



TRIED AND TESTED

Crash safety reassurance



↑ The all-new Ford Fiesta was awarded the maximum five-star safety rating by independent crash test authority Euro NCAP

Increasingly, safety is one of the main concerns for people when buying a car.

Luckily, you don't have to rely on dealers for reliable information. The Euro NCAP organisation regularly carries out crash tests on new vehicles, and provides motoring consumers with a realistic and independent assessment of the safety per-

formance of some of the most popular cars sold in Europe. Their latest round led to ratings being awarded to nine new models. The Ford Fiesta, Jeep Compass, Mazda CX-5, Mercedes-Benz C-Class Cabriolet, Opel Grandland X and Renault Koleos are all awarded five stars, while Opel's all-electric Ampera-e gets four.

However, Kia's supermini Picanto and small-family Rio only achieved three stars with standard safety equipment but managed to up the ante to four and five stars respectively when tested with their optional safety packs. Scarily, Euro NCAP stated that some of the cars demonstrated an apparent lack of restraint

robustness in side impact testing. For instance, in the pole test of the Jeep Compass, readings in the dummy's chest indicated injury risk values above the limit to qualify for points, but below those which indicate an unacceptably high risk of life-threatening injury. Likewise, in the side barrier test, the head of the dummy representing a 10 year old child, seated behind the driver, struck the roof frame in the Mercedes-Benz C-Class Cabriolet as the side airbag did not fully cover the impact area. In the same test with the Kia Picanto, the chest of the 10 year old was poorly protected.

Michiel van Ratingen, Secretary General of Euro NCAP, stated that, "Euro NCAP is pushing for the fitment of advanced technologies and manufacturers have responded well, with AEB now commonplace on most new cars. However, they should not forget the basics of occupant protection in case of a crash. All occupants deserve to be equally well protected, whether they're an adult driver or a child seated in the rear. The adoption of a 10 year old child dummy in our test last year allows us to highlight areas for improvement, even in five star cars."

What this seems to say is that potential buyers should not be fooled into thinking that more outlay definitely guarantees better safety. Interestingly, the 7th generation Ford Fiesta joined Spain's Seat Ibiza as only the second supermini this year to achieve a five-star rating with standard equipment only.

The new Fiesta, apparently the most technologically advanced small car on sale in Europe, has various sophisticated features designed to help prevent or mitigate the impact of an accident for occupants and pedestrians, including an enhanced version of Ford's Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection that for the first time can help prevent collisions in the dark.

It is always worth doing the research on a car before parting with your money. For full results on these models and others, visit: www.euroncap.com.

STAY SAFE AND CALM

Beat school-run stress

With the summer holidays a long-gone memory, some parents are already tearing their hair out at the daily grind of getting their kids to school on time.

The early morning run can be one of the most stressful times of the day. Adding to the often nerve-racking experience of playing dodgems with other parents eager to deliver their offspring, tempers can often flare as mums, dads and the little ones are not even fully awake yet!

The IAM RoadSmart organisation often has handy tips to help drivers stay safe and calm on the roads, and here is their view on how to help make the journey as stress-free as possible.

Richard Gladman, head of driving and riding standards, suggests first of all "packing for success". Dependent on the age of children, take some healthy treats to distract them and keep them engaged, even on a short journey. Also, he stresses how important it is to make sure everyone is in the right seat. If you use child or booster seats, ensure they are still fit for the purpose and correctly secured. (Check out Good Egg for some top tips: www.goodeggcar-safety.com).

In addition, "leave enough time", he says. Setting off for school can be a frustrating and rushed experience, with the constant reminding about PE kits and other important forgotten or last minute things. A half-eaten breakfast and badly combed hair can put both you and your child in the wrong frame of mind for the start of the day.

He also recommends "starting them while they're young". Teach your children about road safety so they know how to behave around moving traffic. Setting a good example while in the driving seat will stay with them in preparation for when they learn to drive. Parking in a safe place and walking the last few metres will not just help with congestion; it will also allow you to teach them the right way to cross a road. Showing children how to use the road sensibly will save lives.

Gladman finishes off with, "Traffic always picks up again after the school holidays so journeys will take longer and potentially be more stressful. Make sure the car is fuelled up and fit and ready for stop-start traffic so you have one less thing to worry about. Due to close supervision children are normally very safe around schools but you can help by taking care. Be aware that after school they are much more likely to be playing in and around the street and safety can be the last thing on their minds after a hard day in the classroom."

All sound advice, of course. You can find out more about the Institute of Advanced Motorists at their new website: www.iamroadsmart.com.



↑ IAM RoadSmart always has handy tips for all road users, both young and more mature!

EL CAMISÓN DENTAL CLINIC

MICROSCOPIC ODONTOLOGY CENTRE

g+ f

"Your smile is our smile"

Tel. +34 922 753 348 / 649 213 564

Residencial El Camisón, Playa de Las Américas (Arona). Next to Café Época
Make your appointment Monday to Friday: 10am to 2pm and 3pm to 6pm
clinicaelcamison@gmail.com • www.clinicadentalelcamison.com

Abierto
TODOS
los DIAS

MODA
Shopping

RESTAURACIÓN
Restaurants

SUPERMERCADO
Supermarket

CINE y OCIO
Cinema & Entertainment

Open
every day

GranSur
CENTRO COMERCIAL

www.ccgansur.com

f t i

TripAdvisor

PARKING GRATUITO
FREE PARKING

SALIDA / EXIT
76 ADEJE

TF-1