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Information Sheet

Using products to prevent driveway run over incidents: Some of the safety products available

Prepared by The New Zealand Automobile Association (AA)

The driver, the vehicle and the surrounding environment all have a part to play in preventing young children being run over on driveways.

There are safety products available to assist drivers in preventing driveway run over injuries but it cannot be emphasised enough that they can never replace the need for driver care and attention and can only ever be an aid. It is the driver's responsibility to always check the driveway is clear of children before reversing. Best practice is to walk around the vehicle and to scan the immediate environment for open doors or children playing.



Below is a brief outline of some of the safety products that are available for both vehicles and the driveway environment.

Vehicle

Reversing camera: This is a camera attached to the rear of a vehicle with a visual display mounted on the dash-board or incorporated into the rear-view mirror. Reversing cameras are becoming more common on new cars, and can be added to older vehicles.

There are some potential limitations to reversing cameras:

- When reversing, drivers look in mirrors or over their shoulder, not at a dashboard display
- No one camera is as effective on all vehicle makes and models
- Camera image may be obscured in rain or glare

Reversing sensors: This involves 2 to 4 sensors mounted on the back of a car, which alert the driver (by sound and/or visually) when there is an object within range of the vehicle.

With both reversing cameras and sensors, correct installation is important to ensure the technology is effective and fit for purpose. Purchase costs vary but are likely to be in the range of \$100-\$700, plus \$100-\$200 installation.

When buying a car, one of the safety features to consider is how well the driver can see behind the vehicle. This is important for general driving safety, in addition to preventing driveway run over incidents.

Driveway Environment

In terms of the home and driveway environment, the following options could be considered:

- Safety fences and gates
- Door latches or guards (stair guards)
- Driveway safety mirrors – made of plastic, these mirrors are installed on the driver's side of a driveway angled towards the car. They cost in the order of \$100.

For more information, contact:

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