



2.1 Safety first

Tiguan

Model year 2009

2.1



About this Booklet

This Booklet contains important information, tips, instructions, and **WARNINGS** about using your vehicle. For your own safety and for the safety of your passengers, you must also be aware of the information in this and other Owner's Literature Booklets.

Make sure that you always keep the complete Owner's Literature in the vehicle. This is especially important when you lend or sell the vehicle.

This manual describes **vehicle equipment** at the time of printing. Some equipment may not be available until a later date, or may be available only for certain markets.

At the beginning of this Booklet, you will find a **Table of contents** showing all the items described in this manual in the order that they appear.

An **Alphabetical index** is at the end of the Booklet.

Supplements to the Owner's Literature, if any, will be found in the binder right after the *Alphabetical Index* Booklet.

Illustrations may slightly vary from your vehicle. For this reason you should regard illustrations as a general guide.

Directions and positions (for example right, left, front, rear) always refer to the direction or position compared to the normal direction of travel of the vehicle unless another meaning is clearly stated.

Some sections of this Booklet do not apply to all vehicles. If this is the case, a text at the beginning of the section indicates the models and equipment to which it applies; for example "Applies to vehicles: with Diesel engine."

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► The section is continued on the next page.

◄ Indicates the **end of a section**.

⇒ ⚠ Cross-reference to a "WARNING" within or outside of a section.

⇒ ⚡ Cross-reference to a "Note" within or outside of a section.



WARNING

Text with this symbol contains important information on safety and how to reduce the risk of personal injury or death.



Note

Text with this symbol draws your attention to potential sources of damage to your vehicle.



For the sake of environment

Text with this symbol contains information about the environment and how you can help protect it.



Tips

Text with this symbol contains special tips and other information about getting the most out of your vehicle and its features.

Afterword

Volkswagen AG works constantly to develop and improve its products. We must therefore reserve the right to change any part of the vehicle, its equipment or technical specifications at any time. No legal commitment can therefore be derived from the information, illustrations or descriptions in this manual.

The texts, illustrations and standards in this manual are based on the information available at the time of printing.

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For the sake of environment

This paper was bleached without the use of chlorine.



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Safe driving

General notes

Dear Volkswagen Driver

Please remember - safety first!

This Booklet contains important information, tips, instructions and warnings which you should read and heed for your own safety, the safety of your passengers and others.



WARNING

Always make sure that you follow the instructions and heed the **WARNINGS** in this Booklet. It's in your interest and in the interest of all your passengers.

- Additional important information that you need to know for your own safety and the safety of your passengers and others is in the other Booklets of your Owner's Literature.
- This Owner's Literature must always remain with your Volkswagen whenever you lend or sell your vehicle so that this important information will always be available to the driver and passengers.

Safety equipment

The parts of the occupant restraint system work together to help reduce the risk of injury in accidents.

Your safety and the safety of your passengers shouldn't be left to chance. Advances in technology have made a number of features available to help reduce the risk of injury in a collision. The following are just a few of the safety features in your Volkswagen:

- sophisticated safety belts for all seating positions,
- safety belt pretensioners for the driver and passenger,
- safety belt pretensioners for the outer seating positions on the rear seats¹,
- safety belt load limiters for all seating positions,
- safety belt height adjustment for the front seats,
- Advanced front airbags system,
- side airbags for the driver and passenger,
- side airbags for the outer seating positions on the rear seats¹,
- Side Curtain Protection[®] airbags,

¹ Where applicable



- LATCH lower universal and top tether anchorages for child restraints²,
- height adjustable head restraints for all seating positions,
- adjustable steering column.

These individual safety features, can work together as a system to help protect you and your passengers in a wide range of collisions. These features can't work as a system if they are not always correctly adjusted and properly used!

This Booklet explains why these features are important, how they work to help protect you and your passengers and how they must be adjusted and used to get the greatest benefit and reduce the likelihood of injury. The Booklet also contains important WARNINGS that you and your passengers must always read and heed to help reduce the risk of personal injury.

Safety is everybody's responsibility!

Important things to do before driving

Safety is everybody's job. Vehicle and occupant safety always depends on the informed and careful driver.

For your safety and the safety of your passengers, before driving always:

- Make sure that all lights and signals are working correctly.
- Make sure that the tire pressure is correct.
- Make sure that all windows are clean and that you have good visibility all around.
- Make sure that nothing can interfere with the pedals.
- Adjust front seat, head restraint and mirrors correctly for your height.
- Instruct passengers to adjust the head restraints according to their height.
- Make sure to use the right child restraint correctly to protect children ⇒ page 69.
- Sit properly in your seat and make sure that your passengers do the same ⇒ page 12, “Proper occupant seating positions”.
- Fasten your safety belt and wear it properly and make sure your passengers do the same ⇒ page 24, “Safety belts”.
- Secure all luggage and other items carefully ⇒ page 20.

Servicing not only maintains your vehicle, it also contributes to operational and traffic safety. For this reason, you should service your car on a regular basis according in your Maintenance Booklet ⇒ booklet 1.1 “Maintenance”.


If you will be driving your vehicle under harsh conditions, using sulfur-containing fuel that contains sulfur, driving a lot of short distances a lot, idling the engine often, driving in very dusty areas, towing a trailer often, or if you will be using your vehicle mainly in areas where winter temperatures predominate, you will have to have your certain service tasks carried out more frequently than at the intervals listed in the Owner's Literature.

² In the United States “lower universal anchorages” are part of the “LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children)” system for the attachment of child restraints without the vehicle safety belt.



What impairs driving safety?

Safe driving is directly related to the condition of the vehicle, the driver as well as the driver's ability to concentrate on the road without distraction.

The driver is responsible for the safety of the vehicle and all of its occupants. If your ability to drive is impaired, safety risks for everybody in the vehicle increase and you also become a hazard to everyone else on the road ⇒ . Therefore:

- Never let yourself be distracted by passengers or by using the sound system, navigation system or a cellular telephone.
- Never drive when your driving ability is impaired (by medications, alcohol, drugs, etc.).
- Observe all traffic laws, rules of the road and speed limits and plain common sense.
- Always adjust your speed to road, traffic and weather conditions.
- Take breaks often on long trips. Don't drive for more than two hours at a stretch.
- Do not drive when you are tired, under pressure or when you are stressed.



WARNING

Impaired driving increases the risk of serious personal injury and death whenever a vehicle is being used.

Proper occupant seating positions

Proper seating position for the driver

The proper driver seating position is important for safe, relaxed driving.

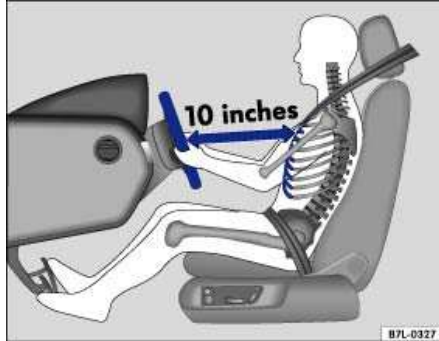


Fig. 1 There must be at least 10 inches between the driver and the steering wheel.

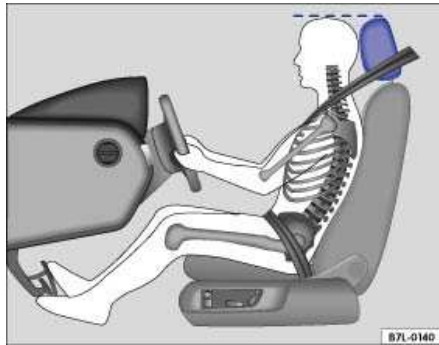


Fig. 2 Correct head restraint position for driver

For your own safety and to reduce the risk of injury in an accident, we recommend that you adjust the driver's seat as follows:

- Adjust the driver's seat so that you can easily push the pedals all the way to the floor while keeping your knee(s) slightly bent ⇒ ⚠.
- Adjust the seatback angle to an upright position so that your back is in full contact with it when you drive.
- Adjust the steering wheel so that there are at least 10 inches (25 cm) between the steering wheel and your breast bone ⇒ Fig. 1. If it is not possible to sit at least

10 inches from the steering wheel, see your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop about adaptive equipment.

- Adjust the steering wheel so that the steering wheel and airbag cover points at your chest and not at your face.
- Grasp the top of the steering wheel with your elbow(s) slightly bent.
- Adjust the head restraints so that the top edge of the head restraint is in line with the upper part of your head as much as possible; it should not be below eye level. The back of your head should be as close as possible to the headrest ⇒ Fig. 2.
- Fasten and wear safety belts properly ⇒ page 24.
- Always keep both feet in the footwell so that you are in control of the vehicle at all times.

For detailed information on how to adjust the driver seat ⇒ booklet 3.1 “Controls and Equipment”.



WARNING


Drivers who are unbelted, out of position or too close to the airbag can be seriously injured by an airbag as it unfolds, even with an Advanced Airbag. To help reduce the risk of serious personal injury:

- Always adjust the driver's seat and the steering wheel so that there are at least 10 inches (25 cm) between your breastbone and the steering wheel.
- Always hold the steering wheel on the outside of the steering wheel rim with your hands at the 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock positions to help reduce the risk of personal injury if the driver's airbag inflates.
- Never hold the steering wheel at the 12 o'clock position or with your hands at other places inside the steering wheel rim or on the steering wheel hub. Holding the steering wheel the wrong way can cause serious injuries to the hands, arms and head if the driver's airbag inflates.
- Pointing the steering wheel toward your face decreases the ability of the driver's airbag to help protect you in a collision.
- Always sit upright. Never lean against or place any part of your body too close to the area where the airbags are located.
- Before driving, always adjust the front seats and head restraints properly and make sure that all passengers are properly restrained.
- Never adjust the seats while the vehicle is moving. Your seat may move unexpectedly and you could lose control of the vehicle.
- Never drive with the backrest reclined or tilted far back! The farther the backrests are tilted back, the greater the risk of injury caused by incorrect positioning of the safety belt and improper seating position.

Proper seating position for the front passenger

The proper front passenger seating position is important for safe, relaxed driving.

For your own safety and to reduce the risk of injury in an accident, we recommend that you adjust the seat for the front passenger as follows:

- Move the front passenger seat back as far as possible. There must be a minimum of 10 inches (25 cm) between the breastbone and the instrument panel ⇒ .
- Adjust the seatback angle to an upright position and your back is in full contact with it whenever the vehicle is moving.
- Adjust the head restraints so that the top edge of the head restraint is in line with the upper part of your head as much as possible; it should not be below eye level. The back of your head should be as close as possible to the headrest ⇒ page 16.
- Keep both feet flat on the floor in the footwell in front of the front passenger seat.
- Fasten and wear safety belts properly ⇒ page 24, “Safety belts”.

For detailed information on how to adjust the front passenger seat ⇒ booklet 3.1 “Controls and Equipment”.



WARNING

Front seat passengers who are unbelted, out of position or too close to the airbag can be seriously injured or killed by an airbag as it unfolds, even with an Advanced Airbag. To help reduce the risk of serious personal injury:

- Passengers must always sit upright and never lean against or place any part of their body too close to the area where the airbags are located.
- Passengers who are unbelted, out of position or too close to the airbag can be seriously injured by an airbag as it unfolds.
- Always make sure that there are at least 10 inches (25 cm) between the front passenger's breastbone and the instrument panel.
- Each passenger must always sit on a seat of their own and properly fasten and wear the safety belt belonging to that seat.
- Before driving, always adjust the front passenger seat and head restraint properly.
- Always keep your feet on the floor in front of the seat. Never rest them on the seat, instrument panel, out of the window, etc. The airbag system and safety belt will not be able to protect you properly and can even increase the risk of injury in a crash.
- Never drive with the backrest reclined or tilted far back! The farther the backrests are tilted back, the greater the risk of injury caused by incorrect positioning of the safety belt and improper seating position.
- Children must always ride in child seats that are appropriate for their size and age ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”. Special precautions apply when installing a child seat on the front passenger seat ⇒ page 45, “Advanced Airbag System, infants, child restraints and children on the front seat”.



Proper seating positions for passengers on rear seats

Rear seat passengers must sit upright with both feet on the floor consistent with their physical size and be properly restrained whenever the vehicle is moving.

To reduce the risk of injury in a sudden braking maneuver or an accident, rear seat passengers must always be properly seated:

- Make sure that the seatback is securely latched in the upright position.
- Adjust the head restraint so that the upper edge is as even with the top of your head as possible but no lower than eye level ⇒ page 16.
- Keep both feet flat in the footwell in front of the rear seat.
- Fasten and wear safety belts properly ⇒ page 24, “Safety belts”.
- Make sure that children are always properly restrained in a child restraint that is appropriate for their size and age ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.



WARNING

Passengers who are improperly seated on the rear seat can be seriously injured in a crash.

- Each passenger must always sit on a seat of their own and properly fasten and wear the safety belt belonging to that seat.
- Safety belts only offer maximum protection when the seatback is securely latched in the upright position and the safety belts are properly positioned on the body. By not sitting upright, a rear seat passenger increases the risk of personal injury from improperly positioned safety belts!
- Always adjust the head restraint properly so that it can give maximum protection.

Proper adjustment of head restraints

Head restraints that are properly adjusted can help to reduce the risk of injury in many kinds of accidents.

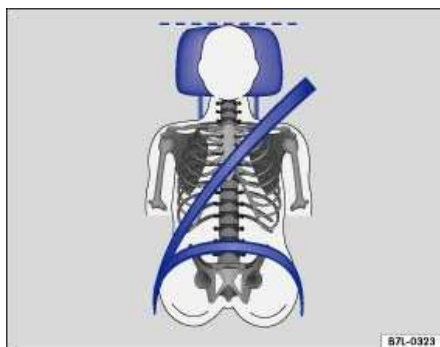


Fig. 3 Correctly adjusted head restraint viewed from the front

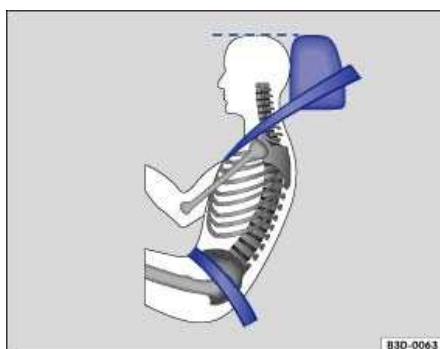


Fig. 4 Correctly adjusted head restraint viewed from the side

The head restraints must be correctly adjusted to help reduce the risk of injury.

- Adjust the head restraints so that the top edge of the head restraint is in line with the upper part of your head as much as possible; it should not be below eye level. The back of your head should be as close as possible to the headrest ⇒ Fig. 3 and ⇒ Fig. 4.

Adjusting head restraints ⇒ booklet 3.1 “Controls and Equipment”.

Adjusting the head restraint for short people

Push the head restraint all the way down, even if this means the person's head is below the top edge of the head restraint.



Adjusting the head restraint for tall people

Pull the head restraint up as far as it will go.



WARNING

Driving without head restraints or with improperly adjusted head restraints increases the risk of serious injuries in a collision. To help reduce the risk of injury:

- Always drive with the head restraints in place and properly adjusted.
- Every person in the vehicle must have a properly adjusted head restraint. Each head restraint must be adjusted according to occupants' size so that the upper edge is as even with the top of the person's head, but no lower than eye level. Always hold your head so that the back of your head is as close as possible to the head restraint.
- Never attempt to adjust head restraint while driving.

Examples of improper seating positions

The occupant restraint system can only reduce the risk of injury if vehicle occupants are properly seated.

Improper seating positions can cause serious injury or death. Safety belts can only work when they are properly positioned on the body. Improper seating positions reduce the effectiveness of safety belts and will even increase the risk of injury and death by moving the safety belt to critical areas of the body. Improper seating positions also increase the risk of serious injury and death when an airbag deploys and strikes an occupant who is not in the proper seating position. Therefore:

- Never let anyone sit improperly when the vehicle is moving ⇒ .

The following are only some of the positions that will increase the risk of serious injury and death. Our hope is that these examples will help make you more aware of seating positions that are dangerous.

Therefore, whenever the vehicle is moving:

- never stand up in the vehicle
- never stand on the seats
- never kneel on the seats
- never ride with the seatback reclined
- never lie down on the rear seat
- never lean up against the instrument panel
- never sit on the edge of the seat
- never sit sideways
- never lean out the window
- never put your feet out the window
- never put your feet on the instrument panel
- never rest your feet on the seat cushion or back of the seat
- never ride in the footwell

- never sit on the front or rear center armrest
- never ride in the cargo area.

**WARNING**

Improper seating positions increase the risk of serious personal injury and death whenever a vehicle is being used.

- Always make sure that all vehicle occupants stay in a proper seating position and are properly restrained whenever the vehicle is moving.

Pedal area

Pedals

The pedals must always be free to move without interference.

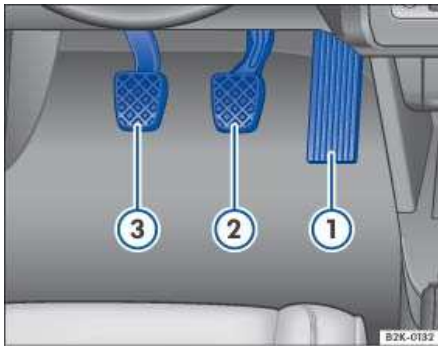


Fig. 5 Pedal cluster on vehicles equipped with manual transmission: (1) accelerator pedal, (2) brake pedal, (3) clutch pedal.

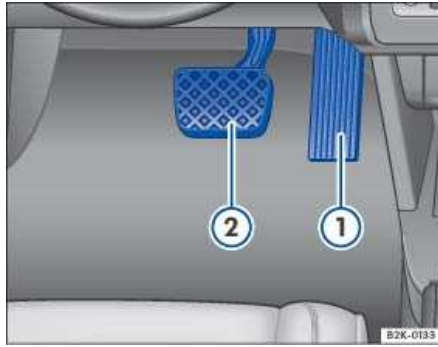


Fig. 6 Pedal cluster on vehicles equipped with automatic transmission or DSG (direct shift gearbox) transmission: (1) accelerator pedal, (2) brake pedal.

Make sure that all pedals move freely without interference and that nothing prevents them from returning to their original positions.

Only use floor mats that leave the pedal area free and can be held in place with floor mat fasteners.

If a brake circuit fails, more brake pedal travel is needed to bring the vehicle to a full stop.

Wear appropriate shoes

Wear shoes that give your feet a good grip, and that give you a good feel for the pedals.




WARNING

Pedals that cannot move freely can cause loss of vehicle control and increase the risk of serious injury.

- **Never put anything in the driver's footwell. An object could get into the pedal area and interfere with pedal function. During sudden braking or in an accident, you would not be able to brake or accelerate!**
- **Always make sure that nothing can fall or move into the driver's footwell.**

Floor mats on the driver side

Always use floor mats that can be securely attached to the floor mat fasteners and do not interfere with the pedals.

- Make sure that the floor mats are properly secured and cannot move and interfere with the pedals ⇒ .

Use only floor mats that leave the pedal area unobstructed and that are firmly secured so that they cannot slip out of position and interfere with the pedals or impair safe operation of your vehicle in other ways.

You can get suitable floor mats from your authorized Volkswagen dealer.

**WARNING**

Pedals that cannot move freely can cause loss of vehicle control and increase the risk of serious personal injury.

- Always make sure that floor mats are properly attached to the floor mat fasteners.
- Never place or install floor mats or other floor coverings in the vehicle that cannot be properly secured to prevent them from moving and interfering with the pedals or the ability to control the vehicle.
- Never put floor mats or other floor coverings on top of already installed floor mats. Additional floor mats and other coverings will reduce the size of the pedal area and interfere with the pedals.
- Always properly reinstall and secure floor mats that have been removed for cleaning.
- Always make sure that objects cannot fall into the driver footwell while the vehicle is moving. Objects can become trapped under the brake pedal and accelerator pedal causing a loss of vehicle control.

Stowing luggage

Loading the luggage compartment

All luggage and other items must be properly stowed and secured in the luggage compartment.

