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Safety and security are today's top criteria for choosing a car regardless of age, make, or model. People do not mind choosing a three- or five-year-old vehicle as long as it provides adequate protection against road mishaps.

Some vehicles are equipped with amazing high-tech features designed to protecting passengers from harm in the event of an accident. Most safety features are already built-in while some are optional.

There was a time when only sedans, luxury cars, and convertibles and coupes had pretension seatbelts, airbags, and comfortable leather seats. However, when sport utility vehicles and passenger vans became popular among families with young children, these safety features were added in, along with several other features that were unheard of in SUVs twenty years ago. Sport utility vehicles and passenger vans became sturdier and are now less likely to roll over, making them just as safe as family sedans.

Many vehicles at least seven years old have dual and side airbags. When airbags were first invented, these normally inflated from the steering wheel or the dashboard. However, as backseat seatbelts were installed, automakers began to put side airbags to protect those riding in the back. Some side airbags inflated from above the windows to protect the passengers' heads in case of a rollover.

While a global positioning navigational system is more of an accessory than a safety feature, it does help people find their way through morning fog and navigate snowy roads, as is the case in Edmonton, Alberta during heavy winters. This is also ideal for driving in cities with rapid infrastructural developments that become barely recognizable within just a year. With a GPS device on hand, finding their way home would not be too difficult no matter what car Edmonton residents drive

Some people may need or even appreciate a little nudge to remind them to slow down while driving. Driving a car in Edmonton with cruise control is a plus for young and elderly drivers. A car owner sets the speed limit and the car track and maintains the speed at that even when a driver attempts to go faster. A related feature called electronic stability control instantly detects when a car is running out of control and practically takes charge by maintaining stability in the wheels to prevent skidding.

Electronic stability control in cars Edmonton residents prefer is ideally paired with anti-lock braking systems. Anti-lock braking systems or ABS enable the cars wheels to gradually slow down instead of abruptly stopping whenever the driver hits the brakes. This avoids skidding, rolling over, and damaging the brakes and wheels. Visit http://www.forbes.com/2008/04/15/cars-safety-features-forbeslife-cx_jm_0415cars.html to learn more about car safety features in detail.

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