



Media Release

Tuesday 1 September 2015

RAC urges members: know the safety rating of your used car

RAC has released its 2015 Used Car Safety Ratings guide, which each year looks at millions of second-hand cars which have been involved in real-world crashes and scores them on their safety credentials.

RAC Manager Vehicles and Fuels Alex Forrest said knowing the safety rating of your car when purchasing a used car or light commercial could save your life.

“The Used Car Safety Rating is a free guide which gives parents, young drivers, people looking to purchase a second vehicle and anyone in between critical information on the safest used vehicles available in Australia,” Mr Forrest said.

In the light vehicle category, just one car, the 2009 – 2013 Ford Fiesta, achieved 5 stars .

“It’s good news for consumers that with the Ford Fiesta, there is a 5-star rated light car in the Used Car Safety Ratings. This is a compact, affordable and efficient car and buyers can now also be assured it’s amongst the safest used cars in its class.”

The ratings are calculated by Monash University’s Accident Research Centre and are based on Police reports from more than seven million real-life crashes between 1987 and 2013. They cover more than 90 per cent of popular passenger and light commercial vehicles.

Mr Forrest said the guide highlights how easy it is for people to make either a safe or alternatively, an uninformed choice for roughly the same amount of money.

“The difference between a 5-star rated used car and a 1 or 2-star car could literally be life and death. In the same crash, a driver of the lowest rating vehicle is more than six times as likely to be killed or seriously injured as the same driver in the highest rating vehicle.”

Only 44 per cent of used vehicles – fewer than in 2014 – received an Excellent (5 stars) or Good (4 stars) rating in this year’s analysis.

Cars which are awarded the coveted *Safe Pick* rating – and are deemed the best of the best – must be fitted with Electronic Stability Control while also performing well in protecting occupants and other road users.

Less than 10 per cent of the vehicles assessed (21 of 217) earned the coveted *Safe Pick* rating, meaning they also provided good protection for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists in the event of a crash.

“Consumers who buy a used car which doesn’t rate well will considerably increase their risk of serious injury if they are involved in a crash.”

RAC is a supporter of the Used Car Safety Ratings research program by Monash University Accident Research Centre in partnership with Australia’s and New Zealand’s motoring clubs and the State government road safety agencies.

rac.com.au/media

Below is a list of some of the best rated vehicles:

VEHICLE	PRICE	Safety Rating
Light car		
Ford Fiesta WA/WT/WZ 09-13	From \$8,000	5 stars
Small cars		
Holden Cruze JG/JH 09-13	From \$8,500	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Honda Civic 06-11	From \$7,900	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Toyota Prius II 03-09	From \$9,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Medium cars		
Holden Vectra ZC 03-05	From \$5,500	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Honda Accord 03-07	From \$6,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Large cars		
Ford Falcon FG 08-13	From \$9,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Toyota Aurion 06-12	From \$8,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Holden Statesman/Caprice WK/WL 03-06	From \$9,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Medium SUVs		
Mazda CX-7 06-12	From \$11,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Nissan Pathfinder R51 05-13	From \$13,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>

Alex Forrest is available for interview and RAC has arranged a Ford Fiesta which can be filmed.

Prices based on advertised prices for vehicles in Western Australia during August 2015.

Media contact Kylie Bonkowski: 0401 703 719