Loose items in the luggage compartment can shift suddenly and change vehicle handling characteristics. Loose items can also increase the risk of serious personal injury in a sudden vehicle maneuver or in a collision.

- Distribute the load evenly in the luggage compartment.
- Always place and properly secure heavy items in the luggage compartment as far toward the front of the vehicle as possible.
- Stow heavy luggage as low as possible in the luggage compartment.
- Secure luggage using the tie-downs provided ⇒ page 22, “Tie-downs”.
- Make sure that the rear seat back is securely latched in place.

**WARNING**

Improperly stored luggage or other items can fly through the vehicle causing serious personal injury during hard braking or in a collision. To help reduce the risk of serious personal injury:

- Always put luggage or other heavy items in the luggage compartment.
- Always secure objects in the luggage compartment with the tie-down hooks and suitable straps.

**WARNING**

Heavy loads will influence the way your vehicle handles. To help reduce the risk of a loss of control leading to serious personal injury:

- Always keep in mind when transporting heavy objects, that a change in the center of gravity can also change the way the vehicle handles:
 - Always distribute the load as evenly as possible.
 - Place heavy objects in the luggage compartment as far toward the front of the vehicle as possible.
- Never exceed the Gross Axle Weight Rating or the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating specified on the safety compliance sticker on the left door jamb. Exceeding permissible weight can change the way the vehicle handles.
- Please observe information on safe driving ⇒ page 9, “Safe driving”.

**WARNING**

To help prevent poisonous exhaust gas from being drawn into the vehicle, always keep the tailgate and rear window closed while driving.

- Never transport objects larger than those that fit completely into the luggage area because the tailgate cannot be fully closed.
- If you absolutely must drive with the tailgate or the rear window open, observe the following notes to reduce the risk of poisoning:
 - Close all windows,
 - Close the power roof³,
 - Open all air outlets in the instrument panel,
 - Switch off the air recirculation,
 - Set the fresh air fan to the highest speed.

³ Where applicable

**WARNING**

Always make sure that the doors, the power roof³, all windows and tailgate are securely closed and locked to reduce the risk of injury when the vehicle is not being used.

- After closing the rear window or the tailgate, always make sure that it is properly closed and locked.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended especially with the rear window or tailgate left open. A child could crawl into the vehicle through the luggage compartment and close the tailgate or window becoming trapped and unable to get out. Being trapped in a vehicle can lead to serious personal injury, particularly when outside temperatures are hot or cold.
- Heat build-up in the passenger and luggage compartments of a parked vehicle can lead to temperatures in the vehicle that are much higher than the outside temperatures, particularly in summer. Temperatures can quickly reach levels that can cause unconsciousness and death, particularly to small children.
- Never let children play in or around the vehicle.
- Never let passengers ride in the luggage compartment. Vehicle occupants must always be properly restrained in one of the vehicle's seating positions.

**Note**

Make sure that the heating wires in the rear window cannot be damaged by items in the vehicle.

**Tips**

Air circulation helps to reduce window fogging. Do not cover the ventilation slots in front of the rear side windows because this can prevent stale air from escaping the vehicle.

Tie-downs

The luggage compartment is equipped with four tie-downs to secure luggage and other items.

Use the tie-downs to secure your cargo properly ⇒ page 20, "Loading the luggage compartment".

In a collision, the laws of physics mean that even smaller items that are loose in the vehicle will become heavy missiles that can cause serious injury. Items in the vehicle possess energy which varies with vehicle speed and the weight of the item. The vehicle speed is the most significant factor.

For example, in a frontal collision at a speed of 30 mph (48 km/h), the forces acting on a 10 lbs. (4,5 kg) object are about 20 times the normal weight of the item. This means that the weight of the item would suddenly be about 200 lbs. (90 kg). You can imagine the injuries that a 200 lbs. (90 kg) item flying freely through the passenger compartment could cause in a collision like this.

**WARNING**

Weak, damaged or improper straps used to secure items to tie-downs can fail during hard braking or in a collision and cause serious personal injury.

- **Always use suitable mounting straps and properly secure items to the tie-downs in the luggage compartment to help prevent items from shifting or flying forward as dangerous missiles.**
- **When the rear seat backrest is folded down, always use suitable mounting straps and properly secure items to the tie-downs in the luggage compartment to help prevent items from flying forward as dangerous missiles into the passenger compartment.**
- **Never attach a child seat tether strap to a tie-down.**

Reporting safety defects

For U.S.A. only

If you believe your that vehicle has a defect which could cause a crash or could cause injury or death, you should immediately inform the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in addition to notifying Volkswagen of America, Inc. 3800 Hamlin Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326.

If NHTSA receives similar complaints, it may open an investigation, and if it finds that a safety defect exists in a group of vehicles, it may order a recall and remedy campaign. However, NHTSA cannot become involved in individual problems between you, your dealer, or Volkswagen of America, Inc.

To contact NHTSA, you may call the Vehicle Safety Hotline toll-free at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153);

go to <http://www.safercar.gov>;

or write to:

Administrator

NHTSA

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.

Washington, D.C. 20590

You can also obtain other information about motor vehicle safety from <http://www.safercar.gov>.

Safety belts

General notes

Always wear safety belts!

Wearing safety belts correctly saves lives!

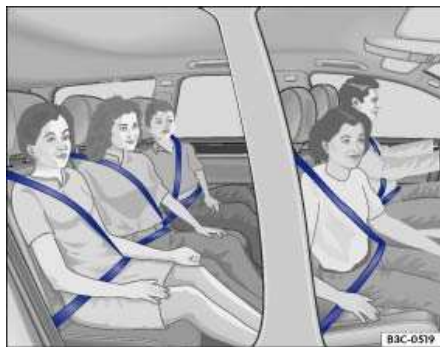


Fig. 7 Occupants wearing safety belts

This Booklet explains why safety belts are necessary, how they work and how to adjust and wear them correctly.

- Read all the information that follows and heed all of the instructions and WARNINGS in this Booklet.

The safety belts in your vehicle have several important features:

- **Automatic safety belt retractors**

Every safety belt is equipped with an automatic belt retractor on the shoulder belt.

The automatic safety belt retractor locks the belt when the belt is pulled out fast, during hard braking and in a collision. The belt may also lock when you drive up or down a steep hill or through a sharp curve. During normal driving the belt lets you move freely.

- **Safety belt pretensioner**

The retractors for the driver, front passenger and rear outboard seating positions⁴ have a pretensioner that helps take the slack safety belt and tighten it when the pretensioner is activated. The pretensioners are activated by the electronic control unit for the airbag system.

- **Load limiters**

All safety belts also have load limiters to help reduce the forces applied to the body in a crash.

- **Switchable locking feature⁴**

⁴ Where applicable



Every safety belt except for the one on the driver seat has a switchable locking feature⁴ that must be activated when the safety belt is used to install a child restraint system. Be sure to read the important information about this feature ⇒ page 86.

**WARNING**

Not wearing safety belts or wearing them improperly increases the risk of serious personal injury and death.

- **Safety belts are the single most effective means available to reduce the risk of serious injury and death in automobile accidents. For your protection and that of your passengers, always correctly wear safety belts when the vehicle is moving ⇒ Fig. 7.**
- **Expectant mothers, injured, or physically impaired persons must also use safety belts. Like all vehicle occupants, they are more likely to be seriously injured if they do not wear safety belts. The best way to protect a fetus is to protect the mother - throughout the entire pregnancy.**

Number of seats

Your vehicle has a total of five seating positions: two in the front and three in the rear. Each seating position has a safety belt.

**WARNING**

Not wearing safety belts or wearing them improperly increases the risk of serious personal injury and death.

- **Never strap more than one person, including small children, into any belt. It is especially dangerous to place a safety belt over a child sitting on your lap.**
- **Never let more people ride in the vehicle than there are safety belts available.**
- **Be sure everyone riding in the vehicle is properly restrained with a separate safety belt or child restraint.**

Safety belt warning light


The warning light will remind you and all your passengers to fasten your safety belt properly before driving off.




Fig. 8 Safety belt warning light

Before driving off, always:


- Fasten your safety belt and make sure you are wearing it properly.
- Make sure that your passengers also buckle up and properly wear their safety belts.
- Protect children with a child restraint system appropriate for their size and age.

The warning light  in the instrument cluster lights up when the ignition is switched on as a reminder to fasten the safety belts. In addition, you will hear a warning sound.

The warning light / display and the warning chime will go out/stop when the driver and front passenger correctly fastens the safety belt.

After the ignition is switched on, the warning light  in the instrument cluster will always come on for about 6 seconds and if the driver has not fastened the safety belt, a warning chime will also sound for about 6 seconds. As soon as the driver has fastened the safety belt, the warning chime will stop and the warning light will go out.

If the driver or front seat passenger has not buckled-up within about 24 seconds after the warning chime has stopped, the warning chime will sound again for about 6 seconds and then stop for 24 seconds and then repeat this reminder sequence for a maximum of 2 minutes.

The warning light  will stay on as long as the driver or front seat passenger has not buckled up.

**WARNING**

- Safety belts are the single most effective means available to reduce the risk of serious injury and death in automobile accidents. For your protection and that of your passengers, always correctly wear safety belts when the vehicle is moving ⇒ Fig. 7.
- Failure to pay attention to the warning lights that come on, including warning messages in the display, could lead to personal injury.

**Note**

If the safety belt extender ⇒ page 37, “Safety belt extender” is left attached to the safety belt buckle, the safety belt warning system will sense that the safety belt for that seat is being used and the warning light will not come on and the warning chime will not sound even though the seat is occupied and the safety belt is not being used.

Why safety belts?

Frontal collisions and the laws of physics

Frontal crashes expose people riding in vehicles to very high forces.

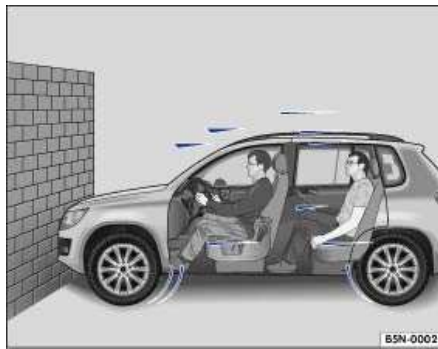


Fig. 9 Unbelted occupants in a vehicle heading for a wall.

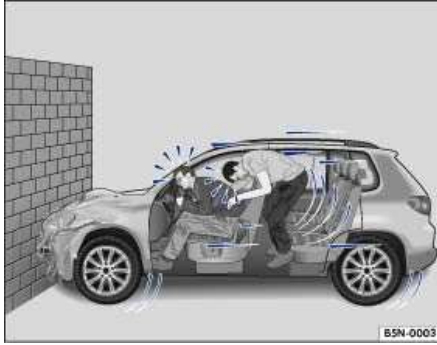


Fig. 10 The vehicle crashes into the wall.

The physical principles are simple. Both the vehicle and the passengers possess energy which varies with vehicle speed and body weight. Engineers call this energy “kinetic energy.”

The higher the speed of the vehicle and the greater the vehicle's weight, the more energy has to be “absorbed” in the crash.

Vehicle speed is the most significant factor. If the speed doubles from 15 to 30 mph (25 to 50 km/h), the energy increases 4 times!

Because the passengers in the example above are not using safety belts \Rightarrow Fig. 9, they will keep moving at the same speed the vehicle was moving just before the crash, until something stops them – here, the inside of the passenger compartment \Rightarrow Fig. 10.

The same principles apply to people sitting in a vehicle that is in a frontal collision on the highway. Even at city speeds of 20 to 30 mph (30 to 50 km/h), the forces acting on the body can reach one ton (2,000 lbs. or 1,000 kg) or more. At greater speeds, these forces are even higher.

Of course the laws of physics don't just apply to frontal collisions; they determine what happens in all kinds of accidents and collisions.

What happens to occupants not wearing safety belts?

In crashes unbelted occupants cannot stop themselves from flying forward and being injured or killed. Always wear your safety belts.



Fig. 11 A driver not wearing a safety belt is violently thrown forward



Fig. 12 A rear passenger not wearing a safety belt will fly forward and strike the driver

Unbelted occupants are not able to resist the tremendous forces of impact by holding tight or bracing themselves. Without the benefit of safety restraint systems, the unrestrained occupant will slam violently into the steering wheel, instrument panel, windshield, or whatever else is in the way \Rightarrow Fig. 11. This impact with the vehicle interior has all the energy that the occupant had just before the crash.

Never rely on airbags alone for protection. Even when they deploy, airbags provide only additional protection. Airbags are not supposed to deploy in all kinds of accidents. Although your Volkswagen is equipped with airbags, all vehicle occupants, including the driver, must wear safety belts correctly in order to minimize the risk of severe injury or death in a crash, regardless of whether a seating position has an airbag or not.

Remember too, that airbags will deploy only once and that your safety belts are always there to offer protection in those accidents in which airbags are not supposed to deploy or when they have already deployed. Unbelted occupants can also be thrown out of the vehicle where even more severe or fatal injuries can occur.

It is also important for the rear passengers to wear safety belts correctly. Unbelted passengers in the rear seats endanger not only themselves but also the driver and other passengers ⇒ Fig. 12. In a frontal collision they will be thrown forward violently, where they can hit and seriously injure the driver and/or front seat passenger.

Safety belts protect

People think it's possible to use the hands to brace the body in a minor collision. It's simply not true!



Fig. 13 Driver is correctly restrained in a sudden braking maneuver.

Safety belts used properly can make a big difference. Safety belts help to keep passengers in their seats, gradually reduce energy levels applied to the body in a collision, and help prevent the uncontrolled movement that can cause serious injuries. In addition, safety belts reduce the danger of being thrown out of the vehicle.

Safety belts attach passengers to the car and give them the benefit of being slowed down more gently or “softly” through the “give” in the safety belts, crumple zones and other safety features engineered into today's vehicles. By “absorbing” the kinetic energy over a longer period of time, the forces on the body become more “tolerable” and less likely to cause injury.

Although these examples are based on a frontal collision, safety belts can also substantially reduce the risk of injury in other kinds of crashes. So, whether you're on a long trip or just going to the corner store, always buckle up and make sure others do, too. Accident statistics show that vehicle occupants properly wearing safety belts have a lower risk of being injured and a much better chance of surviving a collision. Properly using safety belts also greatly increases the ability of the supplemental airbags to do their job in a collision. For this reason, wearing a safety belt is legally required in most countries including much of the United States and Canada.

Although your Volkswagen is equipped with airbags, you still have to wear the safety belts provided. Front airbags, for example, are activated only in some frontal collisions. The front airbags are not activated in all frontal collisions, in side and rear collisions, in rollovers or in cases when the conditions for deployment stored in the electronic control unit are not met. The same goes for the other airbag systems

in your Volkswagen. So, always wear your safety belt and make sure everybody in your vehicle is properly restrained!

Important safety instructions about safety belts

Safety belts must always be correctly positioned across the strongest bones of your body.

- Always wear safety belts as shown and described in this Booklet.
- Make sure that your safety belts are always ready for use and are not damaged.

**WARNING**

Not wearing safety belts or wearing them improperly increases the risk of serious personal injury and death. Safety belts can work only when used correctly.

- Always fasten your safety belts correctly before driving off and make sure all passengers are properly restrained.
- For maximum protection, safety belts must always be positioned correctly on the body.
- Never strap more than one person, including small children, into any single-safety belt.
- Never place a safety belt over a child sitting on your lap.
- Always keep feet in the footwell in front of the seat while the vehicle is being driven.
- Never let any person ride with feet on the instrument panel or sticking out the window or on the seat.
- Never remove a safety belt while the vehicle is moving. Doing so will increase your risk of being injured or killed.
- Never wear belts twisted.
- Never wear belts over rigid or breakable objects in or on your clothing, such as eye glasses, pens, keys, etc., as these may cause injury.
- Never wear the shoulder part of the safety belt under your arm or otherwise out of position.
- Several layers of heavy clothing may interfere with correct positioning of safety belts and reduce their effectiveness.
- Always keep safety belt buckles free of anything that may prevent the buckle from latching securely.
- Never use comfort clips or devices that create slack in the shoulder belt. However, special clips may be required for the correct use of some child restraint systems.
- Never let safety belts to become damaged by being caught in door or seat hardware.
- Torn or frayed safety belts can tear and damaged belt hardware can break in an accident. Inspect belts regularly. If webbing, bindings, buckles, or retractors are damaged, have belts replaced by an authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- Safety belts that have been worn and loaded in an accident must be replaced with the correct replacement safety belt by an authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop. Replacement may be necessary even if damage cannot be clearly seen. Anchorages that were loaded must also be inspected.
- Never remove, modify, disassemble, or try to repair the safety belts yourself.
- Always keep the belts clean. Dirty belts may not work correctly and can impair the function of the inertia reel ⇒ booklet 3.3 “Tips and Advice”.

Safety belts

Fastening and unfastening safety belts

Safety first – everybody buckle up!




Fig. 14 Belt buckle and tongue for the driver's seat




Fig. 15 Releasing the tongue from the buckle


To provide maximum protection, safety belts must always be positioned correctly on the wearer's body ⇒ page 35.

To fasten the safety belt:

- Adjust the front seat and head restraint correctly ⇒ page 12, “Proper occupant seating positions”.
- Make sure the seat back of the rear seat bench is in an upright position and securely latched in place before using the safety belt ⇒ .

- Hold the safety belt by the tongue and pull it evenly across the chest and pelvis ⇒ .
- Insert the tongue into the correct buckle for your seat until you hear it latch securely ⇒ Fig. 14.
- Pull on the safety belt to make sure that it is securely latched in the buckle.

To unfasten the safety belt:

- Push the red release button on the buckle ⇒ Fig. 15. The belt tongue will spring out of the buckle ⇒ .
- Let the belt wind up on the retractor as you guide the belt tongue to its stowed position.

**WARNING**

Never unfasten safety belt while the vehicle is moving. Doing so will increase your risk of being injured or killed.

**WARNING**

Improperly positioned safety belts can cause serious personal injury in an accident.

- Safety belts offer optimum protection only when the seat back is upright and belts are correctly positioned on the body.
- Always make sure that the rear seat backrest to which the center rear safety belt is attached is securely latched whenever the rear center safety belt is being used ⇒ booklet 3.1 “Controls and Equipment”. If the backrest is not securely latched, the passenger will move forward with the backrest during sudden braking, in a sudden maneuver and especially in a crash.
- Never attach the safety belt to the buckle for another seat. Attaching the belt to the wrong buckle will reduce safety belt effectiveness and can cause serious personal injury.
- A passenger who is not correctly restrained can be seriously injured by the safety belt itself when it moves from the stronger parts of the body into sensitive areas like the abdomen.
- Always lock the safety belt retractor mechanism when you secure a child seat in the vehicle ⇒ page 86, “Installing child restraint with a safety belt”.

Applies to vehicles: with manual safety belt height adjustment

Adjusting safety belt height

Use the safety belt height adjustment to change belt position on the shoulder.

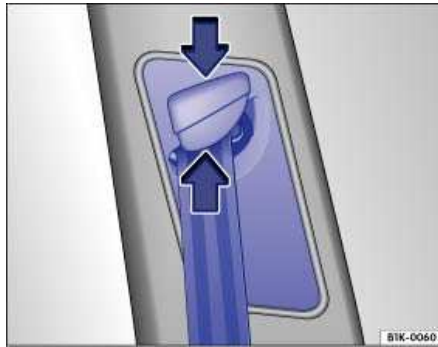


Fig. 16 Location of manual belt height adjuster

The safety belt height adjustment for the front and rear outboard seating positions can be used to adjust the height of the shoulder portion of the safety belt so that it is positioned correctly.

- Push the upper attachment up and hold it in this position.
- Slide the belt and the upper attachment up or down until the safety belt is positioned over the center of the shoulder ⇒ page 35, “Safety belt position”.
- Pull the belt to make sure that the upper attachment is correctly engaged.



WARNING

Always read and heed all WARNINGS and other important information ⇒ page 31, “Important safety instructions about safety belts”.

Safety belt position

Correct belt position is the key to getting maximum protection from safety belts.

