

Introduced in the 2000 model year, the Nissan Xterra has front shoulder belts with crash tensioners designed to prevent slack from allowing excessive forward movement in a crash and devices to limit belt forces on occupants. Antilock brakes are standard.

All 2000 and later Xterra models manufactured after September 1999 include structural changes to improve occupant protection in frontal crashes. (Note: Information about when a specific vehicle was manufactured is on the certification label typically affixed to the car on or near the driver door.) The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has evaluated the crashworthiness of the Xterra in a 40 mph frontal offset crash test into a deformable barrier. Head restraint and bumper designs are evaluated separately:

**STRUCTURE/SAFETY CAGE: GOOD** There was minimal intrusion into the driver footwell area and minimal to moderate rearward movement of the instrument panel.

**RESTRAINTS/DUMMY KINEMATICS: MARGINAL** Dummy movement wasn't well controlled during the offset test. There was far too much upward movement of the steering wheel, which contributed to the dummy's head bottoming out the airbag and striking the steering wheel. During rebound, the dummy's head contacted the B-pillar.

**INJURY MEASURES: RIGHT LEG/FOOT MARGINAL** Measures taken from the neck and chest indicate low risk of injury to these body regions. However, forces on the head when it struck the steering wheel through the airbag were moderately high, indicating the possibility of head injuries. Head acceleration from the B-pillar contact was low. Forces on the right lower leg and foot indicate the possibility of injuries.

**OVERALL EVALUATION: ACCEPTABLE** The driver space was maintained well in the frontal offset crash test, although measures indicate the possibility of leg and foot injuries. There also was far too much steering wheel movement, and the dummy's head struck the steering wheel through the airbag, contributing to the possibility of head injuries. Belt crash tensioners are pluses.