Buying a car?

Find a safe, clean, efficient vehicle on Rightcar

Check vehicle safety and environmental ratings

RIGHTCAR®

visit **rightcar.govt.nz**

Ko te nui atu o ngā whetū ko te haumaru atu o tō waka

The more stars, the safer the car

Safety ratings give you the best indication of how your vehicle is likely to perform in a crash. Safety ratings range from 1 to 5 stars – the safest vehicles have 5-star safety ratings while the least safe vehicles have a 1-star rating.

The ratings scale*

Excellent	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Good	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Marginal	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
Poor	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆
Very poor	★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

*Under ANCAP there is a 0-star rating, but it is extremely rarely used.

You are twice as safe in a 5-star car than a 1-star car.

41% of New Zealand's light vehicle fleet (or approximately 1.8 million vehicles) have 1- and 2-star safety ratings.

Check the safety rating of your current vehicle - it might not be what you think it is.

When choosing a vehicle, we recommend you select the safest, cleanest and most efficient vehicle you can afford.

If you're involved in a crash, regardless of why, your choice of vehicle could make all the difference.

Vehicles with higher safety ratings perform better in a crash, so significantly reduce the risk of being killed or seriously injured and could help you to avoid a crash altogether.

Many people don't know or over-estimate the safety rating of the vehicle they own or use – so make sure you check the safety rating of any vehicle you and your whānau drive, or are considering buying.

There are vehicles with high safety ratings available in most vehicle categories and price brackets.

The current safety and environmental ratings for light vehicles* in New Zealand are available at **rightcar.govt.nz**

Safest

Most fuel efficient

Low carbon emissions

Least air polluting

Safe and clean

*Light vehicles have a maximum weight of 3.5 tonnes and include cars, vans, utes, SUVs and 4WDs.

Crash avoidance features

We all make mistakes sometimes – and that's where crash avoidance features help, by automatically assisting drivers when needed.

These electronic features are designed to help save lives and reduce injuries by preventing a crash or minimising it's severity. They typically work by detecting driving mistakes or objects in the way of the vehicle, then automatically alerting or assisting you if you don't act.

Types of crash avoidance features

Designed to assist but not replace you, these features come in various categories including: forward and rear collision prevention, lane-keep assistance, speed assistance, driver state monitoring e.g. fatigue or alcohol impairment.

Based on the most common crash types in Aotearoa New Zealand, the key crash avoidance features to consider include:

- Automatic emergency braking (AEB) - which detects if a collision is about to happen and brakes (or assists the driver to)
- Lane keeping assist or lane departure warning – which will help you stay within your lane.

Crash avoidance features can help you avoid crashing, while safety ratings provide the best indication of how well your vehicle will perform in a crash - so looking at both is recommended.

Visit **Rightcar.govt.nz** for more details and check a vehicle's manual or the manufacturer's website for the most comprehensive information.

Safety ratings in New Zealand

Your vehicle will have one of the following vehicle safety ratings:

Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP)

New Zealand-new, physically crash tested

Most New Zealand new cars start with an ANCAP rating. ANCAP ratings are based on results from crash testing cars in a specially designed crash test laboratory.

An ANCAP rating covers protection for drivers, passengers, pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

It also includes the ability for a car to prevent a crash occurring through features such as autonomous emergency braking and lane keep assist systems, which can reduce the likelihood of a crash occurring by 50%.

ANCAP safety ratings apply to new vehicles that have been in the market for up to six years from launch. After that they switch to the other rating schemes below.

Used Car Safety Ratings (UCSR)

Real-world crash data for make and model

UCSR ratings use real-world crash data to show how well vehicles perform in crashes, compared to all other cars available across New Zealand and Australia. UCSR ratings evaluate the level of protection based on the crash data for that vehicle.

The key rating is "overall safety" which considers how well the vehicle protects everyone involved in a crash. The ratings are updated annually based on the latest real-world crash data available, so can change over time as new, safer vehicles enter the fleet. These ratings don't measure the ability of a car to prevent a crash from occurring.