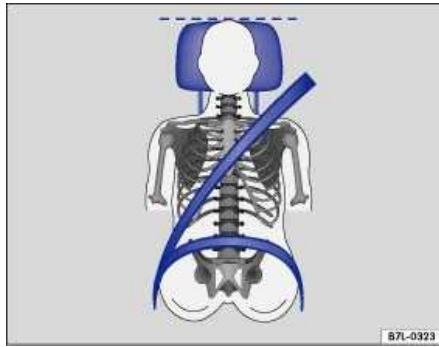


Fig. 17 Head restraint and safety belt position as seen from the front

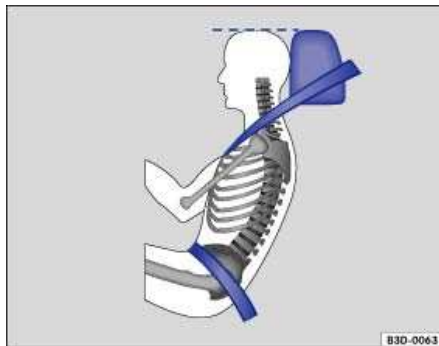


Fig. 18 Head restraint and safety belt position as seen from the side

Wearing safety belts improperly can cause serious injury or death. Safety belts can only work when they are correctly positioned on the body. Improper seating positions reduce the effectiveness of safety belts and will even increase the risk of injury and death by moving the safety belt to critical areas of the body. Improper seating positions also increase the risk of serious injury and death when an airbag deploys and strikes an occupant who is not in the correct seating position. A driver is responsible for the safety of all vehicle occupants and especially for children. Therefore:

- Never permit anyone to assume an incorrect sitting position in the vehicle while traveling ⇒ ⚠.

Standard features on your vehicle help you adjust the position of the safety belt to match your body size:

- belt height adjustment for the front seats and the outboard rear seating positions,
- front seat height adjustment.

**WARNING**

Safety belts offer optimum protection only when the seat back is upright and belts are correctly positioned on the body. Improperly positioned safety belts can cause serious personal injury in an accident.

- The shoulder belt portion of the safety belt must be positioned over the middle of the occupant's shoulder and never across the neck or throat.
- The safety belt must lie flat and snug on the occupant's upper body ⇒ Fig. 17.
- The lap belt portion of the safety belt must be positioned as low as possible across pelvis and never over the abdomen. Make sure the belt lies flat and snug ⇒ Fig. 18. Pull on the safety belt to tighten if necessary.
- A loose-fitting safety belt can cause serious injuries by shifting its position on your body from the strong bones to more vulnerable, soft tissue and cause serious injury.
- Always make sure that all vehicle occupants are correctly restrained and stay in a correct seating position whenever the vehicle is being used.
- Always read and heed all WARNINGS and other important information ⇒ page 31, "Important safety instructions about safety belts".


Expectant mothers must also be properly restrained

The best way to protect the fetus is to make sure that expectant mothers always wear safety belts correctly - throughout the pregnancy.



Fig. 19 Safety belt position during pregnancy

To provide maximum protection, safety belts must always be positioned correctly on the wearer's body ⇒ page 35, "Safety belt position".

- Adjust the front seat and head restraint correctly ⇒ page 12, “Proper occupant seating positions”.
- Make sure the seat back of the rear seat bench is in upright position and securely latched in place before using the belt.
- Hold the safety belt by the tongue and pull it evenly across the chest and pelvis ⇒ Fig. 19.
- Insert the tongue into the correct buckle of your seat until you hear it latch securely ⇒ .
- Pull on the belt to make sure that it is securely latched in the buckle.

**WARNING**

Improperly positioned safety belts can cause serious personal injury in an accident.

- Expectant mothers must always wear the lap portion of the safety belt as low as possible across the pelvis and below the rounding of the abdomen.
- Always read and heed all WARNINGS and other important information ⇒ page 31, “Important safety instructions about safety belts”.

Safety belt extender

A safety belt extender is available if a safety belt is too short for the driver or a passenger.

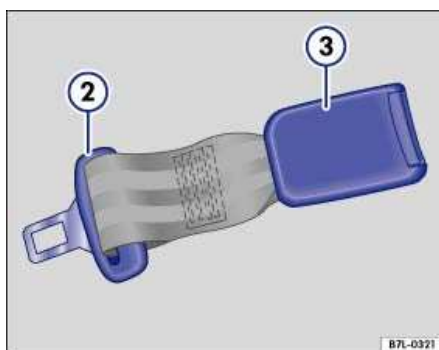


Fig. 20 Safety belt extender

If a safety belt is too short to correctly fit you or one of your passengers, even when the safety belt is pulled out all the way, you can use a safety belt extender ⇒ Fig. 20. Never use the safety belt extender for any other purpose - including the attachment of a child restraint.

The extender adds about 8 inches (200 mm) to the safety belt. When it is not required, always remove the extender and stow it safely. See your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop for assistance if an extender is required.



How to fasten the safety belt extender properly ⇒ page 39, “Fastening the safety belt extender”.



WARNING

Improper use of the safety belt extender increases the risk of serious personal injury and death.

- Using a safety belt extender when not needed can increase the risk of injury, especially in a collision. Only use the extender when the safety belt is not long enough when it is worn low and snug, and the person is in the correct seating position. Remove and stow extender safely when not needed.
- Never use the safety belt extender if you can fasten the safety belt without it.
- Never use more than one extender with a safety belt. Using more than one extender can change the way the safety belt passes over the body and can cause serious injury.
- Never leave the safety belt extender attached to the vehicle safety belt buckle when it is not needed and being used with the safety belt because the airbag control module will not receive the correct signal from the safety belt buckle and that will prevent the front airbag from working properly for a person who is not using the safety belt.
- Never use the safety belt extender to secure a child restraint.
- Never use a safety belt extender from another automobile manufacturer or automotive parts store on your Volkswagen.
- Never use the safety belt extender you obtained for your vehicle for any other vehicle, regardless of make, model or model year.
- A driver or passenger who is not correctly restrained can be seriously injured by striking the interior of the passenger compartment or by the safety belt itself which can be displaced from stronger parts of the body into sensitive areas like the abdomen.
- Always read and heed all WARNINGS and other important information ⇒ page 31, “Important safety instructions about safety belts”.



Note

Leaving the extender attached to the safety belt buckle when the front seat is occupied and the safety belt is not being used will signal the airbag control unit that the front passenger seat is occupied and that the safety belt is being used. The electronic control unit for the airbag system will then receive incorrect information that will cause the safety belt pretensioner to deploy unnecessarily and the front passenger airbag to deploy later in collisions that would normally trigger the front airbag earlier in the collision to help protect an unrestrained front seat occupant. **A pretensioner that has deployed cannot be repaired. The entire safety belt must be replaced.**



Note

If the safety belt extender is left attached to the safety belt buckle, the safety belt warning system will sense that the safety belt for that seat is being used. The warning light will not come on and the warning chime will not sound even though the seat is occupied and the safety belt is not being used.

Fastening the safety belt extender

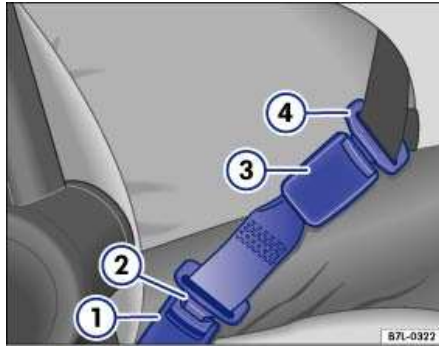


Fig. 21 Attached safety belt extender to the vehicle's safety belt

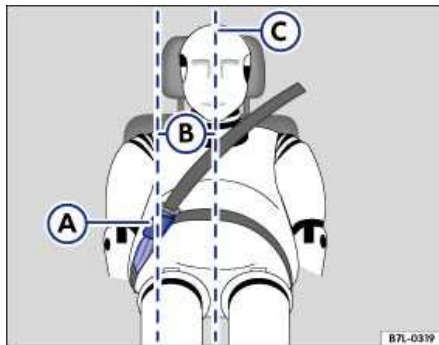


Fig. 22 Measurements

Before fastening the safety belt extender always adjust the front seat and head restraints correctly.

- Insert the metal tongue of the extender into the respective safety belt buckle
⇒ Fig. 21 (1).
- Grasp the tongue of the safety belt (4) and pull the safety belt in a continuous slow motion across your chest and lap.
- Insert the safety belt tongue (4) into the buckle of the extender (3) and push down until it is securely locked with an audible click.
- Make sure the safety belt or the extender is not twisted.
- Pull on the safety belt to make sure it is properly latched.

- (1) Safety belt buckle ⇒ Fig. 21
- (2) Tongue of extender ⇒ Fig. 21

- (3) Buckle of extender ⇒ Fig. 21
- (4) Vehicle safety belt ⇒ Fig. 21
- (A) Front edge of buckle ⇒ Fig. 22
- (B) Distance of buckle and body centerline, (less than 6 inches (15 cm) ⇒ Fig. 22
- (C) Body centerline ⇒ Fig. 22

**WARNING**

Safety belts offer optimum protection only when the seat back is upright and belts are correctly positioned on the body. Improperly positioned safety belts can cause serious personal injury in an accident.

- Never use the extender unless it is physically required in order to wear the vehicles safety belt.
- Never use the extender if the distance (B) between the front edge of the extender buckle (A) and the occupant's body centerline (C) to be less than 6 inches (15 cm).
- Always make sure the safety belt tongue is inserted into the buckle for the seating position that belongs to the seat where the extender is being used.
- Attaching the safety belt to the buckle for another seat can reduce safety belt effectiveness and cause injury.

Safety belt pretensioners

How safety belt pretensioners work

In certain frontal collisions, the safety belts for the front and rear outboard seating positions are tightened up automatically.

The safety belt retractors for the driver, front passenger and rear outboard seating positions⁵ have pretensioners. Sensors activate the pretensioners in frontal, side and rear-end collisions as well as in rollover accidents when deceleration is high enough as registered by the electronic control unit. The pretensioners will not activate in a rollover if side airbags do not deploy. When activated, the pretensioners tighten the safety belt and take up belt slack. Taking up the slack helps to reduce forward occupant movement during a crash.

Your vehicle is equipped with **rollover sensing** system, which detects if the vehicle is about to roll over. The system activates the safety belt tensioner in time and reduces the risk of injury.

The safety belt pretensioner can only be activated once.

**Note**

- Never let the belt stay over a rear seat back that has been folded forward. The outboard rear safety belt pretensioner can be activated unnecessarily in a collision and will then have to be replaced.
- When the safety belt pretensioner is activated, a fine dust is released. This is normal and is not caused by a fire in the vehicle.

⁵ Where applicable

Service and disposal of safety belt pretensioners

The pretensioners are part of the safety belts installed at the front seats and rear outboard seating positions⁶ in your vehicle. Installing, removing, servicing or repairing of safety belt pretensioners can damage the safety belt system and prevent it from working correctly in a collision.

There are some important things you have to know to make sure that the effectiveness of the system will not be impaired and that discarded components do not cause injury or pollute the environment.



WARNING

Improper care, servicing and repair procedures can increase the risk of personal injury and death by preventing a belt pretensioner from activating when needed or activating unexpectedly:

- **The pretensioner can be activated only once. If a pretensioner has been activated, the safety belt must be replaced.**
- **Never repair, adjust, or change any parts of the safety belt system.**
- **Safety belt systems including the pretensioners cannot be repaired. Special procedures are required for removal, installation and disposal of this system.**
- **For any work on the safety belt system, we strongly recommend that you see your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop that has a Volkswagen approved repair manual, the training and special equipment necessary.**



For the sake of environment

Undeployed airbag modules and pretensioners are classified as Perchlorate Material - special handling may apply, see www.dtsc.ca.gov/hazardouswaste/perchlorate. When the vehicle or parts of the restraint system including airbag modules safety belts with pretensioners are scrapped, all applicable laws and regulations must be observed. Your authorized Volkswagen dealer is familiar with these requirements and we recommend that you have your dealer perform this service for you.

⁶ Where applicable

Airbag system

Important things to know

Importance of wearing safety belts and sitting properly

Airbags are only supplemental restraints. For airbags to do their job, occupants must always properly wear their safety belts and be in a proper seating position.



Fig. 23 Inflated front airbags

The front airbags are designed to provide additional protection for the chest and head of the driver and the front seat passenger when:

- safety belts are worn properly ⇒ page 24, “Safety belts”.
- the steering wheel, driver seat and front passenger seats have been adjusted so that the occupant is properly seated as far as possible from the airbag ⇒ page 12, “Proper occupant seating positions”.
- and the head restraints have been properly adjusted ⇒ page 12, “Proper occupant seating positions”.
- Always properly use the correct child restraint to protect children ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.

Safety belts are important to help keep front seat occupants in the proper seated position so that airbags can unfold properly and provide supplemental protection in a frontal collision.

In a collision airbags inflate in the blink of an eye with considerable force. The supplemental airbags can cause injuries if the driver or the front seat passenger is not seated properly. Therefore in order to help the airbag to do its job, it is important, both as a driver and as a passenger to be properly restrained and sit properly at all times.

If you have a physical impairment or condition that prevents you from sitting properly on the driver seat with the safety belt properly fastened and reaching the pedals, special modifications to your vehicle may be necessary.

Contact your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop, or call the Volkswagen Customer CARE Center at 1-800-822-8987.

By keeping room between your body and the steering wheel and the front of the passenger compartment, the airbag can inflate fully and completely and provide supplemental protection in certain frontal collisions ⇒ page 12, “Proper occupant seating positions”. For details on the operation of the seat adjustment controls ⇒ booklet 3.1 “Controls and Equipment”.

It's especially important that children be properly restrained ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.

There is a lot that the driver and the passengers can and must do to help the individual safety features installed in your Volkswagen work together as a system.

When the airbag system deploys, a gas generator will fill the airbags, that will break open the padded covers, and inflate between the steering wheel and the driver and between the instrument panel and the front passenger. When an airbag deploys, fine dust is released. This is normal and is not caused by a fire in the vehicle. This dust is made up mostly of a powder used to lubricate the airbags as they deploy. It could irritate skin. The airbags will deflate immediately after deployment so that the front occupants can see through the windshield again without interruption.

All of this takes place in the blink of an eye, so fast that many people don't even realize that the airbags have deployed. The airbags also inflate with a great deal of force and nothing should be in their way when they deploy. Also, things you have on your lap or have placed on the seat could be pushed into your body or fly dangerously through the passenger compartment when the airbag inflates and cause serious personal injury.

Front airbags in combination with properly worn safety belts slow down and limit the occupant's forward movement. Together they help to prevent the driver and front seat passenger from hitting parts of the inside the vehicle while reducing the forces acting on the occupant during the crash. In this way they help to reduce the risk of injury to the head and upper body in the crash. Airbags do not protect the arms or the lower parts of the body.

It is important to remember that while the supplemental airbag system is designed to reduce the likelihood of serious injuries, other injuries, for example swelling, bruising and minor abrasions, can also happen when airbags inflate.

The front airbags will not inflate in side or rear collisions, in rollovers or if the ignition is switched off. The front airbags will not inflate in all frontal collisions. The triggering of the airbag system depends on the vehicle deceleration rate caused by the collision and registered by the electronic control unit. If this rate is below the reference value programmed into the control unit, the airbags will not be triggered, even though the car may be badly damaged as a result of the collision. Vehicle damage, repair costs or even the lack of vehicle damage is not necessarily an indication of whether an airbag should inflate or not.

It is not possible to define a range of vehicle speeds that will cover every possible kind and angle of impact that will always trigger the airbags, since the circumstances will vary considerably between one collision and another. Important factors include, for example, the nature (hard or soft) of the object that the car hits, the angle of impact, vehicle speed, etc.

Always remember: Front airbags only supplement the three point safety belts in some frontal collisions when the vehicle deceleration is high enough to deploy the airbags. Airbags will deploy only once, and only in certain kinds of collisions. Your safety belts are always there to offer protection in those situations in which airbags are not supposed to deploy, or when they have already deployed; for example, when your vehicle strikes or is struck by another after the first collision.

This is just one of the reasons why an airbag is a supplementary restraint and is not a substitute for a safety belt. The airbag system works most effectively when used with the safety belts. Therefore, always properly wear your safety belts ⇒ page 24, “Safety belts”.

There is a lot you need to know about the airbags in your vehicle. We urge you to read the detailed information about airbags, safety belts and child safety in this and the other Booklets that make up the Owner's Literature. Please be sure to heed the WARNINGS – they are extremely important for your safety and the safety of your passengers, especially infants and small children.

**WARNING**

Never rely on airbags alone for protection.

- Even when they deploy, airbags provide only supplemental protection.
- Airbag work most effectively when used with properly worn safety belts.
- Therefore, always wear your safety belts and make sure that everybody in your vehicle is properly restrained.

**WARNING**

Sitting too close to the steering wheel or instrument panel will decrease the effectiveness of the airbags and will increase the risk of personal injury in a collision.

- Never sit closer than 10 inches (25 cm) to the steering wheel or instrument panel.
- If you cannot sit upright more than 10 inches (25 cm) from the steering wheel, investigate whether adaptive equipment may be available to help you reach the pedals and increase your seating distance from the steering wheel.
- If you are unrestrained, leaning forward, sitting sideways or out of position in any way, your risk of injury is much higher.
- You will also receive serious injuries and could even be killed if you are up against the airbag or too close to it when it inflates.
- To reduce the risk of injury when an airbag inflates, always wear safety belts properly ⇒ page 32, "Safety belts".
- An infant in a rearward-facing child seat installed on the front passenger seat will be seriously injured and can be killed if the front airbag inflates – even with an Advanced Airbag System.
- Always make certain that children age 12 or younger always ride in the rear seat. If children are not properly restrained, they may be severely injured or killed when an airbag inflates.
- Never let children ride unrestrained or improperly restrained in the vehicle.
- Adjust the front seats properly.
- Never ride with the backrest reclined.
- Always sit as far as possible from the steering wheel or the instrument panel ⇒ page 12, "Proper occupant seating positions".
- Always sit upright with your back against the backrest of your seat.
- Never put your feet on the instrument panel or on the seat. Always keep both feet on the floor in front of the seat to help prevent serious injuries to the head, legs and hips if the airbag inflates.

**WARNING**

Objects between you and the airbag will increase the risk of injury in a crash by interfering with the way the airbag unfolds or by being pushed into you as the airbag inflates.

- Never hold things in your hands or on your lap when the vehicle is in use.
- Never transport items on or in the area of the front passenger seat. Objects could move into the area of the front airbags during braking or other sudden maneuver and fly dangerously through the passenger compartment when an airbags inflates.

**WARNING**

The fine dust created when airbags deploy can cause breathing problems for people with a history of asthma or other breathing conditions.

- To reduce the risk of breathing problems, those with asthma or other respiratory conditions should get fresh air right away by getting out of the vehicle or opening windows or doors.
- If you are in a collision in which airbags deploy, wash your hands and face with mild soap and water before eating.
- Be careful not to get the dust into your eyes, or into any cuts or scratches.
- If the residue should get into your eyes, flush them with water.

**WARNING**

Airbags that have deployed in a crash must be replaced.

- Use only original equipment airbags approved by Volkswagen and installed by a trained technician who has the necessary tools and diagnostic equipment to properly replace any airbag in your vehicle and assure system effectiveness in a crash.
- Never permit salvaged or recycled airbags to be installed in your vehicle.

Advanced Airbag System, infants, child restraints and children on the front seat

- Be sure to read the important information and head the WARNINGS for important details about children and Advanced Airbags ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.

Even though your vehicle is equipped with an Advanced Airbag System, make certain that all children, especially those 12 years and younger, always ride in the back seat properly restrained for their age and size. The airbag on the passenger side makes the front seat a potentially dangerous place for a child to ride. The front seat is not the safest place for a child in a forward-facing child seat. It is a very dangerous place for an infant or a child in a rearward-facing seat.

The Advanced Airbag System in your vehicle has been certified to comply with the requirements of United States Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 208 as applicable at the time your vehicle was manufactured. According to these requirements, the front Advanced Airbag System on the passenger side has been certified for “suppression” for infants of about 12 months old and younger and for “low risk deployment” for children ages 3 to 6 years old (as defined in the standard).



Advanced Airbag System and infants 12 months old and younger

As your vehicle has been certified, the Standard requires the front airbag on the passenger side to be turned off automatically (“suppressed”) when the total weight registered on the front passenger seat is less than a 1 year-old infant up to about one year of age is restrained on the front passenger seat in one of the rearward-facing or forward-facing infant restraints listed in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208 with which the Advanced Airbag System in your vehicle was certified. For a listing of the child restraints that were used to certify your vehicle's compliance with the US Safety Standard ⇒ page 72.

If the front airbag on the passenger side has been turned off (“suppressed”), the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on when the electronic control unit detects a total weight on the front passenger seat that requires the front airbag to be turned off automatically. If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, the front airbag on the passenger side has not been turned off by the control unit and can deploy if the control unit senses an impact that meets the conditions stored in its memory.

The **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light:

- will stay on if the front passenger seat is not occupied,
- will stay on if the total weight on the front passenger seat is that of a typical 1 year-old infant restrained in one of the rearward-facing or forward-facing infant restraints listed in FMVSS 208,
- will go off if the front passenger seat is occupied by an adult as registered by the weight-sensing mat ⇒ page 56, “Monitoring the Advanced Airbag System”
- can stay on if the total weight on the seat is more than the typical 1 year-old infant restrained in one of the child restraints listed in FMVSS 208 but less than weight of a small adult.

In summary, if the front passenger airbag is turned off, the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** lights up in the instrument cluster and stays on. Always make sure that the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light correctly shows the status of the front Advanced Airbag System on the passenger side considering the age and size of the occupant on the front passenger seat.

For more detailed information about the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light ⇒ page 56, “Monitoring the Advanced Airbag System”.

Advanced Airbag System and children ages 3 to 6 years old and very small adults

The Advanced Airbag System in your vehicle has been certified to meet the “low risk” criteria for 3 and 6 year-old children (as defined in the standard) on the passenger side and very small adults on the driver side. “Low risk” deployment occurs in those crashes that take place at lower decelerations as defined in the electronic control unit. The “low risk” deployment criteria are intended to help reduce the risk of injury through interaction with the front airbag that can occur in these collisions, for example, by being too close to the steering wheel and instrument panel when the airbag inflates.

For “low risk” deployment to occur, the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light must be off ⇒ page 56, “Monitoring the Advanced Airbag System”.

When a person is detected on the front passenger seat, weighing more than the total weight of an infant that is about 1 year old restrained in one of the rearward-facing or forward-facing child restraints (listed in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208 with which the Advanced Airbag System in your vehicle was certified), the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light may or may not come on. When the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light is off, the front airbag on the passenger side has not been turned off and the front airbag on the passenger side may or may not deploy depending on the nature of the collision as registered by the electronic control unit. The airbag will deploy if the control unit senses an impact that meets the deployment conditions stored in its memory.

For example, the airbag may deploy in the low risk-mode if:

- a small child that is heavier than a typical 1 year-old infant is on the child restrained with which the Advanced Airbag System was certified ⇒ page 72.
- a child who has outgrown child restraints is on the front passenger seat.

- a small adult or teenager is on the front passenger seat.
- a passenger who is not sitting upright with their back against a non-reclined backrest with their feet on the vehicle floor in front of the seat is on the front passenger seat.

In summary, the front airbag on the passenger side will deploy if the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on even if a small adult or teenager, or a passenger who is not sitting upright with their back against a non-reclined backrest with their feet on the vehicle floor in front of the seat is on the front passenger seat ⇒ page 12.

For more detailed information about the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light ⇒ page 56, “Monitoring the Advanced Airbag System”.

Always remember: Even though your vehicle is equipped with Advanced Airbags, the safest place for children is properly restrained according to their age and size on the back seat ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.

A child seat or infant carrier installed on the front seat can be struck and knocked out of position by the rapidly inflating passenger's airbag in a frontal collision. The airbag could greatly reduce the effectiveness of the child restraint and even seriously injure the child during inflation. Please be sure to read the important information in the sections that follow and be sure to heed all of the WARNINGS.

For this reason, and because children are generally better protected – when properly restrained according to their age and size – in rear seating position, we strongly recommend that children always sit in the rear seat ⇒ page 69.



WARNING

If the front airbag inflates, a child without a child restraint, or a child in a forward-facing child restraint that has not been properly installed, or a child in any rearward-facing child seat will be seriously injured and can be killed.

- **Even though your vehicle is equipped with an Advanced Airbag System, make certain that all children, especially 12 years and younger, always ride on the back seat properly restrained for their age and size.**
- **Always properly install rearward-facing child seats or infant carriers and forward-facing child seats on the rear seat - even with an Advanced Airbag system.**

**WARNING**

An infant in a rearward-facing child seat installed on the front passenger seat will be seriously injured and can be killed if the front airbag inflates – even with an Advanced Airbag System.

- Although the Advanced Airbag System in your vehicle is designed to turn off the front airbag when a rearward-facing child restraint has been installed on the front passenger seat, nobody can absolutely guarantee that deployment is impossible in all conceivable situations that may happen during the useful life of your vehicle.
- The inflating airbag will hit the child seat or infant carrier with great force and will smash the child seat and child against the backrest, center armrest, door or roof.
- Always install rearward-facing child seats on the rear seat.
- Always carefully follow instructions from child restraint manufacturers when installing child restraints.
- If you must install a rearward facing child seat on the front passenger seat because of exceptional circumstances and the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, immediately install the rearward-facing child seat on the rear seat and have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- A tight tether or other strap on a rearward-facing child restraint attached to the front passenger seat can put too much pressure on the weight-sensing mat in the seat and register more a weight than is actually on the seat. The heavier weight registered can make the system work as though an adult were on the seat and deploy the Advanced Airbag when it must be suppressed causing serious or even fatal injury to the child.

**WARNING**

An improperly installed child restraint can interfere with the airbag as it deploys and seriously injure or even kill the child – even with an Advanced Airbag System.

- If exceptional circumstances require the use of a forward-facing child restraint on the front passenger's seat, the child's safety and well-being require the following special precautions to be taken:
 - Forward-facing child seats installed on the front passenger's seat may interfere with the deployment of the airbag and cause serious personal injury to the child.
 - Always make sure the forward-facing seat has been designed and certified by its manufacturer for use on a front seat with a passenger front and side airbag.
 - Always carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions provided with the child seat or carrier.
 - Never install a child restraint without a properly attached top tether strap if the child restraint manufacturer's instructions require the top tether strap to be used.
 - Never put the forward-facing child restraint up against or very near the instrument panel.
 - Always set the safety belt upper anchorage to the highest adjustment position.
 - Always move the passenger seat to the highest position in the up and down adjustment range and move it back to the rearmost position in the seat's fore and aft adjustment range, as far away from the airbag as possible before installing the forward-facing child restraint.
 - Always make sure that nothing prevents the front passenger's seat from being moved to the rearmost position in its fore and aft adjustment range.
 - Always make sure that the backrest is in the upright position.
 - Never place additional items on the seat that can increase the total weight registered by the weight-sensing mat and can cause injury in a crash.
- Make sure that the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on and stays on all the time whenever the ignition is switched on.
- If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, immediately install the forward-facing child seat in a rear seating position and have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- Always buckle the child seat firmly in place even if a child is not sitting in it. A loose child seat can fly around during a sudden stop or in a collision.
- Always read and heed all **WARNINGS** whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 24, "Safety belts", ⇒ page 42, "Airbag system", ⇒ page 69, "Child safety".

**WARNING**

To reduce the risk of serious injury, make sure that the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light is on whenever a child restraint is installed on the front passenger seat and the ignition is switched on.

- If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not stay on, perform the checks described ⇒ page 56, "Monitoring the Advanced Airbag System".
- Take the child restraint off the front passenger seat and install it properly at one of the rear seat positions if the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not stay on.
- Have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop immediately.

Front Advanced Airbag System

Description of front airbags

The Advanced Airbag System can provide supplemental protection to properly restrained front seat occupants.



Fig. 24 Location of driver airbag: in steering wheel



Fig. 25 Location of front passenger's airbag: in the instrument panel

Your vehicle is equipped with a front “Advanced Airbag System” in compliance with United States Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 208 as applicable at the time your vehicle was manufactured. The airbag for the driver is in the steering wheel hub ⇒ Fig. 24 and the airbag for the front passenger is in the instrument panel ⇒ Fig. 25. The general location of the airbags is marked “AIRBAG.”

The safety belts for the front and rear outboard seats⁷ have “pretensioners” that help to take slack out of the belt system. The pretensioners are also activated by the electronic control unit for the airbag system. The front seat safety belts also have load limiters to help reduce the forces applied to the body in a crash.

⁷ Where applicable

The front Advanced Airbag System supplements the safety belts to provide additional protection for the driver's and front passenger's heads and upper bodies in frontal crashes. The airbags inflate only in frontal impacts when the vehicle deceleration is high enough.

The front Advanced Airbag System for the front seat occupants is not a substitute for your safety belts. Rather, it is part of the overall occupant restraint system in your vehicle. Always remember that the airbag system can only help to protect you, if you are sitting upright, wearing your safety belt and wearing it properly. This is why you and your passengers must always be properly restrained, not just because the law requires you to be.

Front airbags will not deploy:

- if the ignition is switched off when a crash occurs,
- in side collisions,
- in rear-end collisions,
- in rollovers,
- when the crash deceleration measured by the airbag system is less than the minimum threshold needed for airbag deployment as registered by the electronic control unit.

The front passenger airbag will also not deploy:

- when the front passenger seat is not occupied,
- when the weight on the front passenger seat as sensed by the Advanced Airbag System indicates that the front airbag on the passenger side has to be turned off by the electronic control unit (the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on and stays on).



WARNING

Never rely on airbags alone for protection.

- Even when they deploy, airbags provide only supplemental protection.
- Airbags work most effectively when used with properly worn safety belts.
- Therefore, always wear your safety belts and make sure that everybody in your vehicle is properly restrained.

**WARNING**

A person on the front passenger seat, especially infants and small children, will receive serious injuries and can even be killed by being too close to the airbag when it inflates – even with an Advanced Airbag.

- If you are unrestrained, leaning forward, sitting sideways or out of position in any way, your risk of injury is much higher.
- Although the Advanced Airbag System in your vehicle is designed to turn off the front passenger airbag if an infant or a small child in one of the child restraints used to certify the Advanced Airbag System is on the front passenger seat nobody can absolutely guarantee that deployment under these special conditions is impossible in all conceivable situations that may happen during the useful life of your vehicle.
- The Advanced Airbag System can deploy in accordance with the “low risk” option for 3 and 6 year-old children under the U.S. Federal Standard if a child that is heavier than the combined weight of a typical one-year old infant restrained in one of the forward facing or rearward facing child seats with which your vehicle was certified is on the front passenger seat and the other conditions for airbag deployment are met.
- Accident statistics have shown that children are generally safer in the rear seat area than in the front seating position.
- For their own safety, all children, especially 12 years and younger, must always ride in the back properly restrained for their age and size.

Advanced Airbag System components

The front passenger seat in your vehicle has a lot of very important parts of the Advanced Airbag System in it. These parts include the weight-sensing mat, sensors, wiring, brackets, and more. The function of the system in the front passenger seat is checked by the electronic control unit when the ignition is on. The control unit monitors the Advanced Airbag System and turns the airbag indicator light on when a malfunction in the system components is detected. The function of the airbag indicator light is described in greater detail below. Because the front passenger seat contains important parts of the Advanced Airbag System, you must take care to prevent it from being damaged. Damage to the seat may prevent the Advanced Airbag for the front passenger seat from doing its job in a crash.

The front Advanced Airbag System includes:

- Crash sensors in the front of the vehicle that measure vehicle acceleration/deceleration to provide information to the Advanced Airbag System about the severity of the crash.
- An electronic control unit, with integrated crash sensors for front and side impacts. The control unit “decides” whether to fire just front airbags based on the information received from the crash sensors. The control unit also “decides” whether the safety belt pretensioners should be activated.
- A Advanced Airbag with gas generator for the driver inside the steering wheel hub.
- A Advanced Airbag and gas generator inside the instrument panel for the front passenger.
- A weight-sensing mat under the upholstery padding of the front passenger seat cushion that measures the total weight on the seat. The information registered is sent continuously to the electronic control unit to regulate deployment of the front Advanced Airbag on the passenger side.
- An airbag monitoring system and indicator light in the instrument cluster ⇒ page 56.
- The **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light in the center of the instrument panel (⇒ Fig. 27) that tells you when the front Advanced Airbag on the passenger side has been turned off ⇒ page 56.



- A sensor inside the safety belt buckle for the front seat passenger to measure the tension on the safety belt. The tension on the safety belt and the weight registered by the weight-sensing mat help the control unit “decide” whether the front airbag for the front passenger seat should be turned off or not ⇒ page 45, “Advanced Airbag System, infants, child restraints and children on the front seat”.
- A switch in the safety belt buckle for the driver and for the front seat passenger that senses whether that safety belt is latched or not and transmits this information to the electronic control unit.



WARNING

Damage to the front passenger seat can prevent the front airbag from working properly.

- Improper repair or disassembly of the front passenger and driver seat will prevent the Advanced Airbag System from working properly.
- Repairs to the front passenger seat must be performed by qualified and properly trained workshop personnel.
- Never remove the front passenger or driver seat from the vehicle.
- Never remove the upholstery from the front passenger seat.
- Never disassemble or take parts off the seat or disconnect wires from it.
- Never carry sharp objects in your pockets or put them on the seat. If the weight-sensing mat in the passenger seat is punctured it cannot work properly.
- Never carry things on your lap or carry objects on the passenger seat. Such items can increase the weight registered by the weight-sensing mat and send the wrong information to the airbag control unit.
- Never store items under the front passenger seat. Parts of the Advanced Airbag System under the passenger seat could be damaged, preventing them and the airbag system from working properly.
- Never put seat covers or replacement upholstery on the front seats that have not been specifically approved by Volkswagen.
- Seat covers can prevent the Advanced Airbag System from recognizing child restraints or occupants on the front passenger seat and prevent the side airbag in the seat backrest from deploying properly.
- Never use cushions, pillows, blankets or similar items on the front passenger seat. The additional padding will prevent the weight-sensing mat in the seat from accurately registering the child restraint or person on the seat and prevent the Advanced Airbag System from functioning properly.
- If you must use a child restraint on the front passenger seat and the child restraint manufacturer's instructions require the use of a towel, foam cushion or something else to properly position the child restraint, make certain that the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on and stays on whenever the child restraint is installed on the front passenger seat.
- If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, immediately install child restraint in a rear seating position and have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.

How the Advanced Airbag System components work together

The front Advanced Airbag System, the side airbags and the Side Curtain Protection® airbags supplement the protection offered by the front three point safety belts with pretensioners and load limiters and the

adjustable head restraints to help reduce the risk of injury in a wide range of accident and crash situations. Be sure to read the important information about safety and heed the WARNINGS in this Booklet.

Deployment of the Advanced Airbag System and the activation of the safety belt pretensioners depend on the deceleration measured by the crash sensors and registered by the electronic control unit. Crash severity depends on speed and deceleration as well as the mass and stiffness of the vehicle or object involved in the crash.

On the passenger side, regardless of safety belt use, the airbag will be turned off if the weight on the passenger seat is less than the amount programmed in the electronic control unit. The front airbag on the passenger side will also be turned off if the combined weight of an infant of about one year of age in one of the child seats that was used to certify the Advanced Airbag System under Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208 has been registered on the seat. The **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on and stays on to tell you when the front Advanced Airbag on the passenger side has been turned off ⇒ page 45, “Advanced Airbag System, infants, child restraints and children on the front seat”.

**WARNING**

To reduce the risk of injury when an airbag inflates, always wear safety belts properly.

- If you are unrestrained, leaning forward, sitting sideways or out of position in any way, your risk of injury is much higher.
- You will also receive serious injuries and could even be killed if you are up against the airbag or too close to it when it inflates - even with an Advanced Airbag ⇒ page 42, “Importance of wearing safety belts and sitting properly”.

**WARNING**


An airbag that has deployed cannot provide protection and must be replaced.

- Always turn off the ignition after an airbag has deployed.
- Never try to repair or change the airbag system or cut a deployed airbag from the steering wheel or instrument panel.
- Replace deployed airbags only with original equipment airbags approved by Volkswagen and installed by a trained technician who has the necessary tools and diagnostic equipment to properly replace any airbag in your vehicle and assure system effectiveness in a crash.
- Never permit salvaged or recycled airbags to be installed in your vehicle.

More important things to know about front airbags



Fig. 26 Front airbag deployment zone

The areas outlined in red (dotted lines) ⇒ Fig. 26 mark the airbag deployment zone. Never place or attach accessories or other objects (such as cup holders, telephone brackets, large, heavy or bulky objects) on the doors, over or near the area marked in red (dotted lines) ⇒ .



WARNING

Objects between you and the airbag will increase the risk of injury in a crash by interfering with the way the airbag unfolds or by being pushed into you as the airbag inflates.

- Never hold things in your hands or on your lap when the vehicle is in use.
- Never place or attach accessories or other objects (such as cup holders, telephone brackets, large, heavy or bulky objects) on the doors, over or near the area marked “AIRBAG” on the steering wheel, instrument panel, seat backrests or between those areas ⇒ Fig. 26 and yourself. These objects could cause injury in a crash, especially when the airbags inflate.
- Never recline the front passenger's seat to transport objects. Items can also move into the area of the side airbag or the front airbag during braking or in a sudden maneuver. Objects near the airbags fly dangerously through the passenger compartment and cause injury, particularly when the seat is reclined.
- Always make sure that nothing is on the front passenger seat that will cause the weight-sensing mat in the seat to sense that the seat is occupied or is occupied by a person that is heavier than the occupant actually on the seat. The weight of the object could cause the passenger side airbag to be turned on when it should be off or could cause the airbag to work in a way that is different from the way it would have worked without the added weight.
- Always make sure that nothing is on the front passenger seat when the backrest is folded forward. Even light objects could be pushed into the seat cushion and cause the weight-sensing mat in the seat to register enough weight to turn the airbag on.
- Always make sure that the status signaled by the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light is correct for the way that the front passenger seat is being used.



Monitoring the Advanced Airbag System

Airbag monitoring indicator light

*Two separate indicators monitor the function the Advanced Airbag System: the airbag monitoring indicator light and the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light.*

The Advanced Airbag System (including the electronic control unit, sensor circuits and system wiring) is monitored continuously to make sure that it is functioning properly whenever the ignition is on. Each time you turn on the ignition, the airbag monitoring indicator light will come on for a few seconds (self diagnostics).

The system must be inspected when the indicator light  :

- does not come on when the ignition is switched on,
- does not go out a few seconds after you have switched on the ignition,
- goes out and then comes on again or blinks after the ignition is switched on,
- or if it comes on or blinks while driving.

If an airbag system malfunction is detected, the indicator light will come on and stay on to catch the driver's attention and serve as a constant reminder to have the system inspected immediately. If a malfunction occurs that turns the front airbag on the passenger side off, the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light will come on and stay on whenever the ignition is on.



WARNING

An airbag system and safety belt pretensioner that are not working properly cannot provide supplemental protection in a frontal crash.

- If the airbag indicator light comes on, it means that there may be something wrong with the Advanced Airbag System. It is possible that the airbag will inflate when it is not supposed to, or will not inflate when it should.
- Have the airbag system inspected immediately by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.


PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF light



Fig. 27 Section from the instrument panel: PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF light

The **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light is in the center of the instrument panel ⇒ Fig. 27.


The **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light will come on and stay on to tell you when the front Advanced Airbag on the passenger side has been turned off by the electronic control unit.

