

The Risk Of Objects Inside The Vehicle Becoming Projectiles

What Are The Dangers Of Loose Objects In Vehicles?

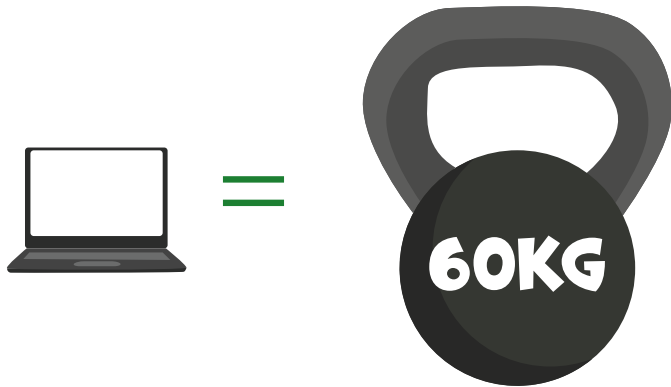
When a car crashes at high speed one of the greatest dangers comes from loose items thrown around the cabin. Objects inside keep moving and can impact at up to 20 times the force of gravity.

This force can mean that small objects sitting unrestrained in your car might become deadly if the car comes to a sudden stop whether this is in a crash or near miss. For example:

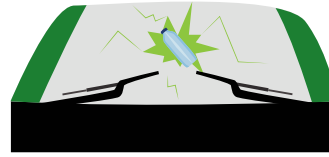
A 1 litre water bottle carries the force of a 20kg object.



G forces experienced during the crash can turn a 3kg unrestrained laptop into a 60kg projectile.



The Risk of Unrestrained Objects



During a crash, unrestrained passengers in a vehicle can also become projectiles in the car. Not being strapped in increases fatality probability by as much as 25% for other vehicle occupants.



Driving with loose loads, not properly restrained and at risk of falling from your vehicle, is an offence under the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Regulation, and for light vehicles under state regulations.



When a car brakes, the vehicle slows down as do all restrained passengers and objects. Whereas unrestrained items are stopped by their collision with another object inside the vehicle, generally the windscreen, steering wheel, or another passenger.

Examples Of Objects That Should Not Be Left Loose Are:



Recommendations To Restrain Objects



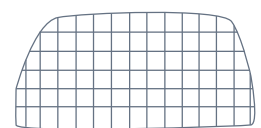
If you have a hatch back or stationwagon, invest in a cargo barrier and high-quality nets or tie down straps.



Stow small items in the glove box or centre console for easy access.



Large or heavy items should be stored in the pocket behind the driver or passengers' seat or in the boot.



If your vehicle has an open boot space, consider installing a barrier to prevent objects from reaching passengers.