Vehicle Safety Risk Ratings (VSRR)

Real-world crash data for similar vehicles

If a vehicle has been in the market for a while, but isn't as popular or common on the road, there may not be enough model specific crash data to confidently show how it performs in a crash.

In this case, the vehicle will get a VSRR rating. That's the best estimate of how the vehicle would protect everyone involved in a crash, both inside and outside the car, based on real-world crash data for other similar vehicles from the same year of manufacture.

ANCAP safety ratings

ANCAP is an independent non-regulatory authority that assesses the level of safety offered in new vehicles entering the market.

ANCAP tests measure the safety of those in the vehicle, including children, and those that may be struck by the vehicle in a crash. ANCAP also considers the safety technologies the vehicle has that help to avoid or minimise the severity of a crash. Ratings are determined via physical crash tests and collision avoidance performance assessments in controlled laboratories and test tracks.

Compare within vehicle categories

ANCAP results can be used to compare the protection offered to occupants, pedestrians and cyclists across a range of the most common crash types for vehicles of similar size and weight (i.e. within the same vehicle category). Care must be taken not to compare results for different vehicles across different categories.

Look for the date stamp

The "TESTED" year (date stamp) listed alongside each ANCAP star rating denotes the rating year requirements a vehicle was assessed against. This is important given ANCAP's test and rating criteria increases in stringency every three years. Checking the "TESTED" date stamp ensures you are comparing vehicles rated to similar test criteria. ANCAP recommends you choose a vehicle with the highest safety rating possible, with a date stamp of no older than six years.

How are safety ratings calculated for used cars?

UCSR and VSRR ratings are determined through the analysis of more than 8 million vehicles involved in police reported road crashes across Australia and New Zealand. The vehicle's size, weight, design and safety features are all taken into account in the analysis, done by Monash University Accident Research Centre.

UCSR and VSRR ratings illustrate the risk of death or serious injury (resulting in hospital admission) to people involved in a crash for a specific make and model of vehicle. They do not assess the risk of being involved in a crash, which can be influenced by a variety of factors including vehicle technology, driver behaviour, vehicle condition and the road environment.

Overall safety

An overall safety rating is the best measure of how likely the vehicle is to protect everyone on the road in a crash. That includes the driver, people in other cars, walking, cycling or on motorbikes.

Driver safety

A driver safety rating is based on real-world crash data. It considers how often drivers have been seriously injured or killed in a crash when driving a specific make and model. It measures your relative safety driving a vehicle, compared to other similar vehicles in the New Zealand and Australian fleet. The driver safety rating applies to the safety of all occupants when there are passengers in a vehicle.

Other road user safety

Other road user safety ratings are based on real-world crash data and are the best measure of how likely the vehicle is to protect people outside your car in a crash.

Annual safety ratings change

The safety rating for a vehicle changes over time. Your vehicle's safety rating can be influenced by:

- how long the vehicle has been in the market and driven on the road
- crash data collected for the vehicle
- vehicle technology and safety standards generally improving each year.

All of these things change over time, which means your vehicle's safety rating changes too.