If the bulb for the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light burns out, the airbag monitoring indicator light  will come on and signal a malfunction in the Advanced Airbag System. Although the burned-out bulb will not change the way the front airbag on the passenger side works, it will no longer be possible to use the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light to make sure that the airbag on/off status is correct for the occupant on the front passenger seat. Have the airbag system inspected immediately by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.

The **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light will blink for about 5 seconds when:

- the ignition is switched on and
- there is a change in the weight measured by the weight-sensing mat in the front passenger seat that determines whether the Advanced Airbag on the passenger side can deploy or will be turned off.

After the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light stops blinking, always make sure that the airbag status (on or off) as shown by the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light is proper for the size, age, and weight of the occupant on the front passenger seat. Always make sure that the safety belt for the front passenger seat is properly fastened.

The **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light will show the correct status of the front Advanced Airbag on the passenger side a few seconds after the ignition has been switched on and the airbag monitoring indicator light  is off:

- will stay on if the front passenger seat is not occupied,
- will stay on if the combined weight of an infant up to about one year of age in one of the rearward-facing or forward-facing child restraints listed in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208 with which the Advanced Airbag System in your vehicle was certified, is registered by the weight-sensing mat in the front passenger seat. For a listing of the child restraints that were used to certify your vehicle's compliance with the US Safety Standard ⇒ page 72.
- will go out if the front passenger seat is occupied by an adult as registered by the weight-sensing mat.

The PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF light must come on and stay on if the ignition is on and

- a car bed has been installed on the front passenger seat, or



- a rearward-facing child restraint has been installed on the front passenger seat, or
- a forward-facing child restraint has been installed on the front passenger seat,
- and if the weight registered on the front passenger seat is equal to or less than the combined weight of a typical 1 year-old infant restrained in one of the rearward-facing or forward-facing child restraints listed in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208 with which the Advanced Airbag System in your vehicle was certified.

If the front passenger seat is not occupied, the front passenger airbag will not deploy, and the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light will stay on.

Never install a rearward-facing child restraint on the front passenger seat, the safest place for a child in any kind of child restraint is at one of the seating positions on the rear seat ⇒ page 45 and ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.

If the PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF light comes on ...

If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on when one of the conditions listed above is met, be sure to check the light regularly to make certain that the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light stays on continuously whenever the ignition is on. If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not appear and not stay on all the time, stop as soon as it is safe to do so and

- reactivate the system by turning the ignition for more than 4 seconds off and then turning it on again;
- remove and reinstall the child restraint. Make sure that the child restraint is properly installed and that the safety belt for the front passenger seat has been correctly routed around the child restraint as described in the child restraint manufacturer's instructions;
- make sure that the switchable locking feature⁸ on the safety belt for the front passenger seat has been activated and that the safety belt has been pulled tight. The belt must not be loose or have loops of slack so that the sensor in the safety belt buckle on the seat can do its job ⇒ page 86.
- make sure that things that may increase the weight of the child and child seat are not being transported on the front passenger seat;
- make sure that the safety belt tension sensor is not blocked. Shake the safety belt buckle on the front passenger seat back and forth,
- make sure that nothing can interfere with the safety belt buckles and that they are not obstructed.
- If a strap or tether is being used to tie the child seat to the front passenger seat, make sure that it is not so tight that it causes the weight-sensing mat to measure more weight than is actually on the seat.

If the PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF light still does not come on ...

If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light still does not come on and does not stay on continuously (when the ignition is switched on),

- take the child restraint off the front passenger seat and install it properly at one of the rear seat positions. Have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop immediately.

The PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF light should NOT come on ...

The **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light should NOT come on when the ignition is on and an adult is sitting in a proper seating position on the front passenger seat. If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on and stays on under these circumstances, make sure that:

- the adult on the front passenger seat is properly seated on the center of the seat cushion with his or her back up against the backrest and the backrest is not reclined ⇒ page 12, “Proper occupant seating positions”,

⁸ Where applicable



- the adult is not taking weight off the seat by holding on to the passenger assist handle above the front passenger door or supporting their weight on the armrest or holding onto the assist handle on the instrument panel,
- the safety belt is being properly worn and that there is not a lot of slack in the safety belt webbing,
- accessory seat covers or cushions or other things that may cause an incorrect reading or impression on the weight-sensing mat under the upholstery of the seat have been taken off the front passenger seat,
- the optional safety belt extender has not been left in the safety belt latch for the front passenger seat.



WARNING

If the status of the Advanced Airbag System has changed while the vehicle is moving, the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light blinks for about 5 seconds to catch the driver's attention. In this happens, always stop as soon as it is safe to do so and check the steps described above.



WARNING

- If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not go off when an adult who is not very small is sitting on the front passenger seat after taking the steps described above, make sure the adult is properly seated and restrained at one of the rear seating positions.
- Have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop before transporting anyone on the front passenger seat.



Tips

- If the weight-sensing mat in the front passenger seat detects an empty seat, the front airbag on the passenger side will be turned off, and the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light will stay on.
- If the optional safety belt extender is left in the buckle for the front safety belt, or the front passenger safety belt itself is buckled and the front passenger seat is not occupied, the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light will come on.

Other things that can affect Advanced Airbag performance

Changing the vehicle's suspension system can change the way that the Advanced Airbag System works in a crash. For example, using tire-rim combinations not approved by VOLKSWAGEN, lowering the vehicle, changing the stiffness of the suspension, including the springs, suspension struts, shock absorbers etc. can change the forces that are measured by the airbag sensors and sent to the electronic control unit. Some suspension changes can, for example, increase the force levels measured by the sensors and make the airbag system deploy in crashes in which it would not deploy if the changes had not been made. Other kinds of changes may reduce the force levels measured by the sensors and prevent the airbag from deploying when it should.

**WARNING**

Changing the vehicle's suspension including use of unapproved tire-rim combinations can change Advanced Airbag performance and increase the risk of serious personal injury in a crash.

- Never install suspension components that do not have the same performance characteristics as the components originally installed on your vehicle.
- Never use tire-rim combinations that have not been approved by Volkswagen.

**WARNING**

Leaving the optional safety belt extender attached to the safety belt buckle on the front passenger seat when the safety belt is not being used will prevent the Advanced Airbag System from working properly and can increase the risk of serious personal injury in a collision.

- Always remove the safety belt extender when it is not needed and stow it safely.
- Never use the safety belt extender to secure a child restraint at any seating position.

**WARNING**

Items stored between the safety belt buckle and the center console can cause safety belt buckle to send the wrong information to the airbag control unit and prevent the Advanced Airbag System from working properly.

- Always make sure that nothing can interfere with the safety belt buckles and that they are not obstructed.

Repair, care and disposal of the airbags

Parts of the airbag system are installed at many different places on your Volkswagen. Installing, removing, servicing or repairing a part in an area of the vehicle can damage a part of an airbag system and prevent that system from working properly in a collision.

There are some important things you have to know to make sure that the effectiveness of the system will not be impaired and that discarded components do not cause injury or pollute the environment.



WARNING

Improper care, servicing and repair procedures can increase the risk of personal injury and death by preventing an airbag from deploying when needed or deploying an airbag unexpectedly:

- Never cover, obstruct, or change the steering wheel horn pad or airbag cover or the instrument panel or modify them in any way.
- Never attach any objects such as cup holders or telephone mountings to the surfaces covering the airbag units.
- For cleaning the horn pad or instrument panel, use only a soft, dry cloth or one moistened with plain water. Solvents or cleaners could damage the airbag cover or change the stiffness or strength of the material so that the airbag cannot deploy and protect properly.
- Never repair, adjust, or change any parts of the airbag system.
- All work on the steering wheel, instrument panel, front seats or electrical system (including the installation of audio equipment, cellular telephones and CB radios, etc.) must be performed by a qualified technician who has the manuals, training and special equipment necessary.
- For any work on the airbag system, we strongly recommend that you see your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- Never modify the front bumper or parts of the vehicle body.
- Always make sure that the side airbag can inflate without interference:
 - Never install seat covers or replacement upholstery over the front seatbacks that have not been specifically approved by Volkswagen.
 - Never put additional seat cushions, blankets or other coverings over the areas where the side airbags inflate.
 - Damage to the original seat covers or to the seam in the area of the side airbag module must always be repaired immediately by an authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- The airbag system can be activated only once. After an airbag has inflated, it must be replaced.
- Use only original equipment airbags approved by Volkswagen and installed by a trained technician who has the necessary tools and diagnostic equipment to properly replace any airbag in your vehicle and assure system effectiveness in a crash.
- Never permit salvaged or recycled airbags to be installed in your vehicle.



For the sake of environment

Undeployed airbag modules and pretensioners are classified as Perchlorate Material - special handling may apply, see www.dtsc.ca.gov/hazardouswaste/perchlorate. When the vehicle or parts of the restraint system including airbag modules safety belts with pretensioners are scrapped, all applicable laws and regulations must be observed. Your authorized Volkswagen dealer is familiar with these requirements and we recommend that you have your dealer perform this service for you.

Side airbags

Applies to vehicles: with side airbags

Location and function

Side airbags inflate in the blink of an eye and can help reduce the risk of upper torso injuries for occupants who are properly restrained.



Fig. 28 Side airbag in driver seat



Fig. 29 Inflated side airbag on left side of the vehicle

The side airbags are in the backrest padding in the front seats ⇒ Fig. 28. The general location is shown by the word “AIRBAG” in the upper part of the backrests.

The side airbag system includes:

- The electronic control module and side impact sensors.
- The two side airbags in the sides of the front backrests.
- The two side airbags⁹ in the sides of the rear backrests.

⁹ Where applicable

- The airbag monitoring indicator light in the instrument cluster.

Supplemental side airbags inflate between the occupant and the door panel on the side of the vehicle that is struck in certain side collisions.

When the system is triggered, the airbag is filled with propellant gas and breaks through a seam on the side of the seatback identified by the “AIRBAG” label. It inflates between the side trim panel and the passenger. In order to help provide this additional protection, the side airbag must inflate within the blink of an eye at very high speed and with great force. The supplemental side airbag could injure you if your seating position is not proper or upright or if items are in the area where the supplemental side airbag inflates. This applies especially to children ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.

Although they are not a soft pillow, they can “cushion” the impact and in this way they can help to reduce the risk of injury to the upper part of the body.

A fine dust may develop when the airbag deploys. This is normal and does not mean there is a fire in the vehicle. The airbag system is monitored electronically to make sure it is working properly at all times. Each time you turn on the ignition, the airbag system indicator light will come on for a few seconds (self diagnosis).

The side airbag system supplements the safety belts and can help to reduce the risk of injury to the driver's and front passenger's upper torso on the side of the vehicle that is struck in a side collision. The airbag inflates only in side impacts and only when the vehicle acceleration registered by the control unit is high enough. If the acceleration rate is below the reference value programmed into the control unit, the side airbags will not be triggered, even though the car may be badly damaged as a result of the collision. It is not possible to define an airbag triggering range that will cover every possible angle of impact, since the circumstances will vary considerably between one collision and another. Important factors include, for example, the nature (hard or soft) of the impacting object, the angle of impact, vehicle speed, etc. Vehicle damage, repair costs or even the lack of vehicle damage is not necessarily an indication of proper airbag operation ⇒ page 64.

Aside from their normal safety function, safety belts help to keep the driver or front passenger in position in a side collision so that the side airbags can provide protection when they inflate.

The airbag system is not a substitute for your safety belt. Rather, it is part of the overall occupant restraint system in your vehicle. Always remember that the airbag system can only help to protect you best if you are wearing your safety belt and wearing it properly. This is another reason why you must always wear your safety belts, not just because the law requires you to do so ⇒ page 24, “Safety belts”.

It is important to remember that while the supplemental side airbag system is designed to help reduce the likelihood of serious injuries, other injuries, for example, swelling, bruising, and minor abrasions can also be associated with these airbags. Remember too, side airbags will deploy only once and only in certain kinds of accidents - your safety belts are always there to offer protection in those accidents in which airbags are not supposed to deploy or when they have already deployed.

The side airbag system will not inflate:

- if the ignition is switched off,
- in side collisions when the acceleration measured by the sensor is too low,
- in front-end collisions,
- in rear-end collisions,
- in rollovers, unless the deployment threshold for side impact deployment stored in the control unit is met.

In some types of accidents the front airbags, Side Curtain Protection® airbags and side airbags may be triggered together.

**WARNING**

- Safety belts and the airbag system will only provide protection when occupants are in the correct seating position ⇒ page 24, “Safety belts”.
- If the airbag indicator light comes on when the vehicle is being used the side airbag system may not work properly even when the vehicle acceleration in a side collision is high enough to activate the airbag. Have the system inspected immediately by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.

Applies to vehicles: with side airbags

Important safety instructions for the side airbag system

Airbags are only supplemental restraints. Always properly wear safety belts and ride in a proper seating position.

There is a lot that you and your passengers must know and do to help the safety belts and airbags do their job to provide supplemental protection.

The side airbags have been designed and certified to help reduce the risk of injury that can be caused by airbags when they inflate, particularly when the occupant sitting next to it is not seated properly.

**WARNING**

An inflating side airbag can cause serious or even fatal injury. Improperly wearing safety belts and improper seating positions increases the risk of serious personal injury and death whenever a vehicle is being used.

- To help reduce the risk of injury when the supplemental side airbag inflates,
 - Always sit in an upright position and do not lean against the area where the supplemental side airbag is located.
 - Never let a child or anyone else rest their head against the side trim panel in the area where the supplemental side airbag inflates.
 - Always make sure that safety belts are worn correctly,
 - Never let anyone sitting in the front seat put their hand out of the window.
- Always make sure that the side airbag can inflate without interference:
 - Never install seat covers or replacement upholstery over the front seatbacks that have not been specifically approved by Volkswagen.
 - Never put additional seat cushions, blankets or other coverings over the areas where the side airbags inflate.
 - Damage to the original seat covers or to the seam in the area of the side airbag module must always be repaired immediately by an authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- Objects between you and the airbag can increase the risk of injury in a collision by interfering with the way the airbag unfolds or by being pushed into you as the airbag inflates.
 - Never place or attach accessories or other objects (such as cup holders, telephone brackets, or even large, bulky objects) on the doors, over or near the area marked “AIRBAG” on the seat backrests.
 - Accessories or other objects can fly dangerously through the passenger compartment and cause injury if the supplemental side airbag inflates.
 - Never carry any objects or pets in the deployment space between them and the airbags or allow children or other passengers to travel in this position.
- Always use the built-in coat hooks only for lightweight clothing. Never leave any heavy or sharp-edged objects in the pockets that may interfere with side airbag deployment and can cause personal injury in a collision.
- Always prevent the side airbags from being damaged by heavy objects knocking against or hitting the sides of the seatbacks.
- The airbag system can only be triggered once. If the airbag has been triggered, the system must be replaced.
- Always have work involving the side airbag system, removal, replacement and installation of the airbag components, or other repairs performed by an authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop. Otherwise the airbag system may not work correctly.
- Never attempt to modify any components of the airbag system in any way.

Side Curtain Protection[®] airbags

Applies to vehicles: with Side Curtain Protection airbags

Location and function

Side Curtain Protection[®] airbags can work together with side airbags to help reduce the risk of head and upper torso injuries for occupants who are properly restrained.



Fig. 30 The Side Curtain Protection airbags located above the windows on the both sides.



Fig. 31 Inflated Side Curtain Protection airbags on the left side.

The Side Curtain Protection[®] airbags are in the header area on both sides of the vehicle ⇒ Fig. 30. The general location is identified by the word “AIRBAG.”

The Side Curtain Protection[®] airbag system includes:

- The electronic control module and side impact sensors.
- The Side Curtain Protection[®] airbags above the front and rear side windows.
- The airbag indicator light in the instrument panel.

The Side Curtain Protection[®] airbags inflate between the occupant and the side window on that side of the vehicle that is struck in certain side collisions ⇒ Fig. 31.

When the system is triggered, the Side Curtain Protection[®] airbag is filled with propellant gas and breaks through the header above the front and rear side windows and center door pillar and deploys downwards. In order to help provide this additional protection, the Side Curtain Protection[®] airbag must inflate within the blink of an eye at very high speed and with great force. The Side Curtain Protection[®] airbag could injure you if your seating position is not proper or upright or if items are located in the area where the supplemental Side Curtain Protection[®] airbag inflates. This applies especially to children ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.

Although they are not a soft pillow, Side Curtain Protection[®] can “cushion” the impact and in this way they can help to reduce the risk of injury to the head and the upper part of the body.

A fine dust may develop when the airbag deploys. This is quite normal and does not mean there is a fire in the vehicle.

The airbag system is monitored electronically to make certain that it is functioning properly at all times. Each time you turn on the ignition, the airbag system indicator light will come on for a few seconds (self diagnosis).

The Side Curtain Protection[®] airbag system supplements the safety belts and can help to reduce the risk of injury for occupants' heads and upper torso on the side of the vehicle that is struck in a side collision. The Side Curtain Protection[®] airbag inflates only in side impacts and only when the vehicle acceleration registered by the control unit is high enough. If the acceleration rate is below the reference value programmed into the control unit, the Side Curtain Protection[®] airbag will not be triggered, even though the car may be badly damaged as a result of the collision. It is not possible to define an airbag triggering range that will cover every possible angle of impact, since the circumstances will vary considerably between one collision and another. Important factors include, for example, the nature (hard or soft) of the impacting object, the angle of impact, vehicle speed, etc. Vehicle damage, repair costs or even the lack of vehicle damage is not necessarily an indication of proper airbag operation. Aside from their normal safety function, safety belts help to keep the driver or front passenger in position in the event of a collision so that the Side Curtain Protection[®] airbags can provide protection.

The airbag system is not a substitute for your safety belt. Rather, it is part of the overall occupant restraint system in your vehicle. Always remember that the airbag system can only help to protect you best if you are wearing your safety belt and wearing it properly. This is another reason why you must always wear your safety belts, not just because the law requires you to do so ⇒ page 24, “Safety belts”.

It is important to remember that while the Side Curtain Protection[®] airbag system is designed to help reduce the likelihood of serious injuries, other injuries, for example, swelling, bruising, and minor abrasions can also be associated with these airbags. Remember too, these airbags will deploy only once and only in certain kinds of collisions – your safety belts are always there to offer protection in those accidents in which airbags are not supposed to deploy or when they have already deployed.

Your vehicle is equipped with **rollover sensing** system, which detects if the vehicle is about to roll over. The system activates the head airbag system in time and reduces the risk of injury.

The Side Curtain Protection[®] airbag system will not inflate:

- if the ignition is switched off,
- in side collisions when the acceleration measured by the sensor is too low,
- in front-end collisions,
- in rear-end collisions,
- in rollovers, unless the deployment threshold for side impact deployment stored in the control unit is met.

In some types of accidents the front, Side Curtain Protection[®] and side airbags may be triggered together.

**WARNING**

- Safety belts and the airbag system will only provide protection when occupants are in the proper seating position ⇒ page 12, “Proper occupant seating positions”.
- If the airbag indicator light comes on when the vehicle is being used, have the system inspected immediately by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop. The Side Curtain Protection® airbag may not work properly even when the vehicle acceleration in a side collision is high enough to activate the airbag.

Applies to vehicles: with Side Curtain Protection airbags

Important safety instructions on the Side Curtain Protection® airbag system

Airbags are only supplemental restraints. Always properly wear safety belts and ride in a proper seating position.

There is a lot that you and your passengers must know and do to help the safety belts and airbags do their job to provide supplemental protection.

The Side Curtain Protection® airbags installed for the front seating and outboard rear seating positions have been designed and certified to help reduce the risk of injury that can be caused by airbags when they inflate, particularly when the occupant sitting next to it is not seated properly.

**WARNING**

Improperly wearing safety belts and improper seating positions increase the risk of serious personal injury and death whenever a vehicle is being used.

