



# "Location is the Key"

## AIR BAGS

What you don't know could hurt you

***"Drivers should sit at least 10 to 12 inches from the hub of the steering wheel to avoid possibility of injury. This allows the airbag room to inflate completely before the driver's body moves forward."***

- William Smock, University of Louisville School of Medicine, *Washington Post*, 1997.

**In order to increase your distance from the airbag, you can...**

1. Move your seat to the rear as far as you can while still reaching the pedals comfortably.
2. Slightly recline the back of the seat.
3. If your steering wheel is adjustable, tilt it downward. This points the airbag toward your chest instead of your head and neck.

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- Air bags are considered supplemental protection. Most are designed to inflate only in a moderate-to-severe frontal crash.
  - When an airbag is combined with a lap/shoulder belt, risk of head injury in a crash can be reduced by 75 percent. When seat belts are used alone, the risk is reduced by 38 percent.



- Infants (less than 1 year of age) should never be seated in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger-side air bag.
- Children seated in the front seat without a seat belt can be thrown backwards by an inflating air bag.
- In cars without airbags, children are 35 percent safer riding in the back seat.

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