Check your vehicle safety rating

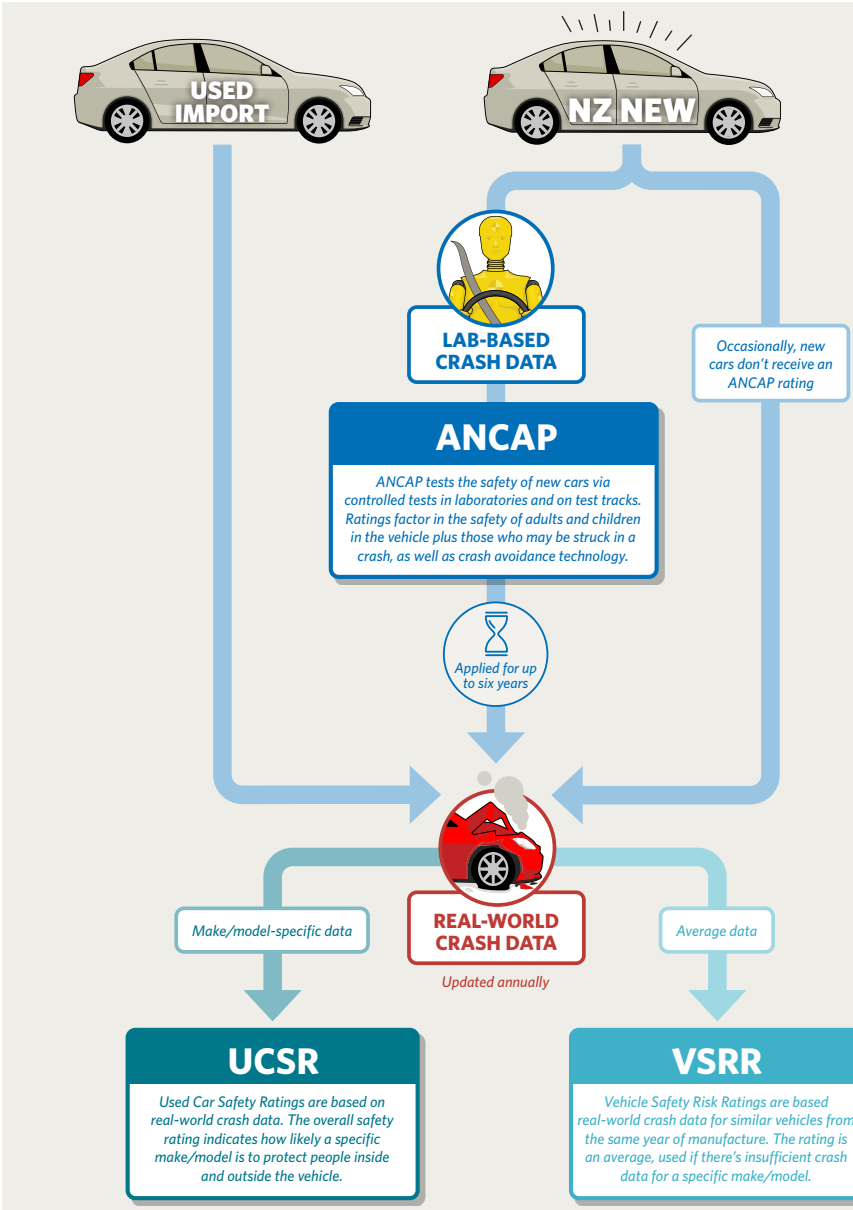
Unsure? The best way to check your current vehicle safety rating is on the Rightcar website at **rightcar.govt.nz**

Buy the safest car you can afford

Any type of vehicle safety rating is only an indication of how well the vehicle is likely to perform in a crash. Considering what crash avoidance features a vehicle has is worth doing too.

We recommend you buy the safest, cleanest, most efficient vehicle you can afford. Pre-purchase inspections are encouraged too.

Which safety rating applies?



For more information, visit **rightcar.govt.nz**

Safe and clean cars

We encourage you to choose the safest and cleanest vehicle you can – contibuting to a safer, healthier future.

The more environmental stars a vehicle has, the better it is for our planet and human health. Environmental ratings are rated on a scale from 1-6 stars and include carbon emissions, fuel economy and air pollution.

Vehicles that have a 4 or 5-star safety rating and a 5 or 6-star carbon emissions rating are safer for both people on the roads and for the environment.

To find a range of vehicles with high safety and environmental ratings, visit **rightcar.govt.nz/safe-and-clean**

Carbon emissions

Combustion of fuel in your vehicle's engine emits carbon dioxide (CO_2) - the main greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. So the more fuel efficient your vehicle, the less CO_2 it produces.

Emissions depend on several factors, including vehicle age, maintenance history, driving style and tyre pressure. The CO_2 emission values are compared using the Worldwide Harmonised Light-Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP) – an emissions standard that reflects realistic road use conditions like variable speed ranges, acceleration and deceleration.

