

**Certain 2000 through 2004 Toyota Avalon
Steering Column Upper Bracket
Safety Recall Notice**

Mailing start date: 09/07/2010

Please make an appointment with your local Toyota Dealer to have this important remedy completed.

[VIN]
Dear Toyota Owner:

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Toyota has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in the Steering Column Upper Bracket of certain 2000 – 2004 Model Year Toyota Avalon vehicles.

What is the condition?

Due to the improper casting of the steering lock bar (“bar”), which is a component of the steering interlock system, there is a possibility that a minute crack may develop on the surface. Such a crack may expand over a long period of repeated lock and unlock operations, and eventually the bar could break. If this occurs, the interlock system may become difficult to unlock when stationary.

If the vehicle while being driven is steered to the right with sufficient lateral acceleration, a broken and loose lock bar may move toward the steering shaft. If the engagement hole in the shaft happens to line up at the specific time the broken lock bar has moved, this could cause the steering wheel lock bar to engage, locking the steering wheel, and increasing the risk of a crash.

What is Toyota going to do?

Any Toyota dealer will replace the Steering Column Upper Bracket with a newly designed one at **NO CHARGE** to you.

What should you do?

This is an important Safety Recall

Please contact your authorized Toyota dealer and make an appointment to have this important Safety Recall performed on your vehicle as soon as possible.

The remedy will take approximately two hours to complete. However, depending upon the dealer’s work schedule, it may be necessary to make your vehicle available for a longer period of time.

What if you have other questions?

Your local Toyota dealer will be more than happy to answer any of your questions and set up an appointment to perform the replacement. If you require further assistance, you may contact the Toyota Customer Experience Center at 1-888-270-9371 Monday through Friday, 5:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday 7:00 am through 4:00 pm Pacific Standard Time.

What if you have previously paid for repairs for this condition?

If you have previously paid for the replacement of the steering column upper bracket to address this specific condition, please mail a copy of the repair order, proof-of-payment, and proof-of-ownership to the following address for reimbursement consideration

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc
Toyota Customer Experience, WC 10
19001 South Western Avenue
Torrance, CA 90509

If you believe that the dealer or Toyota has failed or is unable to remedy the defect within a reasonable time, you may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590; or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153) or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

If you are a vehicle lessor, Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the vehicle lessee within ten days of your receipt of this letter.

Thank you for driving a Toyota.

Sincerely,

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC.