

Active Safety - Equipment to Help Avoid a Crash

ANCAP's crash test program provides comparative ratings on how different vehicle models protect their occupants in common types of crashes. Vehicle buyers should consult these ratings before making a purchase.

However, it is obviously better if you can avoid a crash in the first place and there is now a range of equipment which can help you do that.

Visibility Aids - seeing better and being seen

There are a number of features on a vehicle that can help it be seen and which may help prevent a crash. A vehicle that has an easily seen body colour like white or light pastel shades is best. Darker colours, while fashionable, are more difficult for other drivers and pedestrians to see in poor light conditions.

Daytime running lights (DRLs) or Low Beam Headlights

DRLs allow you to be seen more easily by approaching vehicles and pedestrians. They can help you to be seen when moving between bright sunlight and shadow (eg: when there are trees by the side of the road).

On open roads in bright sunlight a vehicle with DRLs is more easily seen by oncoming vehicles. This makes driving safer.

If your vehicle is not equipped with DRLs, you can turn on low beam and gain most of the advantages. But do not use high beam, driving lights or fog lights as they can dazzle oncoming drivers and it is illegal in all Australian states to use them inappropriately.

Automatic windscreen wipers

These operate automatically when water hits the windscreen. They can still be operated manually.

Heated washer jets

Heated washer jets allow you to clean the windscreen in very cold temperatures by preventing the washer jets from freezing up.

Headlight cleaning systems

These help by cleaning the headlights whenever you use the windscreen washers.

2.

Heated external mirrors

Usually work from the heated rear screen switch and demist the external mirrors, improving your rear vision in cold conditions.

Automatic dimming mirrors

The dimmers reduce the glare from the headlights of the vehicle behind you – without you having to manually adjust the mirror.

Facts sheets in this series -

- What is ANCAP?
- Airbags
- Active Safety - Brake Based Systems
- Active Safety – Driving Aids
- Active Safety – Visibility Aids
- Pedestrian Safety Ratings

* * * * *

Contact: Jack Haley

ANCAP

0439 133 645