- Never let occupants place any parts of their bodies in the area from which the Side Curtain Protection® airbag inflates.
- Always make sure that the Side Curtain Protection® airbag can inflate without interference.
- Use the built-in coat hooks only for lightweight clothing. Never leave any heavy or sharp-edged objects in the pockets that may interfere with airbag deployment and can cause personal injury in a collision.
- Never use hangers to hang clothes on the hooks.
- Only use factory-installed sun shades or, in the case of shades installed after the vehicle leaves the factory, use only genuine Volkswagen sun shades ⇒ booklet 3.3 “Tips and Advice”.
- Always sit in proper seating position and wear safety belts while traveling so that the Side Curtain Protection® airbags can help provide protection.
- The airbag system can only be triggered once. If the airbag has been triggered, the system must be replaced by an authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- Always have work involving the curtain airbag system, removal and installation of the airbag components, or other repairs performed by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop. Otherwise the airbag system may not work correctly.
- Never attempt to modify any components of the airbag system in any way.

Child safety

Child Seats

Introduction

The rear seat is generally the safest place for properly restrained children in a collision.

The physical principles of what happens when your vehicle is in a collision or other accident apply also to children ⇒ page 27, “Why safety belts?”. But unlike adults and teenagers, their muscles and bones are not fully developed. In many respects children are at greater risk of serious injury in accidents than are adults.

Because children's bodies are not fully developed, they must use restraint systems especially designed for their size, weight, and body structure. Many countries and all states of the United States and provinces of Canada have laws requiring the use of approved child restraint systems for infants and small children.

In a frontal crash at a speed of 20-35 mph (30-56 km/h) the forces acting on a 13-pound (6 kg) infant will be more than 20 times the weight of the child. This means the effective weight of the child would suddenly increase more than 260 pounds (120 kg). Under these conditions, only an appropriate child restraint properly used can reduce the risk of serious injury. Child restraints, like adult safety belts, must be used properly to be effective. Used improperly, they can increase the risk of serious injury in an accident.

Consult the child seat manufacturer's instructions to be sure the seat is right for your child's size ⇒ page 73, “Important safety instructions for using child seats”. Please be sure to read and heed all of the important information and WARNINGS about child safety, Advanced Airbags, and the installation of child restraints in this Booklet.

There is a lot you need to know about the Advanced Airbags in your vehicle and how they work when infants and children in child restraints are on the front passenger seat. Because of the large amount of important information, we cannot repeat it all here. We urge you to read the detailed information in this Booklet about airbags and the Advanced Airbag System in your vehicle and the very important information about transporting children on the front passenger seat. Please be sure to heed the WARNINGS - they are extremely important for your safety and the safety of your passengers, especially infants and small children.



WARNING

- **Accident statistics have shown that children are generally safer in the rear seat area than in the front seating position. Always restrain any child age 12 and under in the rear.**
- **All vehicle occupants and especially children must be restrained properly whenever riding in a vehicle. An unrestrained or improperly restrained child could be injured by striking the interior or by being ejected from the vehicle during a sudden maneuver or impact. An unrestrained or improperly restrained child is also at greater risk of injury or death through contact with an inflating airbag.**
- **A suitable child restraint properly installed and used at one of the rear seating positions provides the highest degree of protection for infants and small children in most accident situations**

**WARNING**

Children on the front seat of any car even with Advanced Airbags can be seriously injured or even killed when an airbag inflates.

- A child in a rearward-facing child seat installed on the front passenger seat will be seriously injured and can be killed if the front airbag inflates.
- The inflating airbag will hit the child seat or infant carrier with great force and will smash the child seat and child against the backrest, center armrest, door or roof.
- Always install rearward-facing child seats on the rear seat.
- If you have, in exceptional circumstances, decided to install a rearward-facing child seat on the front passenger seat and the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on whenever the ignition is on, immediately install the rearward-facing child seat in a rear seating position and have the airbag system inspected immediately by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.

**WARNING**

Forward-facing child seats installed on the front passenger seat may interfere with the deployment of the airbag and cause serious personal injury to the child.

- If exceptional circumstances require the use of a forward-facing child restraint on the front passenger's seat, the child's safety and well-being require the following special precautions to be taken:
 - Always make sure that the forward-facing child seat has been designed and certified by its manufacturer for use on a front seat with a passenger front and side airbag.
 - Always carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions provided with the child seat or infant carrier.
 - Never install a child restraint without a properly attached top tether strap if the child restraint manufacturer's instructions require the top tether strap to be used.
 - Never put the forward-facing child restraint up against or very near the instrument panel.
 - Always set the safety belt upper anchorage to the highest adjustment position.
 - Always move the passenger seat to the highest position in the up and down adjustment range and move it back to the rearmost position in the seat's fore and aft adjustment range, as far away from the airbag as possible before installing the forward-facing child restraint.
 - Always make sure that nothing prevents the front seat from being moved all the way back to the rearmost position in its fore and aft adjustment range.
 - Always make sure that the backrest is in the upright position.
 - Never place additional items on the seat that can increase the total weight registered by the weight-sensing mat and can cause injury in a crash.
 - Always make sure that the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on and stays on all the time whenever the ignition is switched on.
 - If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, immediately install the forward-facing child seat in a rear seating position and have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- Always buckle the child seat firmly in place even if a child is not sitting in it. A loose child seat can fly around during a sudden stop or in a collision.
- Always read and heed all WARNINGS whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 32, "Safety belts", ⇒ page 42, "Airbag system" and ⇒ page 69, "Child safety".

**Note**

When installing a child restraint, be careful not to get the belt caught in the structure of the child seat and become damaged, especially when the switchable locking feature¹⁰ has been activated.

Advanced front airbag system and children

Your vehicle is equipped with a front “Advanced Airbag System” that complies with United States Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 208 as applicable at the time your vehicle was manufactured.

The Advanced Airbag System in your vehicle has been certified to meet the “low risk” requirements for 3 and 6 year-old children (as defined in the standard) on the passenger side and small adults on the driver side. “Low risk” deployment occurs in those crashes that take place at lower decelerations as defined in the electronic control unit. The low risk deployment criteria are intended to reduce the risk of injury through interaction with the airbag that can occur in these collisions, for example, by being too close to the steering wheel and instrument panel when the airbag inflates. In addition, the system has been certified to comply with the “suppression” requirements of the Safety Standard, to turn off the front airbag automatically for infants up to 12 months who are restrained on the front passenger seat in child restraints that are listed in the Standard.

Even though your vehicle is equipped with an Advanced Airbag System, all children, especially those 12 years and younger, must always ride in the back seat properly restrained for their age and size. The airbag on the passenger side makes the front seat a potentially dangerous place for a child to ride. The front seat is not the safest place for a child in a forward-facing child seat. It can be a very dangerous place for an infant or a larger child in a rearward-facing seat. For more detailed information please read ⇒ page 45, “Advanced Airbag System, infants, child restraints and children on the front seat”.

Advanced Airbags and the weight-sensing mat in the front seat

The Advanced Airbag System in your vehicle detects the presence of an infant or child in a child restraint on the front passenger seat using the weight-sensing mat in the seat cushion and the sensor in the safety belt buckle on the front passenger seat that measures the tension on the safety belt.

The weight-sensing mat measures total weight of the child and the child seat and a child blanket on the front passenger seat. The weight on the front passenger seat is related to the design of the child restraint and its “footprint,” the size and shape of the bottom of the child restraint as it sits on the seat. The weight of a child restraint and its “footprint” vary for different kinds of child restraints and for the different models of the same kind of child restraint offered by child restraint manufacturers.

The weight ranges for the individual types, makes and models of child restraints that the NHTSA has specified in the Safety Standard together with the weight ranges of typical infants and typical 1 year-old child have been stored in the control unit of the Advanced Airbag System. When a child restraint is being used on the front passenger seat with a typical 1 year-old infant, the Advanced Airbag System compares the weight measured by the weight-sensing mat with the information stored in the electronic control unit.

The electronic control unit also registers the tension on the front passenger safety belt. The tension on the safety belt for the front passenger seat will be different for an adult who is properly using the safety belt as compared to the tension on the belt when it is used to attach a child restraint to the seat. The sensor in

¹⁰ Where applicable



the safety belt buckle for the front seat passenger measures the tension on the belt. The input from this sensor is then used with the weight to “decide,” whether there is a child restraint with a typical 1 year-old child on the front passenger seat and whether or not the airbag must be turned off. For more detailed information please read ⇒ page 45, “Advanced Airbag System, infants, child restraints and children on the front seat”.

Child restraints and Advanced Airbags

Regardless of the child restraint that you use, make sure that it has been certified to meet United States Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 and has been certified by its manufacturer for use with an airbag. Always be sure that the child restraint is properly installed at one of the rear seating positions. If in exceptional circumstances you must use it on the front passenger seat, carefully read all of the information on child safety and Advanced Airbags and heed all of the applicable WARNINGS. Make certain that the child restraint is correctly recognized by the weight-sensing mat inside the front passenger seat, that the front passenger airbag is turned off and that the airbag status is always correctly signaled by the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light.

Many types and models of child restraints have been available over the years, new models are introduced regularly incorporating new and improved designs and older models are taken out of production. Child restraints are not standardized. Child restraints of the same type typically have different weights and sizes and different “footprints,” the size and shape of the bottom of the child restraint that sits on the seat, when they are installed on a vehicle seat. These differences make it virtually impossible to certify compliance with the requirements for advanced airbags with each and every child restraint that has ever been sold in the past or will be sold over the course of the useful life of your vehicle.

For this reason, the United States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has published a list of specific types, makes and models of child restraints that must be used to certify compliance of the Advanced Airbag System in your vehicle with the suppression requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208. These child restraints are:

A. Car beds, manufactured on or after September 1, 2004:

- Cosco Dream Ride 02-719

B. Rear facing child restraint systems, manufactured on or after September 1, 2004:

(When the restraint system comes equipped with a removable base, compliance has to be certified with or without the base).

- Britax Handle with Care 191
- Century Assura 4553
- Century Smart Fit 4543
- Cosco Arriva 02727
- Evenflo Discovery Adjust Right 212
- Evenflo First Choice 204
- Graco Infant 8457


C. Forward-facing convertible child restraint systems, manufactured on or after September 1, 2004:

- Britax Roundabout 161
- Britax Expressway ISOFIX
- Century Encore 4612
- Century STE 1000 4416

- Cosco Olympian 02803
- Cosco Touriva 02519
- Evenflo Horizon V 425
- Evenflo Medallion 254
- Safety 1st Comfort Ride 22-400

D. Forward-facing toddler/belt positioning booster systems, manufactured on or after September 1, 2004:

- Britax Roadster 9004
- Century Next Step 4920
- Cosco High Back Booster 02-442
- Evenflo Right Fit 245

 **WARNING**

To reduce the risk of serious injury, make sure that the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on and stays on whenever a child restraint is installed on the front passenger seat and the ignition is switched on.

- Take the child restraint off the front passenger seat and install it properly at one of the rear seat positions if the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not stay on.
- Have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer immediately.

Important safety instructions for using child seats

Correct use of child seats substantially reduces the risk of injury in an accident!



Fig. 32 Never let babies or older children ride in a vehicle while sitting on the lap of another passenger.

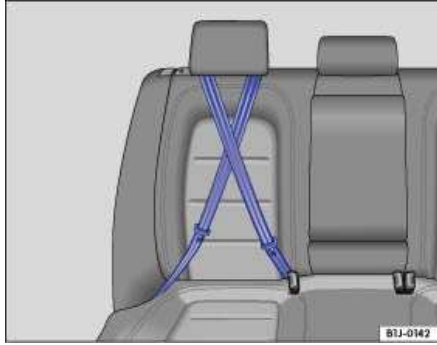


Fig. 33 Routing of unused center rear seat safety belts when installing a child restraint with the standard safety belt in an outboard seating position.

As the driver, you are responsible for the safety of everybody in the vehicle, especially children:



- All children, especially those 12 years and younger, must always ride in the back seat properly restrained for their age and size.
- Always use the right child seat for each child and always use it properly
⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.
- Always carefully follow the child seat manufacturer’s instructions on how to route the safety belt properly through the child seat and how to restrain the child in the child seat.
- When using the vehicle safety belt to install a child seat, you must first activate the switchable locking feature¹¹ on the safety belt to prevent the child seat from moving ⇒ page 86, “Installing child restraint with a safety belt”.
- Push the child seat down with your full weight to get the safety belt really tight so that the seat cannot move forward or sideways more than about one inch (2.5 cm).

Important additional information about installing a child restraint system on the front passenger seat:

- If you must install a child restraint on the front passenger seat in exceptional circumstances, be sure to read and heed the important information and warnings in the section of this Booklet ⇒ page 45 as well as the additional information under ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.

¹¹ Where applicable

There are also additional adjustments that must be made in order to be able to properly install a child restraint on the front seat:

- Set the safety belt upper anchorage for the front passenger seat to the highest adjustment position of the available safety belt length is sufficient to properly install the child restraint ⇒ .
- Move the front passenger seat to the highest position in the seat's up and down adjustment range and to rearmost position in the seat's fore and aft adjustment range, as far away from the airbag as possible before installing the forward-facing child restraint and make sure the backrest is in the upright position ⇒ .
- If a strap of tether is being used to tie the child seat to the front passenger seat, make sure that it is not so tight that it causes the weight-sensing mat to measure more weight than is actually on the seat.

You must take special precautions when installing a child restraint with the vehicle safety belt or with LATCH lower universal anchorages behind the front passenger seat or behind the driver seat. Always route the unused center seat safety belt and the unused safety belt for the seating position where the LATCH child restraint is being installed around the rear head restraint behind the child restraint to help prevent a child from playing with the unused belt and becoming entangled in it ⇒ Fig. 33 and please see ⇒ page 73, "Important safety instructions for using child seats".

Always remember: Even though your vehicle is equipped with an Advanced Airbag System, all children, especially those 12 years and younger, must always ride in the back seat properly restrained for their age and size.

**WARNING**

A child in a child restraint installed with the LATCH lower universal anchorages or with the standard safety belt on the rear seat may play with unused rear seat safety belts and become entangled resulting in serious personal injury and even death.

- Always secure unused rear seat safety belts out of reach of children in child seats such as by properly routing them around the head restraint for the seating position where the child restraint is installed.
- Never activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints.
- Never let anyone sit at the center rear seating position if the center rear safety belt has been routed around a rear head restraint.

**WARNING**

Not using a child seat, using the wrong child seat or improperly installing a child restraint increases the risk of serious personal injury and death.

- All vehicle occupants and especially children must always be restrained properly whenever riding in a vehicle.
 - An unrestrained or improperly restrained child can be injured or killed by being thrown against the inside of the vehicle or by being ejected from it during a sudden maneuver or impact.
 - An unrestrained or improperly restrained child is at much greater risk of injury or death by being struck by an inflating airbag.
- Commercially available child seats are required to comply with U.S. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS 213) (in Canada CMVSS 213).
 - When buying a child restraint, select one that fits your child and the vehicle.
 - Only use child restraint systems that fully contact the flat portion of the seat cushion. The child restraint must not tip or lean to either side. Volkswagen does not recommend using child seats that rest on legs or tube-like frames. They do not provide adequate contact with the seat.
 - Always heed all legal requirements pertaining to the installation and use of child seats and carefully follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer of the seat you are using.
- Never allow children under 4 ft. 9 in (57 inches / 1.45 meters) for safety reasons to wear a normal safety belt. They must always be restrained by a proper child restraint system. Otherwise, they could sustain injuries to the abdomen and neck areas during sudden braking maneuvers or accidents.
- Never let more than one child occupy a child seat.
- Never let babies or older children ride in a vehicle while sitting on the lap of another passenger.
 - Holding a child in your arms is never a substitute for a child restraint system.
 - The strongest person could not hold the child with the forces that exist in an accident. The child will strike the interior of the vehicle and can also be struck by the passenger.
 - The child and the passenger can also injure each other in an accident.
- Never install rearward-facing child seats or infant carriers on the front passenger seat. A child will be seriously injured and can be killed when the passenger airbag inflates – even with an Advanced Airbag System.
- The inflating airbag will hit the child seat or infant carrier with great force and will smash the child seat and child against the backrest, center armrest, door or roof.
- Always install rearward-facing child seats or infant carriers on the rear seat.
- Forward-facing child seats installed on the front passenger's seat can interfere with the airbag when it inflates and cause serious injury to the child. Always install forward-facing child seats on the rear seat.
- If exceptional circumstances require the use of a forward-facing child restraint on the front passenger's seat, the child's safety and well-being require the following special precautions to be taken:
 - Always make sure that the forward-facing seat has been designed and certified by its manufacturer for use on a front seat with a passenger front and side airbag.
 - Always carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions provided with the child seat or carrier.
 - Never install a child restraint without a properly attached top tether strap if the child restraint manufacturer's instructions require the top tether strap to be used.
 - Never put the forward-facing child restraint up against or very near the instrument panel.



- Always set the safety belt upper anchorage to the highest adjustment position.
- Always move the passenger seat to the highest position in the up and down adjustment range and move it back to the rearmost position in the seat's fore and aft adjustment range, as far away from the airbag as possible before installing the forward-facing child restraint.
- Always make sure that nothing prevents the front passenger's seat from being moved to the rearmost position in its fore and aft adjustment range.
- Always make sure that the backrest is in the upright position.
- Never place additional items on the seat that can increase the total weight registered by the weight-sensing mat and can cause injury in a crash.
- Always make sure that the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on and stays on all the time when the ignition is switched on.
- If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, immediately install the forward-facing child seat in a rear seating position and have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- Always buckle the child seat firmly in place even if a child is not sitting in it. A loose child seat can fly around during a sudden stop or in a collision.
- Always read and heed all **WARNINGS** whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 24, "Safety belts", ⇒ page 42, "Airbag system" and ⇒ page 69, "Child safety".



WARNING

To reduce the risk of serious injury, make sure that the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on and stays on whenever a child restraint is installed on the front passenger seat and the ignition is switched on.

- If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not stay on, perform the checks described ⇒ page 56.
- Take the child restraint off the front passenger seat and install it properly at one of the rear seat positions if the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not stay on.
- Have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop immediately.



Note

- Be careful not to activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the center safety belt around the head restraint. Only pull the unused center safety belt out far enough to allow you to route the belt around the head restraint.
- When installing a child restraint, be careful not to get the belt caught in the structure of the child seat and become damaged, especially when the switchable locking feature¹¹ has been activated.

Infant seats

Babies and infants up to at least one year old that weigh at least 20 - 22 lbs. (9 - 10 kg) must sit in rearward-facing child restraints that support the back, neck and head in a collision.



Fig. 34 Rearward-facing infant seat properly installed on the rear seat

Before installing a child restraint on the front passenger seat, be sure to follow the special instructions and heed the warnings ⇒ page 45, “Advanced Airbag System, infants, child restraints and children on the front seat” and ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.

- When using the vehicle safety belt to install a child seat, you must first activate the switchable locking feature¹² on the safety belt to prevent the child seat from moving ⇒ page 86, “Installing child restraint with a safety belt”.
- If a strap or tether is being used to tie the child seat to the front passenger seat, make sure that it is not so tight that it causes the weight-sensing mat to measure more weight than is actually on the seat.

You must take special precautions when installing a child restraint with the vehicle safety belt or with LATCH lower universal anchorages behind the front passenger seat or behind the driver seat. Always route the unused center seat safety belt and the unused safety belt for the seating position where the LATCH child restraint is being installed around the rear head restraint behind the child restraint to help prevent a child from playing with the unused belt and becoming entangled in it ⇒ Fig. 33 and please see ⇒ page 73, “Important safety instructions for using child seats”.

Infants up to about one year (up to 22 lbs. or 10 kg) are best protected in special infant carriers and child seats designed for their age group. Many experts believe that infants and small children must ride only in special restraints in which the child faces the back of the vehicle. These infant seats support the baby's back, neck and head in a collision. These child seats can be used safely only on the rear seat of your Volkswagen ⇒ Fig. 34.

¹² Where applicable



The airbag on the passenger side makes the front seat a potentially dangerous place for a child to ride. The front seat is not the safety place for a child in a forward-facing child seat. It is a very dangerous place for an infant or a larger child in a rearward-facing seat.



WARNING

Not using a child seat, using the wrong child seat or improperly installing a child restraint increases the risk of serious personal injury and death in a collision.

