



Kia Body Parts Use Statement

All Kia vehicles are designed, developed, tested and assembled to Federal and Kia safety standards which help protect the driver and occupants should a crash occur. In addition to the major passive safety systems, including seatbelts and airbags, Kia vehicles employ multiple important safety systems such as energy absorbing bumpers, and specifically engineered front and rear crumple zones which help reduce the injury-producing forces experienced by occupants during a crash. The driver / passenger compartment is further protected utilizing extra strength pillars and body panels. These Genuine Kia original equipment components function to provide a high degree of protection for occupants. Kia America cannot recommend the use of aftermarket body parts or structural components nor the use of body parts and components obtained from recycled salvage vehicles. As described above, Kia has worked hard to design its body parts and vehicle structures to provide high levels of occupant protection. Parts obtained outside of Kia's engineering process have no assurance that they have the crash protection afforded by Genuine Kia parts, regardless of their nominal appearance, and thus their use can increase the risk of injury or death in a crash.

Since aftermarket body parts and structures are not designed, developed, tested and assembled by Kia, they may lack the benefits of that carefully developed safety process. Specifically, they may fail to meet Federal and Kia safety standards, they may not have the same fit and attachment integrity, and they may lack the same structural integrity and corrosion protection. There is also a significant risk that they do not have the same strong material composition. These concerns are magnified when Non-Genuine parts are manufactured in countries without the same commitment to engineering and quality control practices that Kia has utilized for development of vehicles.

Salvage parts are parts which are usually obtained from wrecked or totaled vehicles or vehicles which have been disposed of after their useful lives. They often have been subjected to prior accident damage that weakens their structures, environmental harms such as externally caused corrosion, especially due to road salt, application of previous poor repair standards, prior use of aftermarket parts, or parts which are becoming weakened at the end of their useful life. What is certain is that there is a good reason why the vehicle has been salvaged and there can be no confidence that the subsequently "salvaged parts" will provide adequate protection and safety to the vehicle occupants.

Even worse, all of these limitations on the quality, integrity and safety of such components are likely to be invisible to the average consumer and may only be revealed after components fail in a subsequent crash. Aftermarket components lacking in quality and damaged or worn out salvage parts may also deteriorate quickly, thus reducing the value of your Kia at trade-in or when selling to another party.

Kia America recommends that consumers take an active role in ensuring their vehicle is repaired using the same high level of quality and performance designed into their vehicle by Kia. It believes that this goal can best be achieved by customers using Genuine Kia original body parts and structures, which also come with the Kia limited parts warranty. It is important for customers to understand that Kia's original factory and parts warranties do not apply to any aftermarket or remanufactured component or anything other than a Genuine Kia Part or Genuine Kia Remanufactured Part. Kia America is also not responsible for any physical damage or injuries or death which might occur as the result of the use of such non-Genuine Kia parts.