

Vehicle safety and environmental ratings

2022



Considering buying a vehicle?

Buy the safest, cleanest, most efficient vehicle you can afford

 RIGHTCAR®

[visit rightcar.govt.nz](https://rightcar.govt.nz)

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.

Safety rating labels are now available for vehicles being sold by motor vehicle dealers, so you can easily find safe vehicles to buy.

4-star safety rating
The more stars the safer the car

RIGHTCAR®

Rating system: ANCAP small car
Year of rating: 20XX
Make: NAME
Model: NAME
Year: XXXX
Rego/VIN: NUMBER

To find out more visit rightcar.govt.nz

REFERENCE CODE: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

WAKA KOTAHI
NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

ROAD TO ZERO

New Zealand Government

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

37% of New Zealand's light vehicles have 1 and 2-star safety ratings.

That's approximately 1.6 million vehicles, out of 4.4 million in the NZ fleet.

When buying a vehicle, we recommend people buy the safest, cleanest and most efficient vehicle in their price range.

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

Vehicles with higher safety ratings can significantly reduce your chance of being killed or seriously injured in a crash, and may help you to avoid a crash altogether.

Vehicle safety ratings in New Zealand are available for most new and used vehicles, presented using a rating scale of 1 to 5-stars. The safest vehicles have a 5-star safety rating, while less safe vehicles have a 1-star rating.

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

The current safety and environmental ratings for vehicles in New Zealand are available at:

rightcar.govt.nz



Safest



Most fuel
efficient



Low carbon
emissions



Least air
polluting



Safe and
clean

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, crash lab 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 and pedestrians – and also includes the ability for a car

to prevent a crash occurring through features such as electronic stability control, which can reduce the likelihood of a crash occurring by around 30%.

ANCAP ratings are used for up to six years for new vehicle models, but 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 are performing in crashes, compared to other used cars available across New Zealand and Australia. UCSR ratings evaluate the level of protection provided to road users,

based on the crash data for that vehicle. They don't measure the ability for a car to prevent a crash from occurring in the first place. Monash University reviews and updates UCSR ratings annually, so the ratings can change based on the current crash data of each year.

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 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 collision. ANCAP also considers the technology the vehicle has that helps to avoid or minimise the effects of a crash.

To determine safety ratings, ANCAP conducts crash tests using various scenarios to measure the safety of those in the vehicle.

ANCAP safety ratings also consider features that assist in the prevention of a crash and the protection of other road users such as pedestrians and cyclists.

Compare within vehicle categories

ANCAP results can be compared across a range of the most common crash types for vehicles of similar size and weight, ie within the same vehicle category. Care must be taken when comparing results for different vehicles across different categories, as only vehicles of similar mass can be correctly compared.

Look for the date stamp

To know when a vehicle was tested, look for the date stamp on the label. ANCAP's test criteria changes over time, so vehicles that achieved 5-stars in 2015 were assessed against a lower standard than vehicles tested in 2020. Due to this continuous improvement, an ANCAP rating is applied for six years from the date the vehicle was tested, at which time it is replaced with a UCSR or VSRR rating.

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.

The ratings scale

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

Safety rating adjustments

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 in the first place, which can be influenced by a variety of factors including vehicle technology, driver behaviour, vehicle condition and the road environment.

Demographic factors, such as who was driving at the time of the crash and the crash circumstances, are taken into account, with ratings adjusted based on:

- Driver gender
- Driver age
- Crash location
- Crash location speed limit
- Crash year
- Number of vehicles involved



UCSR and VSRR safety rating scores

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, pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

Driver safety

A driver safety rating is based on real-world crash data. It considers how often drivers have been seriously or fatally injured 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. Here's why:

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, [rightcar.govt.nz](https://www.rightcar.govt.nz).

