Motors equipped some retrofit kits with one belt instead of two belts for the left and right outboard seating positions. The cost of the kits with one belt is \$43.25.

(c) Cost variation is attributed to the various seating positions in the vans (i.e., rear seat bench, center seat bucket, or center seat bench).

(d) The cost of retrofit kits for the center seat is \$35.00.

Honda (American Honda Motor Company)

None available

Isuzu (American Isuzu)

None available

Mazda North America 800-222-5500

Make /Model	Model Year(s)	Retail Price
323	1986-87	\$94.40
323 Wagon	1987	\$94.40
626	1983-87	\$94.40

Mercedes

None available. Pre-1990 vehicles have rear shoulder belts.

Mitsubishi Motors North America

None available

Nissan North America 800-647-7261

Make /Model	Model Year(s)	Retail Price
Maxima/Sedan	1985-86	\$30 (1)
Maxima/Wagon	1985-86	\$30 (1)
Pathfinder (e)	1986-89	\$30 (1)
Pulsar (e)	1987-89	\$30 (1)
Sentra/Hatchback	1987-88	\$30 (1)
Sentra/Sedan, Coupe & Wagon	1982-89	\$30 (1)
Stanza/Sedan Hatchback	1987-88	\$30 (1)
Stanza/Sedan Hatchback	1982-86	\$30 (1)
Stanza/Wagon, 2WD	1985-88	\$30 (1)
200 SX/Coupe	1984-88	\$30 (1)
200 SX/Hatchback	1984-88	\$30 (1)
300ZX/2+2	1984-89	\$30 (1)

(e) Trim panel replacement is recommended at additional cost.

Porsche Cars North America

None available

Saab Cars USA

None available. Lap-shoulder belts in the rear outboard position have been standard on all Saabs in the U.S. since the 1983 model year.

Suzuki (American Suzuki Motor Corp.)

None available

Toyota Motor Corporation U.S.A. 800-331-4331

Make /Model	Model Year(s)	Retail Price
Toyota		
Camry 4-door	1983-87	\$200 (2)
Camry 5-door	1983-86	\$200 (2)
Camry Wagon	1987	\$200 (2)
Celica Coupe	1982-88	\$200 (2)
Celica Lift Back	1982-88	\$200 (2)
Corolla 2-door	1982-83	\$200 (2)
Corolla 4-door	1982-87	\$200 (2)
	1988	\$250 (2)
Corolla Hard Top	1982-83	\$200 (2)
Corolla N/B Coupe	1984-87	\$200 (2)
	1988	\$300 (2)
Corolla H/B Coupe	1982-87	\$200 (2)
Corolla Lift Back	1982-88	\$200 (2)
Corolla 2WD Wagon	1982-83	\$200 (2)
	1988	\$150 (2)

Make /Model	Model Year(s)	Retail Price
Corolla 4WD Wagon	1988	\$204 (2)
Cressida 4-door	1985-87	\$200 (2)
Cressida Wagon	1985-87	\$200 (2)
4-Runner	1984-88 ^f	\$200 (2)
FX 3-door	1987-88	\$150 (2)
Land Cruiser	1988	\$150 (2)
Supra Lift Back	1982-88	\$200 (2)
Tercel 2-door Sedan	1982,	\$200 (2)
	1987-88	
Tercel 3-door	1982-88	\$200 (2)
Tercel 4-door Sedan	1982	\$200 (2)
Tercel 5-door Sedan	1983-88	\$200 (2)
Tercel FF Wagon	1984-87	\$200 (2)
Tercel 4WD Wagon	1983-88	\$200 (2)
Van (Wagon)	1984-88	\$200 (4)

(f) Only available on vehicles with roll-bars.

Volkswagen of America 800-822-8997

Make /Model	Model Year (s)	Retail Price
Vanagon	1980-92	\$70.80 (1)

Volvo Cars of America

None available. Volvo vehicles have been equipped with 3-point safety belts in the rear outboard positions since model year 1969.

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. P.O. Box 553, Altadena, CA 91003 www.carseat.org
 310-222-6860, 800-745-SAFE (English) 310-222-6862, 800-747-SANO (Spanish)

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