

DRIVEWAY RUNOVERS



Deaths and injuries to children in driveways are sadly all too common.

Tragically, one child is run over in the driveway of their home every week in Australia

We don't think of small children as being in danger in such a familiar and caring environment – but they are!

Small children are naturally inquisitive and want to see what's going on. They can also move surprisingly quickly.

Small children can be impossible to see from inside a car, especially if they are immediately behind it.

Around 30-40 children per year are admitted to hospitals with severe injuries in NSW alone

The rear vision of a number of popular cars has been tested and shows there is a very

fact sheet

Large 'blind spot' behind most cars – as much as 3 metres which could easily obscure a child.

Even if your car has parking sensors or a video camera fitted, you may not notice a small child until it is too late to stop.

9 out of 10 cases of child driveway runovers involve a parent, relative or friend

Key Factors

- Pre-school children are those most at risk and the majority are under 3 years of age.
- The younger the child, the higher the risk of death.
- The children who died usually had severe injuries to the head.
- Deaths occur in the morning and evening, with the evening being slightly more frequent.
- More than a third of pedestrians under 6 years killed in motor vehicle crashes were killed 'off road, in yards, carparks and driveways.
- Injuries are much more likely to be in the late afternoon or early night (4 to 7 p.m.)
- About 1 in 4 children who survive have some ongoing effect.
- Four-wheel-drive vehicles and vans are over-represented.
- 4 out of 5 cases involve reversing.

THINK KIDSAFE

- Runovers occur because people are unaware of the danger.

child safety is no accident

- Don't be distracted by other things.
- Be especially careful with children aged 0-3 years.
- Be aware of the riskier times of a day.
- Be especially careful with vehicles that limit adequate vision.

Safe Practices

- Parents and carers need to provide appropriate **supervision** at all times.
- A driveway is a small road – discourage children from using it as a play area.
- Use security devices including door locks, gate locks and barriers.



- Hold hands near vehicles.
- If you are the only adult at home and need to move a vehicle, even only a small distance, place children securely in the vehicle with you while you move it.

Awareness of the danger is an important part of prevention, but the key part of being aware is to undertake the **actions** that will make the risks of injury less.

Changes are needed in the Environment for Young Children

A safe place to play is needed to separate children from the hazards in modern life:

- Cars in driveways
- Swimming Pools
- Gardens
- Chemicals & Poisons
- Workshops & Tools

Kidsafe is undertaking a number of projects to ensure that driveways are separated from play areas. It will continue to highlight this issue to parents, to work with builders and designers and to ask for changes in the building code to improve the safety of new homes. Improvements in the design of vehicles will also help improve the safety of our children.

Because the children at risk are too young to properly understand danger, it will always be the responsibility of drivers to ensure that they reverse safely.

If in doubt, always walk around the car and check before moving it.

Putting a barrier between the driveway and play areas is an important measure in preventing driveway runovers

Further information:
Motor Accident Authority

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💻 www.kidsafetas.com

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