



What You Need to Know About Automobile Recalls

2014 was a record setting year for the auto industry ... unfortunately, not in a good way. Last year, automakers issued more than 800 recalls, effecting nearly [64 million vehicles](#). Many recalls are related to a known safety issue, so please take recall notices seriously and take your car in for the necessary service. A minor fix could make a major difference in safety or performance of your car.

How do I know if my car is subject to a recall?


The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration maintains a current database of auto recalls. To learn if your vehicle has been recalled, simply enter the vehicle's year, make and model in the selection boxes at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchSafetyIssues> to view the search results. You can also search using your 17-digit Vehicle Information Number. VIN plates are attached to the dashboard on the driver's side of the vehicle and visible through the windshield. It's also printed on a sticker inside of the driver's door or doorframe. See the examples below:



What should I do if I receive a recall notice?

In the event of a recall, vehicle owners will receive a notice in the mail from the vehicle manufacturer or the dealer where the vehicle was purchased. Oftentimes the official notice comes a few weeks or months after the recall was issued, so that the manufacturer has time to notify its dealers of recall procedures and ensure the availability of repair parts. The notice will provide you with recall specifics and instructions to schedule your vehicle for service. Typically,

you will need to take your car to a dealership and there is no charge for the recall service.



IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL
 Recall 24809 October 2014

Dear Mr. Owner,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Sparky Motors has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in your 2011 Sparky Elite, so we are conducting a safety recall. We apologize for the inconvenience but we are concerned about your safety and continued satisfaction with our products.

The parts are now available to repair your vehicle. This notice applies to your 2011 Sparky vehicle, VIN #####.

Please schedule an appointment with your Sparky dealer. This recall service will be performed for you at no charge.

Save Repair Receipts

If you have a possible defect repaired, but your vehicle hasn't been recalled, be sure to save your receipt and other service documents. If the vehicle is later recalled for that specific problem, you may be eligible for a reimbursement for repair expenses from the automaker.

Learn More about Recalls

You can learn more about the recall process and your rights and responsibilities as a vehicle owner by viewing this NHTSA publication: [Motor Vehicle Defects and Safety Recalls: What Every Vehicle Owner Should Know](#).

Remember, if your vehicle is recalled, have the necessary repairs performed as quickly as possible. Failure to act can leave you and others unnecessarily vulnerable to a known safety risk.

Visit [Allstate Be Aware and Prepare](#) and the [Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety](#) for more, helpful information.