- Never install rearward-facing child seats or infant carriers on the front passenger seat – even with an Advanced Airbag System. A child will be seriously injured and can be killed when the inflating airbag hits the child seat or infant carrier with great force and smashes the child seat and child against the backrest, center armrest, door or roof.
- Always install rearward-facing child seats or infant carriers on the rear seat.
- Never install a rearward-facing child restraint in the forward-facing direction. These restraints are designed for the special needs of infants and very small children and cannot protect them properly if the seat is forward-facing.
- If you must install a rearward facing child seat on the front passenger seat because of exceptional circumstances and the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, immediately install the rearward-facing child seat in a rear seating position and have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- Always read and heed all WARNINGS whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 24, “Safety belts”, ⇒ page 42, “Airbag system” and ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.



WARNING

A child in a child restraint installed with the LATCH lower universal anchorages or with the standard safety belt on the rear seat may play with unused rear seat safety belts and become entangled resulting in serious personal injury and even death.

- Always secure unused rear seat safety belts out of reach of children in child seats such as by properly routing them around the head restraint for the seating position where the child restraint is installed.
- Never activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints.
- Never let anyone sit at the center rear seating position if the center rear safety belt has been routed around a rear head restraint.



Note

- When installing a child restraint, be careful not to get the belt caught in the structure of the child seat and become damaged, especially when the switchable locking feature¹² has been activated.
- Be careful not to activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints. Only pull the safety belt out far enough to allow you to route the belt around the head restraint.

Convertible child seats

Properly used convertible child seats can help protect toddlers and children over age 1 and up to about age 4 who weigh between at least 20 and up to approximately 40 lbs. (9 and 18 kg) in a crash.

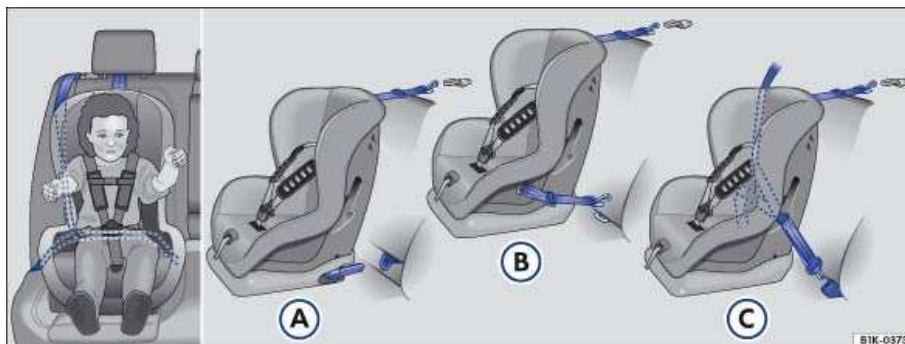


Fig. 35 Some child restraints are equipped with lower anchors and a top tether, illustration (A) and (B) show the correct installation of the attachments applicable to a LATCH seat. Figure (C) shows the installation of the seat using the vehicle's safety belt system.

Before installing a child restraint on the front passenger seat, be sure to follow the special instructions and heed the warnings ⇒ page 45, “Advanced Airbag System, infants, child restraints and children on the front seat” and ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.

- When using the vehicle safety belt to install a child seat, you must first activate the switchable locking feature¹³ on the safety belt to prevent the child seat from moving ⇒ page 86, “Installing child restraint with a safety belt”.
- Push the child seat down with your full weight to get the safety belt really tight so that the seat cannot move forward or sideways more than about one inch (2.5 cm).
- Fasten the harness webbing that is part of the child restraint system securely and pull it tight so that you can only slip one finger underneath the shoulder belt portion at the child's chest.
- Attach the tether strap to the tether anchorage for the seating position where the child restraint is being installed ⇒ page 95, “Installing the upper tether strap on the anchorage”.
- If a strap or tether is being used to tie the child seat to the front passenger seat, make sure that it is not so tight that it causes the weight-sensing mat to measure more weight than is actually on the seat.

¹³ Where applicable



You must take special precautions when installing a child restraint with the vehicle safety belt or with LATCH lower universal anchorages behind the front passenger seat or behind the driver seat. Always route the unused center seat safety belt and the unused safety belt for the seating position where the LATCH child restraint is being installed around the rear head restraint behind the child restraint to help prevent a child from playing with the unused belt and becoming entangled in it ⇒ Fig. 33 and please see ⇒ page 73, “Important safety instructions for using child seats”.

A toddler or child is usually too large for an infant restraint, if it is more than one year old and weighs more than 22 lbs. (10 kg).

Toddlers and children between one and about four years old and weigh between 22 lbs. (10 kg) and 40 lbs. (18 kg) must always be properly restrained in a child seat certified for their size and weight ⇒ Fig. 35.

The airbag on the passenger side makes the front seat a potentially dangerous place for a child to ride. The front seat is not the safest place for a child in a forward-facing child seat. It is a very dangerous place for an infant or a larger child in a rearward-facing seat.



WARNING

Not using a child seat, using the wrong child seat or improperly installing a child restraint increases the risk of serious personal injury and death in a collision or other emergency situation.

- **Children on the front seat of any car, even with Advanced Airbags, can be seriously injured or even killed when an airbag inflates. A child in a rearward-facing child seat installed on the front passenger seat will be seriously injured and can be killed if the front airbag inflates – even with an Advanced Airbag System.**
- **The inflating airbag will hit the child seat or infant carrier with great force and will smash the child seat and child against the backrest, center armrest, door or roof.**
- **Always install rearward-facing child seats on the rear seat.**
- **If you must install a rearward-facing child seat on the front passenger seat because of exceptional circumstances and the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, immediately install the rearward-facing child seat in a rear seating position and have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.**
- **Always read and heed all WARNINGS whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 24, “Safety belts”, ⇒ page 42, “Airbag system” and ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.**

**WARNING**

An improperly installed child restraint can interfere with the airbag as it deploys and seriously injure or even kill the child – even with an Advanced Airbag System.

- If exceptional circumstances require the use of a forward-facing child restraint on the front passenger's seat, the child's safety and well-being require the following special precautions to be taken:
 - Forward-facing child seats installed on the front passenger's seat may interfere with the deployment of the airbag and cause serious personal injury to the child.
 - Always make sure the forward-facing seat has been designed and certified by its manufacturer for use on a front seat with a passenger front and side airbag.
 - Always carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions provided with the child seat or carrier.
 - Never install a child restraint without a properly attached top tether strap if the child restraint manufacturer's instructions require the top tether strap to be used.
 - Never put the forward-facing child restraint up against or very near the instrument panel.
 - Always set the safety belt upper anchorage to the highest adjustment position.
 - Always move the passenger seat into the highest position in the seat's up and down adjustment range and to its rearmost position in the seat's fore and aft adjustment range, as far away from the airbag as possible before installing the forward-facing child restraint.
 - Always make sure that nothing prevents the front passenger's seat from being moved to the rearmost position in its fore and aft adjustment range.
 - Always make sure that the backrest is in the upright position.
 - Never place additional items on the seat that can increase the total weight registered by the weight-sensing mat and can cause injury in a crash.
- Make sure that the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on and stays on all the time whenever the ignition is switched on.
- If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, immediately install the forward-facing child seat in a rear seating position and have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- Always buckle the child seat firmly in place even if a child is not sitting in it. A loose child seat can fly around during a sudden stop or in a collision.
- Always read and heed all **WARNINGS** whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 24, "Safety belts", ⇒ page 42, "Airbag system" and ⇒ page 69, "Child safety".

**WARNING**

A child in a child restraint installed with the LATCH lower universal anchorages or with the standard safety belt on the rear seat may play with unused rear seat safety belts and become entangled resulting in serious personal injury and even death.

- Always secure unused rear seat safety belts out of reach of children in child seats such as by properly routing them around the head restraint for the seating position where the child restraint is installed.
- Never activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints.
- Never let anyone sit at the center rear seating position if the center rear safety belt has been routed around a rear head restraint.

**Note**

- When installing a child restraint, be careful not to get the belt caught in the structure of the child seat and become damaged, especially when the switchable locking feature¹³ has been activated.
- Be careful not to activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints. Only pull the safety belt out far enough to allow you to route the belt around the head restraint.

Booster seats and safety belts

Properly used booster seats can help protect children who weigh more than 40 lbs. (18 kg) who are 4 to at least 8 years old and are less than 4 ft. 9 in. (57 inches / 1.45 meters) tall in a collision.



Fig. 36 Child properly restrained in a booster seat on the rear seat

The vehicle's safety belts alone will not fit most children until they are at least 4 ft. 9 in. (57 inches / 1.45 meters) tall. Booster seats raise these children up so that the safety belt will pass properly over the strong parts of their bodies and the safety belt can help protect them in a collision.

- Do not use the switchable locking feature¹⁴ when using the vehicle's safety belt to restrain a child on a booster seat.
- Always position the shoulder portion of the safety belt midway over the child's shoulder. If you must transport an older child in a booster seat on the front passenger seat, you can use the safety belt height adjustment to help adjust the shoulder portion properly.
- Always make sure that the shoulder portion never rests against or across the child's neck.
- Always make sure that the child can wear the lap belt portion low across the thighs or pelvis and never over the stomach or abdomen.

¹⁴ Where applicable

You must take special precautions when installing a child restraint with the vehicle safety belt or with LATCH lower universal anchorages behind the front passenger seat or behind the driver seat. Always route the unused center seat safety belt and the unused safety belt for the seating position where the LATCH child restraint is being installed around the rear head restraint behind the child restraint to help prevent a child from playing with the unused belt and becoming entangled in it ⇒ Fig. 33 and please see ⇒ page 73, “Important safety instructions for using child seats”.

Children up to at least 8 years old (over 40 lbs. or 18 kg) are best protected in child safety seats designed for their age and weight ⇒ Fig. 36. Experts say that the skeletal structure, particularly the pelvis, of these children is not fully developed, and they must not use the vehicle safety belts without a suitable child restraint.

Children who are at least 4 ft. 9 in. (57 inches / 1.45 meters) tall can generally use the vehicle's three point lap and shoulder belts. Never use the lap belt portion of the vehicle's safety belt alone to restrain any child, regardless of how big the child is. Always remember that children do not have the pronounced pelvic structure required for the proper function of lap belt portion of the vehicle's three point lap and shoulder belts. The child's safety absolutely requires that a lap belt portion of the safety belt be fastened snugly and as low as possible around the pelvis. Never let the lap belt portion of the safety belt pass over the child's stomach or abdomen.

It is usually best to put these children in appropriate booster seats. Be sure the booster seat meets all applicable safety standards.

Booster seats raise the seating position of the child and reposition both the lap and shoulder parts of the safety belt so that they pass across the child's body in the right places. The routing of the belt over the child's body is very important for the child's protection, whether or not a booster seat is used. Children age 12 and under must always ride in the rear seat.

In a collision, airbags must inflate within a blink of an eye and with considerable force. In order to do its job, the airbag needs room to inflate so that it will be there to protect the occupant as the occupant moves forward into the airbag.

Even Advanced Airbags can cause injury to children when they inflate. A vehicle occupant who is out of position and too close to the airbag gets in the way of an inflating airbag. When an occupant is too close, he or she will be struck violently and will receive serious or possibly even fatal injury.

In order for the airbag to offer protection, it is important that all vehicle occupants, especially children, who must be in the front seat because of exceptional circumstances, be properly restrained and as far away from the airbag as possible. By keeping room between the child's body and the front of the passenger compartment, the airbag can inflate completely and provide supplemental protection in certain frontal collisions.

**WARNING**

Not using a booster seat, using the booster seat improperly, incorrectly installing a booster seat or using the vehicle safety belt improperly increases the risk of serious personal injury and death in a collision or other emergency situation. To help reduce the risk of serious personal injury and/or death:

- Always make sure to position the shoulder portion of the three-point belt over the middle of child's shoulder.
- Never let the shoulder portion of the safety belt rest against or across the neck, face, chin, or throat of the child.
- Always make sure the lap belt portion of the three-point belt is worn snug and passes as low as possible across the child's pelvis. Never let the belt pass over the soft abdomen.
- Failure to properly route safety belts over a child's body will cause severe injuries in an accident or other emergency situation ⇒ page 24, "Safety belts".
- Children on the front seat of any car, even with Advanced Airbags, can be seriously injured or even killed when an airbag inflates.
- Never let a child stand or kneel on any seat, for example the front seat.
- Never let a child ride in the cargo area of your vehicle.
- Always remember that a child leaning forward, sitting sideways or out of position in any way during a collision can be struck by a deploying airbag. This will result in serious personal injury or death.
- If you must install a booster seat on the front passenger seat because of exceptional circumstances the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light must come on and stay on, whenever the ignition is switched on.
- If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, perform the checks described ⇒ page 56, "Monitoring the Advanced Airbag System".
- Take the child restraint off the front passenger seat and install it properly at one of the rear seat positions if the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not stay on whenever the ignition is switched on.
- Always read and heed all **WARNINGS** whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 24, "Safety belts", ⇒ page 42, "Airbag system" and ⇒ page 69, "Child safety".

**WARNING**

A child in a booster seat installed with the standard safety belt on the rear seat may play with unused rear seat safety belts and become entangled resulting in serious personal injury and even death.

- Always secure unused rear seat safety belts out of the reach of children in child seats such as by properly routing them around the head restraint for the seating position where the child restraint is installed.
- Never activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints.
- Never let anyone sit at the center rear seating position if the center rear safety belt has been routed around a rear head restraint.

**Note**

Be careful not to activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints. Only pull the safety belt out far enough to allow you to route the belt around the head restraint.

Installing child restraint with a safety belt

More important things to know

Safety belts for the rear seats and the front passenger seat must be locked with the switchable locking feature to properly secure child seats.

The retractors for the rear seat safety belts and the front passenger safety belt have a switchable locking feature¹⁵ for child restraints in addition to the emergency locking feature.

If you need to install a child seat at one of these seating positions, you must first route the safety belt as directed by the manufacturer of the child seat that you are using and then activate the switchable locking feature¹⁵.

Whenever a child restraint is installed with a safety belt, the safety belt must be locked so that belt webbing cannot unreel. The switchable locking feature¹⁵ lets you lock the belt so that a child restraint can be properly installed and, for example, so that it can't tip to the side when the vehicle goes around a corner.

Always remember: Even though your vehicle is equipped with an Advanced Airbag System, all children, especially those 12 years and younger, must always ride in the back seat properly restrained for their age and size.

¹⁵ Where applicable

**WARNING**

Improperly installed child seats increase the risk of serious personal injury and death in a collision.

- Always make sure that the safety belt retractor is locked when installing a child seat. An unlocked safety belt retractor cannot hold the child seat in place during normal driving or in a crash.
- Always buckle the child seat firmly in place even if a child is not sitting in it. A loose child seat can fly around during a sudden stop or in a collision.
- Always make sure that the rear seat backrest to which the center rear safety belt is attached is securely latched whenever the rear center safety belt is being used to secure a child restraint ⇒ booklet 3.1 “Controls and Equipment”.
- If the backrest is not securely latched, the child and the child restraint will be thrown forward together with the backrest and will strike parts of the vehicle interior. The child can be seriously injured or killed.
- Always install rearward-facing child seats or infant carriers on the rear seat.
- Forward-facing child seats or infant carriers installed on the front passenger's seat may interfere with the deployment of the airbag and cause serious injury to the child.
- It is safer to install a forward-facing child seat on the rear seat.
- Always read and heed all WARNINGS whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”. Special precautions apply when installing a child seat on the front passenger seat ⇒ page 45, “Advanced Airbag System, infants, child restraints and children on the front seat”.

**WARNING**

Rearward-facing child restraints:

- A child in a rearward-facing child seat installed on the front passenger seat will be seriously injured and can be killed if the front airbag inflates - even with an Advanced Airbag System.
- The inflating airbag will hit the child seat or infant carrier with great force and will smash the child seat and child against the backrest, center armrest, door or roof.
- Always install rearward-facing child seats or infant carriers on the rear seat.
- Always be especially careful if you must install a rearward facing child seat on the front passenger seat in exceptional circumstances.
- A tight tether strap on a rearward-facing child restraint attached to the front passenger seat can put too much pressure on the weight-mat in the seat and register a heavier weight in the Advanced Airbag System. The heavier weight registered can make the system work as though an adult were on the seat and deploy the Advanced Airbag when it must be suppressed causing serious or even fatal injury to the child.
- Make sure that the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on and stays on all the time whenever the ignition is switched on.
- If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, immediately install the rearward-facing child seat in a rear seating position and have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.

**WARNING**

An improperly installed child restraint can interfere with the airbag as it deploys and seriously injure or even kill the child – even with an Advanced Airbag System.

- If exceptional circumstances require the use of a forward-facing child restraint on the front passenger's seat, the child's safety and well-being require the following special precautions to be taken:
 - Forward-facing child seats installed on the front passenger's seat may interfere with the deployment of the airbag and cause serious personal injury to the child.
 - Always make sure the forward-facing seat has been designed and certified by its manufacturer for use on a front seat with a passenger front and side airbag.
 - Always carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions provided with the child seat or carrier.
 - Never install a child restraint without a properly attached top tether strap if the child restraint manufacturer's instructions require the top tether strap to be used.
 - Never put the forward-facing child restraint up against or very near the instrument panel.
 - Always set the safety belt upper anchorage to the highest adjustment position.
 - Always move the passenger seat to the highest position in the seat's up and down adjustment range and into its rearmost position in the seat's fore and aft adjustment range, as far away from the airbag as possible before installing the forward-facing child restraint.
 - Always make sure that nothing prevents the front passenger's seat from being moved to the rearmost position in its fore and aft adjustment range.
 - Always make sure that the backrest is in the upright position.
 - Never place additional items on the seat that can increase the total weight registered by the weight-sensing mat and can cause injury in a crash.
- Make sure that the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light comes on and stays on all the time whenever the ignition is switched on.
- If the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, immediately install the forward-facing child seat in a rear seating position and have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- Always buckle the child seat firmly in place even if a child is not sitting in it. A loose child seat can fly around during a sudden stop or in a collision.
- Always read and heed all **WARNINGS** whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 24, "Safety belts", ⇒ page 42, "Airbag system" and ⇒ page 69, "Child safety".

**WARNING**

A child in a child restraint installed with the LATCH lower universal anchorages or with the standard safety belt on the rear seat may play with unused rear seat safety belts and become entangled resulting in serious personal injury and even death.

- Always secure unused rear seat safety belts out of reach of children in child seats such as by properly routing them around the head restraint for the seating position where the child restraint is installed.
- Never activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints.
- Never let anyone sit at the center rear seating position if the center rear safety belt has been routed around a rear head restraint.

**Note**

- When installing a child restraint, be careful not to get the belt caught in the structure of the child seat and become damaged, especially when the switchable locking feature¹⁵ has been activated.
- Be careful not to activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints. Only pull the safety belt out far enough to allow you to route the belt around the head restraint.

Applies to vehicles: with switchable locking feature


Activating the switchable locking feature

Use the switchable locking feature to properly secure a child restraint.

Always carefully follow the child seat manufacturer's instructions when installing a child restraint in your vehicle. Before trying to install a child restraint on the front passenger seat, be sure to follow the special instructions and heed the WARNINGS below. To activate the switchable locking feature:

- Place the child restraint on a seat, preferably on the rear seat ⇒ ⚠.
- If in exceptional circumstances, you must install the child restraint on the front seat, then set the safety belt upper anchorage for the front passenger seat to the highest adjustment position if the available safety belt length is sufficient to properly install the child restraint and make sure the backrest is in the upright position ⇒ ⚠.
- Move the front passenger seat to the highest position in the seat's up and down adjustment range and make sure the backrest is in the upright position ⇒ ⚠.
- Move the front passenger seat to the rearmost position in the seat's fore and aft adjustment range, as far away from the airbag as possible before installing the forward-facing child restraint ⇒ ⚠.
- If a strap or tether is being used to tie the child seat to the front passenger seat, make sure that it is not so tight that it causes the weight-sensing mat to measure more weight than is actually on the seat.
- Set the safety belt upper anchorage for the rear outboard seating position to the highest adjustment position ⇒ ⚠.
- Route the safety belt around or through the child restraint using the proper path for the safety belt as specified by the child restraint manufacturer.
- Insert the belt tongue into the buckle for that seating position.
- Make sure that the red release button faces away from the child restraint so that it can be unbuckled quickly.
- Remove all slack from the lap belt portion of the safety belt and hold it tightly against the child restraint.



