

Pick-up beds are for cargo only

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The bed of a pick-up truck is for cargo, not people

Don't allow them to ride in the back of your truck. You may be the best driver in the world, but you're not always totally alert while you're driving. You never know when some other driver may cut you off or cause a collision some other way. Don't put people or animals at risk by allowing them to ride in unprotected places.

In a collision, the sudden deceleration or other crash forces may launch the person out of the bed. Most of the time, no amount of "holding on" can prevent this (even at slower speeds). In some collisions, pick-up bed passengers thrown out this way have been subsequently run over by the vehicle, or other vehicles.

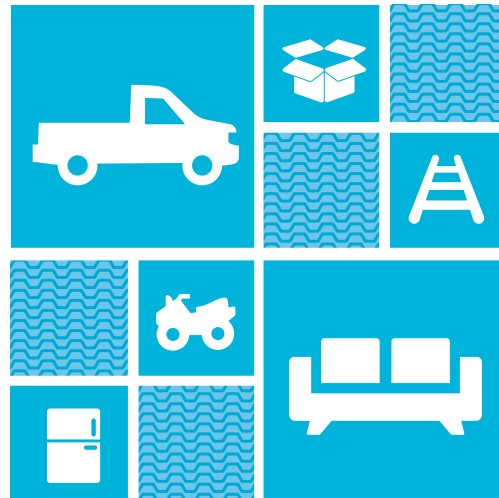
Example

In a recent accident, a 17-year-old girl was riding in the open back of a truck was thrown out and crushed when the truck rolled over her after being hit by another vehicle.

That car had run a stop sign. This was a young lady that never went without a seat belt, except, reportedly, that one time. There weren't enough seat belts to go around, so she had her friends sit where the seat belts were. This tragedy never should have happened.

Camper shells don't make pick-up beds safer

Some drivers allow passengers in the back of a pick-up only when the bed is covered by a camper shell – they believe this affords the occupants some protection in a crash. Think about that for a minute. Have you ever seen how camper shells are constructed? In most cases, they are not very substantial, and they are certainly not capable of providing any protection to a passenger.



While many states don't have specific laws that make riding in a pick-up bed illegal, they may have laws that make it illegal for certain specific people to ride there.

Example

In the Midwest, many states have child safety restraint laws that require any passenger under the age of five to be placed into a child seat and the seat to be buckled into the vehicle properly.

So, law or no law, people and pets should ride IN your truck, strapped safely into place, not unprotected in the open bed.

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