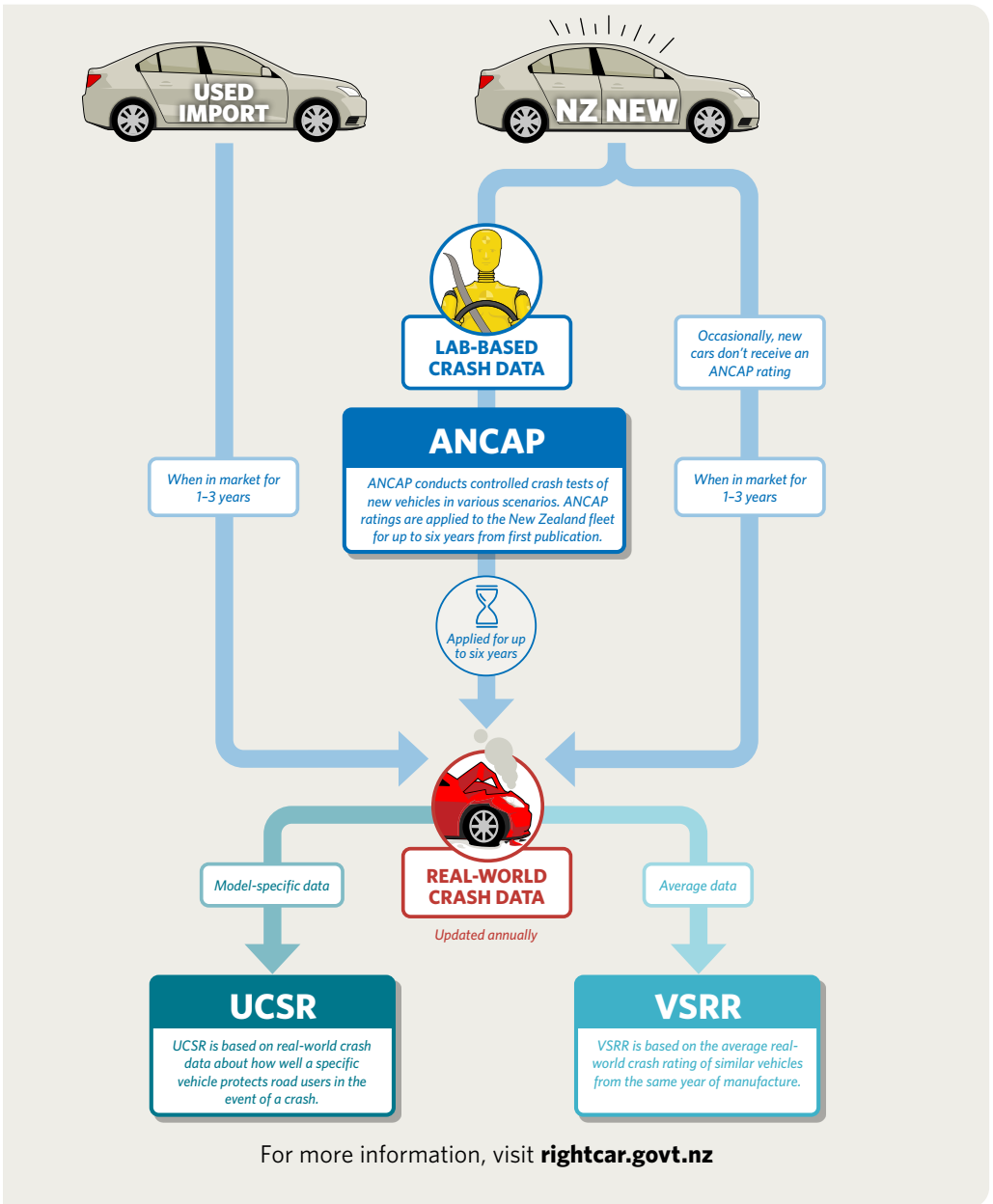
Buy the safest car you can afford

Any type of vehicle safety rating is only an indication of how well the vehicle is likely to perform in a crash. That includes how well it protects its occupants and can also consider those it crashes into.



We recommend you buy the safest, cleanest, most efficient vehicle you can afford.

Which safety rating applies?



For more information, visit [rightcar.govt.nz](https://www.rightcar.govt.nz)

Safe and clean cars

We encourage New Zealanders to consider buying the safest and cleanest cars they can afford when making their next vehicle purchase.

The more environmental stars a vehicle has, the better it is for our planet. 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

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the main greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. Combustion of fuel in your vehicle's engine emits CO₂ - so the more fuel efficient your vehicle, the less CO₂ it will produce.

Emissions depend on several factors, including vehicle age, maintenance history, driving style and tyre pressure. The CO₂ emission values are compared using the Worldwide Harmonised Light-Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP). WLTP is being introduced globally as a single emissions standard that reflects realistic road use conditions like variable speed ranges, acceleration and deceleration.

There are a range of low or zero emissions 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.

Air pollution

Most of the air pollution from motor vehicles is created by the combustion of fuel sources (eg petrol or diesel) but can also come from brake and tyre wear, and road dust. Pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and fine particles contribute to smog and haze, and can create health problems for people.

Sources of vehicle-generated air pollution:

- Exhaust emissions from the combustion of fuel.
- Dust emissions from tyre and brake wear.
- Road dust from vehicles travelling on sealed and unsealed roads.

Air pollution ratings show how environmentally friendly a vehicle was when it was first manufactured, based on exhaust emissions.

To make sure your vehicle stays as close as possible to the rating it was given when it was new, make sure your vehicle's engine is regularly serviced.

The newer your vehicle is, the more likely it is to have lower emissions, resulting in a higher air pollution rating. Low and zero emissions vehicles also have high star ratings, as they generate minimal tailpipe carbon 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



**The more stars
the safer the car**



To find current vehicle safety and environmental ratings:



visit rightcar.govt.nz

Vehicle safety car ratings are endorsed by:



**Te Kaporeihana Āwhina
Hunga Whara**
prevention. care. recovery.



Road to Zero, New Zealand's road safety strategy, sets us on a path to achieve Vision Zero, a New Zealand where no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads

UCSR and VSRR analysis conducted by
Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC)



[visit rightcar.govt.nz](https://visit.rightcar.govt.nz)