- Push the child restraint down with your full weight to make sure that the child restraint will be properly installed with the safety belt really tight ⇒ .
- Slowly pull the shoulder belt portion of the safety belt **all the way out** of the retractor.
- While keeping your weight on the child restraint, guide the shoulder belt portion of the safety belt back into the retractor until the belt lies flat and is tightened against the child restraint.
- You should hear a “clicking” noise as the belt winds back into the inertia reel of the safety belt retractor. Test the switchable locking feature by pulling on the belt. You should no longer be able to pull the belt out of the retractor. The switchable locking feature is now active.
- Pull on the safety belt to make sure the safety belt is properly fastened and tight.
- Check the child seat for proper installation by pulling on the child restraint at the place where the vehicle's safety belt goes into the child restraint. The child seat should not move forward or sideways by more than about one inch (2.5 cm).
- After checking to make sure that the child restraint is properly installed make certain that the child restraint is correctly recognized by the weight-sensing mat inside the front passenger seat, so that the front passenger airbag status is always correctly signaled by the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light. Please be sure to read the additional important information and heed the WARNINGS about the Advanced Airbag System and the function of the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light in this Booklet.



WARNING

Using the wrong child restraint or an improperly installed child restraint can cause serious personal injury or death in an accident.

- Always make sure that the safety belt retractor is locked when installing a child seat. An unlocked safety belt retractor cannot hold the child seat in place during normal driving or in a crash.
- Always buckle the child seat firmly in place even if a child is not sitting in it. A loose child seat can fly around during a sudden stop or in a collision.
- Always make sure the seat backrest to which the child restraint is installed is in an upright position and securely latched into place and cannot fold forward. Otherwise, the seat back with the child seat attached to it could fly forward in a collision or other emergency situation.
- Always read and heed all WARNINGS whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”. Special precautions apply when installing a child seat on the front passenger seat ⇒ page 45, “Advanced Airbag System, infants, child restraints and children on the front seat”.

**WARNING**

A child in a child restraint installed with the LATCH lower universal anchorages or with the standard safety belt on the rear seat may play with unused rear seat safety belts and become entangled resulting in serious personal injury and even death.

- Always secure unused rear seat safety belts out of reach of children in child seats such as by properly routing them around the head restraint for the seating position where the child restraint is installed.
- Never activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints.
- Never let anyone sit at the center rear seating position if the center rear safety belt has been routed around a rear head restraint.

**Note**

- When installing a child restraint, be careful not to get the belt caught in the structure of the child seat and become damaged, especially when the switchable locking feature has been activated.
- Be careful not to activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints. Only pull the safety belt out far enough to allow you to route the belt around the head restraint.

Applies to vehicles: with switchable locking feature

Deactivating the switchable locking feature

The switchable locking feature for child restraints will be deactivated automatically when the belt is wound all the way back into the retractor.

- Press the red button on the safety belt buckle. The belt tongue will pop out of the buckle ⇒ .
- Guide the safety belt back by hand so that it rolls easily onto the retractor and the trim around the retractor will not be damaged.

Always let the safety belt retract completely into its stowed position. The safety belt can now be used as an ordinary safety belt without the switchable locking feature for child restraints.

If the switchable locking feature should be activated inadvertently, the safety belt must be unfastened and guided completely back into its stowed position to deactivate this feature. If the switchable locking feature is not deactivated, the safety belt will gradually become tighter and uncomfortable to wear.

**WARNING**

Improperly installed child seats increase the risk of serious personal injury and death in a collision.

- Never unfasten the safety belt to deactivate the switchable locking feature for child restraints while the vehicle is moving. You would not be restrained and could be seriously injured in an accident.
- Always read and heed all WARNINGS whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”. Special precautions apply when installing a child seat on the front passenger seat ⇒ page 45, “Advanced Airbag System, infants, child restraints and children on the front seat”.

Additional Information

Child Restraint System anchors and how are they related to child safety

To provide a simpler and more practicable way to attach the child restraint on the vehicle seat, U.S. Federal regulations require special lower universal anchorages in vehicles and devices on new child restraints to attach to the vehicle anchorages.

Your vehicle is equipped with anchors for tether straps at each rear seating position. It is also equipped with special LATCH lower universal anchorages on the body between the seat back and seat cushion. The combination of the tether anchorages and the lower anchorages is now generally called the **LATCH** system for “**L**ower **A**nchors and **T**ethers for **C**hildren.”

Forward-facing child restraints manufactured after September 1, 1999, are required by U.S. federal regulations to comply with child head movement performance requirements. These new performance requirements make a tether necessary on most new child seats.

Installing a child restraint that requires a top tether without one can seriously impair the performance of the child restraint and its ability to protect the child in a collision. Installing a child restraint that requires a top tether without the top tether may be a violation of state law.

Child restraint manufacturers offer two kinds of LATCH lower universal anchorages on their child seats.

- hook-on or push-on connectors attached to adjustable straps, or
- rigid latches on bars that extend out the back of the child restraint and are released with release buttons at the bottom of the child restraint.

In addition to the LATCH lower universal anchorages, both of these child restraint systems usually required the use tether straps to help keep the child restraint firmly in place.

**WARNING**

Improper installation of child restraints will increase the risk of injury and death in a crash.

- Always carefully follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer of the child restraint you intend to install in your vehicle.
- Never install a child restraint without a properly attached top tether strap if the child restraint manufacturer's instructions require the top tether strap to be used.
- Improper use of child restraint LATCH lower universal anchorage points can lead to injury in a collision. The LATCH lower universal anchorage points are designed to withstand only those loads imposed by correctly fitted child restraints.
- Never mount two child restraint systems on one LATCH lower universal anchorage point.
- Never secure or attach any luggage or other item to the LATCH lower universal anchorages.

Tether anchors and tether straps

Your vehicle has tether anchors as standard equipment.

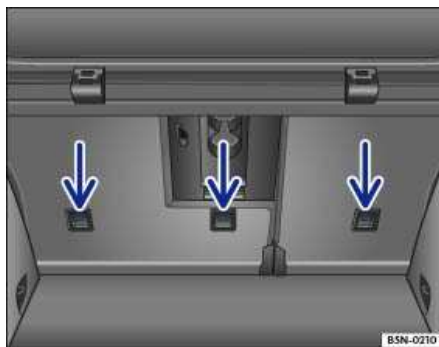


Fig. 37 Tether anchors for the rear seating positions on the backrest

The tether anchors for child restraints are behind the rear seat head restraints.

A tether strap is a straight or V-shaped strap that attaches the top part of a child restraint to special anchorage points in the vehicle.

The purpose of the tether strap is to reduce the forward movement of the child restraint in a crash, in order to help reduce the risk of head injury that could be caused by striking the vehicle interior.

Forward facing child restraints manufactured after September 1, 1999, are required by U.S. federal regulations to comply with child head movement performance requirements. These new performance requirements make a tether necessary on most new child seats.

**WARNING**

Improper installation of child restraints will increase the risk of injury and death in a crash.

- Always follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer of the child restraint you intend to install in your Volkswagen.
- Improper use of child restraint anchors (including tether anchors) can lead to injury in a collision. The anchors are designed to withstand only those loads imposed by correctly fitted child restraints.
- Never mount two child restraint systems on one LATCH lower universal anchor point.
- Never attach two child restraint systems to one tether strap or tether anchorage.
- Never attach a child seat tether strap to a tie-down hook in the luggage compartment.
- Never use child restraint tether anchorages to secure safety belts or other kinds of occupant restraints.
- Never secure or attach any luggage or other items to the LATCH lower universal anchorages or to the tether anchors.
- If a tether or other strap is used to attach a child restraint to the front passenger seat, make sure that it is not so tight, that it causes the weight-sensing mat to measure more weight than is actually on the seat.
- The heavier weight registered can make the Advanced Airbag System work as though an adult were on the seat and deploy the Advanced Airbag when it must be suppressed causing serious or even fatal injury to the child.
- If you must install a rearward facing child seat on the front passenger seat because of exceptional circumstances and the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, immediately install the rearward-facing child seat in a rear seating position and have the airbag system inspected by your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.

Using tether straps on rearward-facing child restraints

Currently, few rearward-facing child restraints come with a tether. Always read and heed the child restraint manufacturer's instructions carefully to determine how to properly install the tether.

**WARNING**

A child in a rearward-facing child seat installed on the front passenger seat will be seriously injured and can be killed if the front airbag inflates - even with an Advanced Airbag System.

- The inflating airbag will hit the child seat or infant carrier with great force and will smash the child seat and child against the backrest, center armrest, door or roof.
- A tight tether or other strap on a rearward-facing child restraint attached to the front passenger seat can put too much pressure on the weight-mat in the seat and register a heavier weight in the Advanced Airbag System. The heavier weight registered can make the Advanced Airbag System work as though an adult were on the seat and deploy the Advanced Airbag when it must be suppressed causing serious or even fatal injury to the child.
- If you must install a rearward facing child seat on the front passenger seat because of exceptional circumstances and the **PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF** light does not come on and stay on, immediately install the rear-facing child seat in a rear seating position and have the airbag system inspected by your Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop.
- Always read and heed all WARNINGS whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 24, "Safety belts", ⇒ page 42, "Airbag system" and ⇒ page 69, "Child safety". Special precautions apply when installing a child seat on the front passenger seat ⇒ page 45, "Advanced Airbag System, infants, child restraints and children on the front seat".

Installing the upper tether strap on the anchorage

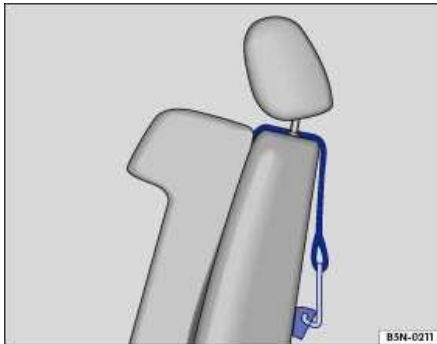


Fig. 38 Illustration of principle: properly mounted tether strap

Installing the tether strap

- Release or deploy the tether strap on the child restraint according to the child restraint manufacturer's instructions.
- Remove the luggage compartment cover if necessary.
- Guide the tether strap between the rear seat back and the luggage compartment cover.
- Locate the tether anchor on the rear seat backrest ⇒ Fig. 37.



- *Outer seating position:* Guide the upper tether strap under the outer rear head restraint (raise the head restraint if necessary).
- *Center seating position:* Guide the upper tether strap over center rear head restraint only when it is pushed all the way down.
- Guide the tether strap between the rear seat back and the luggage compartment cover.
- Attach the tether strap anchorage hook into the opening of the tether anchorage.
- Pull on the tether strap hook so that the spring catch of the hook is engaged.
- Tighten the tether strap firmly following the child restraint manufacturer's instructions.

Releasing the tether strap

- Loosen the tension following the child restraint manufacturer's instructions.
- Depress the spring catch on the hook and release it from the anchorage.

Adjusting head restraints ⇒ booklet 3.1 "Controls and Equipment".

For more information please read and heed ⇒ page 93, "Tether anchors and tether straps".



Note

If you leave the child restraint with the tether strap firmly installed for several days, this could leave a mark on the upholstery on the seat cushion and backrest in the area where the tether strap was installed. The upholstery would also be permanently stretched around the tether strap. This applies especially to leather seats.

LATCH lower universal anchorages

Description

The LATCH lower universal anchorages for the rear outboard seating positions are attached to the vehicle at the factory.



Fig. 39 Location of the seat markings.



Fig. 40 Location of lower anchorages

The circular markings on the rear seat help you to identify the location of lower anchorages for the two outboard seating positions ⇒ Fig. 39.

The LATCH lower universal anchorage attachment points are between the rear seatback and rear seat cushion ⇒ Fig. 40.

LATCH lower universal anchorages secure the child restraint system in the seat without using the vehicle's safety belts. Anchorages provide a secure and easy-to-use attachment and minimize the possibility of improper child restraint installation.

All child restraints manufactured after September 1, 2002, must have LATCH lower universal anchorage attachments.



Remember that the LATCH lower universal anchorage points are only intended for installation and attachment of child restraints specifically certified for use with these lower universal anchorages. Child restraints that are not equipped with the LATCH lower universal anchorage attachments can still be installed with vehicle safety belts according to the child restraint manufacturer's instructions.



WARNING

Improper use of LATCH lower universal anchorages can cause serious personal injury in an accident.

- Always carefully follow the child restraint manufacturer's instructions for proper installation and use of child restraint systems.
- Always make sure that you hear a click when latching the seat in place. If you do not hear a click the seat is not secure and could fly forward and hit the interior of the vehicle, or be ejected from the vehicle.
- Never install a child restraint without a properly attached top tether strap if the child restraint manufacturer's instructions require the top tether strap to be used.
- Never use the LATCH lower universal anchorages to attach safety belts or other kinds of occupant restraints.
- Child restraint LATCH lower universal anchorages are only designed to secure a child restraint system that has been equipped to use these anchorages.
- LATCH lower universal anchorages are designed to withstand only those loads imposed by correctly fitted child restraints. Under no circumstances can they be used safely for adult or child seat belts or harnesses, luggage or other items.
- Never mount more than one child restraint to a LATCH lower universal anchorage point. Attaching two child restraints to a single anchorage point can cause the anchorage to fail and cause serious personal injury in an accident.
- Never use the LATCH lower universal anchorages to install three child restraints in your Volkswagen.
- Never use the lower inboard anchorages from the left and right rear seating positions to install a child restraint at the center of the rear seat. The distance between the inboard anchors will not allow a child restraint to be properly installed nor to be able to withstand the high forces that are generated in a crash.
- If you must install three child restraints on the rear seat of a Volkswagen with three seating positions in the rear, you must use the vehicle safety belt to install the child restraint in the center seating position.
- Always read and heed all WARNINGS whenever using a child restraint in a vehicle ⇒ page 24, "Safety belts", ⇒ page 42, "Airbag system" and ⇒ page 69, "Child safety".

Installing a child restraint with LATCH lower universal anchorages

Whenever you install a child restraint always follow the child restraint manufacturer's instructions.

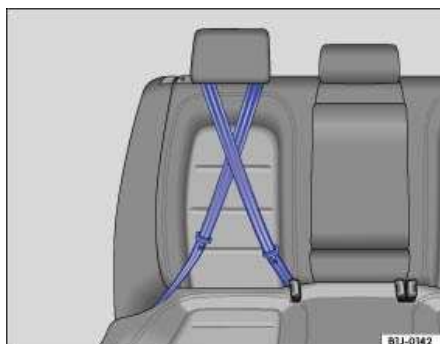


Fig. 41 Routing of unused center rear seat safety belts when installing a child restraint with the standard safety belt in an outboard seating position.

There are two ways to attach an appropriate child restraint to the LATCH lower universal anchorages:

Rigid connectors on bars at the back of the child restraint:

- Make sure the seat back of the rear seat bench is in the upright position and securely latched in place.
- Release or deploy the child restraint tether strap.
- *Outer seating position:* Guide the upper tether strap under the outer rear head restraint (raise the head restraint if necessary).
- *Center seating position:* Guide the upper tether strap over the center rear head restraint only when it is pushed all the way down.
- Guide the tether strap between the rear seat back and the luggage compartment cover.
- Attach the tether strap anchorage hook into the opening of the tether anchorage.
- Attach the connectors onto the LATCH lower universal anchorages.
- Make sure you hear the child restraint click securely into place.
- Tighten the top tether strap.
- Pull on both sides of the child restraint once you've mounted it to make certain it is secure and properly attached.

Releasing

- Release the lower latch from the LATCH lower universal anchorages following the child restraint manufacturer's instructions.
- Release the tether strap.

Hooks attached to adjustable straps (hook-on connectors)

- Make sure the seat back of the rear seat bench is in the upright position and securely latched in place.
- Attach the hook-on connectors with the spring catch release onto the LATCH lower universal anchorage so that the connectors lock into place.
- Pull on the connector attachments to make sure that it is properly attached to the LATCH lower universal anchorage.
- Pull straps tight following the child restraint manufacturer's instructions.
- Release or deploy the child restraint tether strap.
- *Outer seating position:* Guide the upper tether strap under the outer rear head restraint (raise the head restraint if necessary).
- *Center seating position:* Guide the upper tether strap over the center rear head restraint only when it is pushed all the way down.
- Guide the tether strap between the rear seat back and the luggage compartment cover.
- Attach the tether strap anchorage hook into the opening of the tether anchorage and pull the top tether strap tight.
- Pull on both of the adjustable straps on the child restraint and pull also on the tether strap once you've mounted the child restraint to make certain it's secure and properly attached.

Releasing

- Loosen the tension on the strap following the child restraint manufacturer's instructions.
- Depress the spring catch on the hook.
- Hold the spring catch in the depressed position.
- Move the hook in direction of the vehicle floor so that there is enough space to release the connector from the lower anchorage.
- Release the tether strap

You must take special precautions when installing a child restraint with the vehicle safety belt or with LATCH lower universal anchorages behind the front passenger seat or behind the driver seat. Always route the unused center seat safety belt and the unused safety belt for the seating position where the LATCH child restraint is being installed around the rear head restraint behind the child restraint to help prevent a child from playing with the unused belt and becoming entangled in it ⇒ Fig. 33 and please see ⇒ page 73, "Important safety instructions for using child seats".

**WARNING**

A child in a child restraint installed with the LATCH lower universal anchorages or with the standard safety belt on the rear seat may play with unused rear seat safety belts and become entangled resulting in serious personal injury and even death.

- Always secure unused rear seat safety belts out of reach of children in child seats such as by properly routing them around the head restraint for the seating position where the child restraint is installed.
- Never activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints.
- Never let anyone sit at the center rear seating position if the center rear safety belt has been routed around a rear head restraint.

**WARNING**

Improper use of the LATCH system can increase the risk of serious personal injury and death in an accident.

- These anchors were developed only for child seats using the “LATCH” system.
- Never attach other child seats, belts or other objects to the “LATCH” anchors.
- Always make sure that you hear a click when latching the seat in place. If you do not hear a click the seat is not secure and could fly forward and hit the interior of the vehicle, or be ejected from the vehicle.

**WARNING**

Improper installation of child restraints will increase the risk of injury in an accident.

- Always carefully follow the child restraint manufacturer's instructions for proper installation of the child restraints and proper use of tether straps as well as the LATCH lower universal anchorages or safety belts in your vehicle.
- Always read and heed the important information and WARNINGS about child safety and the installation of child restraints ⇒ page 69, “Child safety”.

**Note**

Be careful not to activate the switchable locking retractor when routing the seat belts around the head restraints. Only pull the safety belt out far enough to allow you to route the belt around the head restraint.

**Tips**

In Canada, the terms “top tether” with “lower universal anchorages” (or “lower universal anchorage bars”) are used to describe the LATCH system.

Sources of information about child restraints and their use

There are a number of sources of additional information about child restraint selection, installation and use:

NHTSA advises that the best child safety seat is the one that fits your child and fits in your vehicle, and that you will use correctly and consistently.

Try before you buy!

Transport Canada Information Centre

Tel.: 1 (800) 333-0371 or call 1 (613) 998-8616 if you are in the Ottawa area

www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety

U.S National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Tel.: 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9152)

www.nhtsa.gov

National SAFE KIDS Campaign

Tel.: (202) 662-0600

www.safekids.org

Safety BeltSafe U.S.A

Tel.: (800) 745-SAFE (English)

Tel.: (800) 747-SANO (Spanish)

www.carseat.org

Volkswagen Customer CARE

Tel.: (800) 822-8987

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