

"Location is the Key"



SAFETY BELTS

**"In Virginia in 1996, 148 lives were saved by safety belt use."
- Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, 1998**

ADULTS

In the United States...

- Nearly two-thirds (64%) of passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes in 1996 were unrestrained.
- If all passenger vehicle occupants over the age of 4 wore safety belts, an additional 9,754 lives could have been saved in 1996.
- A study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that the average inpatient costs for crash victims who were not wearing safety belts were 55% higher than for those who were belted.
- When safety belts are used correctly they reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passengers by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%.

CHILDREN

In the United States...

- If a driver is not wearing a safety belt, 70% of the time children riding in that vehicle will not be wearing a safety belt either. If a driver is belted, 94% of the time children will be belted as well.
- Never use pillows or cushions to boost your child; they may cause the child to slide under and out of the safety belt in a crash.
- Children who have outgrown booster seats should use a lap/shoulder belt. The lap belt must fit across the child's hips, not across the stomach. The shoulder belt should fit across the chest, not across the face or neck.

Information provided by
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, 1998
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1998