There are a range of vehicles on the market that have high fuel economy and carbon emission ratings. For instance, all fully electric vehicles have a 6-star carbon emissions rating, as they have zero tailpipe carbon emissions. Plus, under the Clean Car Discount scheme, low or zero emissions vehicles may be eligible for a rebate when they are registered in New Zealand for the first time. The lower the emissions, the higher the rebate.

Air pollution

Most of the air pollution from motor vehicles is created by the combustion of fuel sources (for example, petrol or diesel) but can also come from brake and tyre wear as well as road dust.

Pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and fine particles contribute to smog and haze, and can create health problems for people.

Recent research shows people's health can be significantly harmed by nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate matter emitted from motor vehicles.

Air pollution ratings combine manufacturers' emissions ratings, available real-world test results for each vehicle type, and estimated emissions-related health impacts.

A rating (from 1 star to 6 stars) is applied to the results. Electric vehicles score 6 stars and other vehicles get fewer stars, depending on the extent and health impacts of their emissions.

Fuel economy

The most fuel efficient vehicles have high star ratings for fuel economy (5 or 6 stars).

Fuel economy ratings are based on information provided by the manufacturer for a new vehicle tested to international standards for fuel economy. Estimated annual costs are based on a vehicle travelling 14,000km over a year, calculated using a nominated national average petrol, diesel or domestic electricity tariff price. Diesel costs include road user charges (RUC).

Vehicle fuel economy information is sourced from vehicle fuel economy label (VFEL) data. This information provides consumers with an indication of a vehicle's fuel economy based on laboratory testing, and is an estimate of the annual fuel cost based on assumptions. It is intended to be used for comparison purposes and is not a guarantee of the vehicle's performance or the fuel economy that will be achieved.

What to do with a 1 or 2-star vehicle?

If you're replacing your 1 or 2-star vehicle, or deciding to use alternate forms of transport, you can help to reduce the number of less safe and clean vehicles on our roads by deregistering and scrapping your existing 1 or 2-star vehicle.

Why scrap a vehicle?

Vehicles reach a point where their running costs are more expensive than replacing the vehicle.

Fuel, tyres, repairs and maintenance costs all increase with the age of a vehicle.

By deregistering and scrapping an older vehicle, you can save yourself the hassle of selling it, and gain the peace of mind that another less safe or clean car has been removed from our roads.

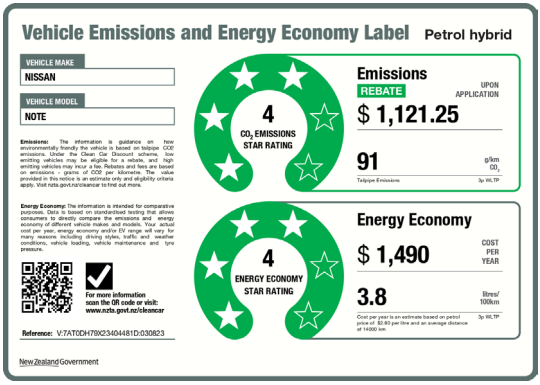
How to deregister your vehicle

When disposing of a vehicle for scrap, we recommend you deregister it first so that it is less likely to reappear on our roads.

You can find out how to cancel your registration and deregister your vehicle on the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency website at **nzta.govt.nz/deregister**

Look out for the labels

If you are at a motor vehicle dealer, look out for the environmental and safety rating labels to make an informed choice.



Don't forget

It's also important your vehicle is safe to drive at all times. Do basic safety checks between WoF inspections, get a professional inspection if you have concerns and consider a pre-purchase inspection when buying.

For more details visit **nzta.govt.nz/vehicles/choosing-the-right-vehicle/check-your-car-safety-basics**

Vehicle safety ratings are endorsed by:

WAKA KOTAHI
NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

He Kaupare. He Manaaki. He Whakaora.
prevention. care. recovery.

mta ASSURED

MOTOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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ROAD TO ZERO

To keep each other safe, we need everyone making safe choices, in safe vehicles, on safe roads and travelling at safe speeds.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

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