Seat belt safety tips

⚠ WARNING

- **All persons in the vehicle should fasten their seat belts BEFORE the vehicle starts to move. Otherwise, the possibility of serious injury becomes greater in the event of a sudden stop or accident.**
- **All belts should fit snugly in order to provide full restraint. Loose fitting belts are not as effective in preventing or reducing injury.**
- **Each seat belt is designed to support only one person. Never use a single belt for two or more persons — even children.**
- **Replace all seat belt assemblies including retractors and attaching hardware worn by occupants of a vehicle that has been in a serious accident. The entire assembly should be replaced even if damage is not obvious.**

■ Infants or small children

Use a child restraint system that is suitable for your vehicle. See information on "Child Restraint System" in this chapter.

■ Children

If a child is too big for a child restraint system, the child should sit in the rear seat and be restrained using the seat belts. According to accident statistics, children are safer when properly restrained in the rear seat than in the front seat. Never allow a child to stand up or kneel on the seat.

If the shoulder portion of the belt crosses the face or neck, move the child closer to the center of vehicle to help provide a good shoulder belt fit. If the shoulder portion of the belt can not be properly positioned, a child restraint system should be used. If that is not possible, the child should sit in the center rear seat and use the 2-point type seat belt. Care must be taken to securely place the lap belt as low as possible on the hips and not on the child's waist.

■ Expectant mothers

Expectant mothers also need to use the seat belts. They should consult their doctor for specific recommendations. The lap belt should be worn securely and as low as possible over the hips, not over the waist.

■ Maintenance

⚠ CAUTION

- **Keep sharp edged or other objects that may cause damage away from belts and other parts of the passenger restraint system.**
- **Keep the belts free of polishes, oils, chemicals and particularly battery acid.**
- **Never attempt to make modifications or changes that will prevent the seat belt from operating properly.**

To clean the seat belts, use a mild soap and lukewarm water. Never bleach or dye the belts because this could seriously affect their strength.

Inspect the seat belts and attachments including the webbing and all hardware periodically for cracks, cuts, gashes, tears, damage, loose bolts or worn areas. Replace the seat belts even if only minor damage is found.