



Headlight ratings were first incorporated into *TOP SAFETY PICK+* criteria for the 2017 award year. To qualify for the highest award, vehicles had to at least have good or acceptable headlights available as an option. The following year, that requirement became part of the base award.

As manufacturers showed they could produce headlights with better lighting and less glare, IIHS decided to encourage them to make this improved equipment standard. Starting in 2020, only vehicles with good or acceptable headlights across the board could earn *TOP SAFETY PICK+*.

The strategy seems to be working. A year ago, only 23 vehicles qualified for the higher-tier award. Today, the number has more than doubled, and the majority of awards handed out for 2021 models include the plus sign.

Front crash prevention

Vehicles don't have to have front crash prevention as standard equipment to qualify for either award, but a voluntary manufacturer commitment is helping on that front. Twenty automakers have signed the pledge to equip at least 95 percent of vehicles they make with vehicle-to-vehicle automatic emergency braking beginning in the 2022-23 production year.

All 49 *TOP SAFETY PICK+* winners and 31 *TOP SAFETY PICK* winners have standard systems that meet the vehicle-to-vehicle requirement. Forty-eight of the *TOP SAFETY PICK+* winners and 26 of the *TOP SAFETY PICK* winners also meet the pedestrian crash prevention criterion with their standard systems. The others qualify based on optional equipment.

Near misses

The extensive list of criteria for both awards means many vehicles check all boxes but one. Twelve vehicles are only lacking good or acceptable headlights, while seven don't have pedestrian crash prevention that earns a superior or advanced rating. Only five fall short on crashworthiness. All five lack a good rating in the passenger-side small overlap front test.

See the following pages for the full list of winners.

For more information, go to [iihs.org](https://www.iihs.org)

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) is an independent, nonprofit scientific and educational organization dedicated to reducing the losses — deaths, injuries and property damage — from motor vehicle crashes. IIHS is wholly supported by auto insurers.



2021 TOP SAFETY PICK+
G

Good ratings in the driver-side
small overlap front, passenger-side
small overlap front, moderate
overlap front, side, roof strength
and head restraint tests



Advanced or superior rating for
available front crash prevention —
vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-
pedestrian evaluations

A
G

Acceptable or good headlights
standard

Small cars	Honda Insight Mazda 3 hatchback Mazda 3 sedan Subaru Crosstrek Hybrid
Midsized cars	Honda Accord Kia K5 built after November 2020 Mazda 6 Nissan Altima Nissan Maxima built after November 2020 Subaru Legacy Subaru Outback Toyota Camry
Midsized luxury cars	Acura TLX Lexus ES 350 Lexus IS Tesla Model 3 Volvo S60 Volvo S60 Recharge Volvo V60 Volvo V60 Recharge
Large luxury cars	Audi A6 Audi A6 allroad Audi A7 Genesis G70 Genesis G90
Small SUVs	Mazda CX-3 Mazda CX-5 Mazda CX-30 built after September 2020 Nissan Rogue Subaru Forester Volvo XC40
Midsized SUVs	Ford Explorer Hyundai Palisade Mazda CX-9 Subaru Ascent Toyota Highlander
Midsized luxury SUVs	Acura RDX Cadillac XT6 Hyundai Nexo Lexus NX Mercedes-Benz GLE-Class with optional front crash prevention Volvo XC60 Volvo XC60 Recharge Volvo XC90 Volvo XC90 Recharge
Large SUVs	Audi e-tron Audi e-tron Sportback
Minivans	Honda Odyssey Toyota Sienna



2021 TOP SAFETY PICK

G

Good ratings in the driver-side small overlap front, passenger-side small overlap front, moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraint tests



Advanced or superior rating for available front crash prevention — vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-pedestrian evaluations

A

G

Acceptable or good headlights **available**, but not standard; vehicles qualify for the award only when equipped with those headlights

Small cars	Honda Civic hatchback excluding Type R performance variant Honda Civic sedan Hyundai Veloster with optional front crash prevention Kia Forte with optional front crash prevention Kia Soul with optional front crash prevention Nissan Sentra Subaru Crosstrek with optional front crash prevention Subaru Impreza sedan with optional front crash prevention Subaru Impreza wagon with optional front crash prevention Subaru WRX with optional front crash prevention Toyota Corolla hatchback Toyota Corolla sedan
Midsized car	Hyundai Sonata
Midsized luxury cars	Audi A4 Audi A5 Sportback BMW 3 series Mercedes-Benz C-Class with optional front crash prevention
Large car	Kia Stinger with optional front crash prevention
Small SUVs	Chevrolet Equinox Ford Escape Honda CR-V Hyundai Kona with optional front crash prevention Hyundai Tucson with optional front crash prevention Hyundai Venue Kia Seltos built after August 2020; with optional front crash prevention Kia Sportage with optional front crash prevention Lexus UX Lincoln Corsair Toyota C-HR Toyota RAV4 Toyota RAV4 Prime Toyota Venza
Midsized SUVs	Ford Edge Kia Sorento Kia Telluride Volkswagen Tiguan
Midsized luxury SUVs	Lexus RX Lincoln Aviator Mercedes-Benz GLC with optional front crash prevention
Large SUV	Audi Q8
Large pickup	Ram 1500 crew cab with optional front crash prevention

For details on these and other ratings, go to [iihs.org/ratings](https://www.iihs.org/ratings).

