



# Advanced Driver Assistance Technology for Older Driver Safety



[SeniorDriving.AAA.com](http://SeniorDriving.AAA.com)

Helping Seniors Drive Safer & Longer

## Easy As One, Two Three...



### 1. Advanced Driver Assistance Technology

Some of the latest advancements in vehicle safety technologies can aid older drivers in steering, lane keeping and application of the brake to avoid frontal collisions.

Learn the basics of the most promising systems available today.



### 2. Disclaimer: Imperfect Technology!

New vehicle safety technology can improve your comfort and safety behind the wheel, but they are not perfect. **You must remain engaged and attentive at all times no matter which technologies are in your vehicle.**

Learn about system weaknesses and limits, so you can maximize your safety.



### 3. What to Ask When Purchasing a New Vehicle

They may not flag important safety limitations of vehicle technologies while at the auto dealer.

Learn to ask the right questions about vehicle safety technologies when shopping for a new vehicle. Staying informed could save your life!

## Advanced Driver Assistance Technology

### What benefits can new in-vehicle technologies offer me?

Advanced driver assistance systems, or ADAS, refer to an evolving group of in-vehicle technologies designed to provide early warnings of potential hazards on the road. Some of ADAS are designed to automate certain aspects of driving (e.g., braking and steering) to enhance driver safety.



**Many in-vehicle technologies have potential to shorten trips, save fuel, emit less pollution, prevent crashes, or reduce crash severity.**

### Which vehicle safety technologies promote safe driving for older adults?

AAA sponsored research shows that several ADAS are especially good at enhancing safety and comfort for older drivers with age-related declines by assisting with speed control, lane maintenance, and proper braking responses. These include Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Keeping Assistance, and Forward Automatic Emergency Braking.

## Best Advanced Driver Assistance Technologies for Older Drivers



### Forward Automatic Emergency Braking

This technology will warn you of a potential forward collision, and will automatically apply the brakes to avoid a collision or lessen the severity of an impact if you fail to respond. This feature is especially useful for older drivers with slowed reflexes.



### Lane Keeping Assistance

This technology will provide an audible or visual alert if your vehicle begins to drift into another lane. It also will provide moderate steering to help keep your vehicle in its lane. This is helpful to older drivers who may become easily distracted by complex driving environments.



### Adaptive Cruise Control

This technology will automatically apply the brakes and accelerator as needed to maintain a preset speed and distance from the vehicle ahead. This feature is especially helpful for older drivers who find it tough to judge speed and distance of other vehicles.

## Other Beneficial Vehicle Safety Technologies

A variety of advanced driver assistance systems are worth considering regardless of your age. Several examples are listed below. This is by no means an exhaustive list.

### Adaptive Headlights

This feature directs your headlights slightly in the same direction as the steering wheel when entering a curve. This projects more light onto your path of travel. It also can reduce glare for oncoming vehicles when traveling at night.



### Automatic Crash Notification

This feature can detect that a collision has occurred, and then put the vehicle in contact with an operator who can assist you or your passengers. Emergency medical care is dispatched, if needed.



### Parking Assistance

This feature controls the vehicle steering during parking. Depending on the system you have in your vehicle, either you will remain responsible for accelerating, braking and gear position, or the system will control all necessary operations.





## Blind Spot Warning

This technology uses cameras or radar to detect when another vehicle is in your blind spot, and triggers a visual warning using an LED light located in the side mirror or windshield pillar. Older drivers with head and neck flexibility issues may find this feature especially useful.



**Remember, these technologies are only effective when used by a driver who is alert, engaged, and understands the capabilities and limitations of the systems present in their vehicle.**

## What to Ask Your Dealer when Purchasing a New Vehicle

**Beware! Capabilities and limitations of these technologies vary by vehicle. Always ask:**

### 1. Which technologies are present in my vehicle?

Make the effort to know which technologies you'll encounter while driving before you hit the road. Insist that your dealer takes the time to educate you (it is their job).

### 2. How do the technologies in my vehicle work?

Learn what each technology is designed to do for you, and how you will know when a feature has engaged. Determine if the technology relies on camera or sensors, and ask where they are located. Also, ask if and how these technologies can be turned off and on.

### 3. Are there circumstances in which the technologies in my vehicle will not work properly? What are their limitations?

It is equally as important to understand what each technology cannot do for you. Inaccurate assumptions about a feature can have serious safety consequences.

### 4. What maintenance (e.g., cleaning or replacing cameras, sensors, etc.) is required to be sure the technologies in my vehicle work properly?

Many of these features rely on cameras and different forms of radar to function correctly. It is possible lenses may need to be cleaned or replaced at times to be sure things run smoothly.

Download AAA's Auto Dealer Worksheet at [AAA.com/ADAS](http://AAA.com/ADAS).

## About AAA

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## Contact Us

AAA is dedicated to keeping seniors driving for as long as safely possible. We also are committed to promoting viable transportation options for seniors who can no longer drive independently.

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