

Power Window Safety

Children can be injured if a power window closes on their finger, wrist, or hand. According to the NHTSA, sixty-eight percent of incidents result in fractures or crushed body parts. Other injuries include bruising, dislocation, laceration, and strain or sprain. Some kids have been strangled by power windows.

Prevention Tips:

- Never leave your children alone in a vehicle for any reason.
- Teach your children not to play with window switches.
- Teach your children not to stand on car door arm rests.
- Properly restrain your children in car seats or seat belts to prevent them from accidentally activating power windows.
- Look to make sure all passengers' hands, feet, and head are clear of windows before raising the windows.
- Never leave the key in the ignition or in the "on" or "accessory" position when you walk away from your car.
- If available, activate the power window lock switch so that your children cannot raise or lower the windows.

What you need to know:

- With rocker and toggle switches, commonly located on car door armrests, downward pressure (e.g., a child kneeling or leaning) on the switch can result in windows opening or closing. With lever switches, which also are commonly located on door armrests, windows cannot be closed due to unintentional pressure.

The federal government has issued regulations that require vehicle manufacturers to equip all new passenger vehicles with the Lever style switches by October 1, 2010.

- Some vehicles have power windows that automatically retract when it contacts an obstruction (like a hand or arm). Check both the individual vehicle rating pages on www.safercar.gov and your owner's manual to see if your vehicle is equipped with this safety technology.



Rocker switches pivot on a center hinge, effectively operating like a see-saw.



Toggle switches operate using small levers that push back and forth to open and close a window.



Lever switches or push-down/pull-up switches - function by pressing down on the switch to open the window, but the switch must be actively pulled up to close the window.

Photos and descriptions from the web site www.iihs.org

If you have questions or need additional information, visit www.lexleeovertonlaw.com, email lexlee@lexleeovertonlaw.com or call 225.761.7272.