

ADVERTISEMENT

Freep.com • Weather • Jobs • Cars • Real Estate • Apartments • Shopping • Classifieds • Dating



Email |
Subscribe to the Free Press | Manage My Account

Search Detroit: All Local news, jobs, cars, homes, things to

- LOCAL NEWS
- NATION/WORLD
- SPORTS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- BUSINESS
- AUTOS
- FEATURES
- TRAVEL
- OBITUARIES
- TWIST

Freep.com » Business » Auto News

Email This Story Forums
Printable Format RSS

Toyota recalls 55,000 floor mats

They can slip and trap accelerator pedal

September 26, 2007

BY JUSTIN HYDE
FREE PRESS BUSINESS WRITER

Toyota Motor Co. will recall 55,000 floor mats due to complaints of unintended acceleration caused by the mats sticking underneath the accelerator pedal, federal safety officials and the automaker said Wednesday.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration took the unusual step of highlighting Toyota's recall announcement, advising owners of other Toyota models – including the Prius hybrid and Avalon sedans – to ensure their floor mats are properly installed.

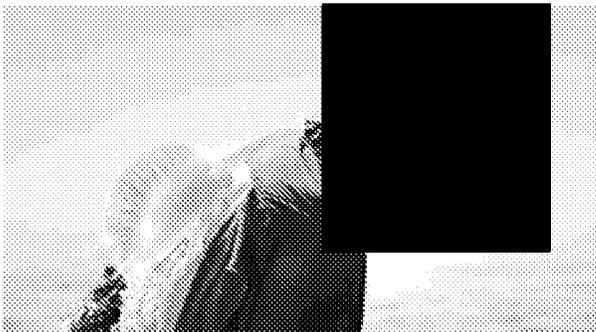
RELATED NEWS FROM THE WEEK

- Toyota Prius
- Lexus Es
- Toyota
- Toyota Camry
- Lexus
- Discuss Lexus

Powered by Topix.net

ADVERTISEMENT

BEN STILLER
THE HEARTBREAK KID
Enter to Win
Movie Passes
click here



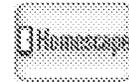
"We have also received complaints about the RAV 4 (crossover) and Tacoma (pickup)," said Rae Tyson, a spokesman for NHTSA. "We will continue to monitor all of the other Toyota vehicles not involved in the recall."

As the Free Press first reported last month, NHTSA had opened an investigation into the floor mats after amassing 40 reports of unintended acceleration in 2007 Lexus ES 350 sedans, including eight crashes and 12 injuries. Since then, NHTSA has received complaints from owners of other Toyota models about the problem. In several of the original complaints, drivers said the vehicles only stopped after an accident.

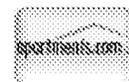
One driver told the agency the vehicle had hit speeds of 100 m.p.h. over a 6-mile stretch of freeway due to the problem. A Michigan woman said the problem caused her to lose control of her Lexus, triggering a rollover crash on I-75 that totaled her car.

Because some ES 350s are sold with stop/start buttons rather than traditional ignitions, some drivers said they were unable to shut off the engine by pressing the button as the car accelerated.

REAL ESTATE - sponsored by



HOMES FOR SALE
• Search New Construction Homes across metro
• Mortgage rates from



RENTAL PROPERTIES
• Find apartment communities, housing, and senior living

BUSINESS DIRECTORIES

Business Finders
Find a Business
Accountants/CPAs
Click here to search

SHOPPING



Find the best sales and deals from local retailers near you. Search



Free Press Bookstore
Click here for sports books, sports wearables, and more

MORE ON FREEP.COM

At the time, Toyota told safety officials identified an optional all-weather floor mat that if not properly secured by clips to the floor could stick under the accelerator pedal; in some cases, Toyota said owners had simply put the rubber mat over the standard floor mats. The company contended it had dealt with the problem through a mailing to customers earlier this year.

Toyota said Wednesday the recall involves 30,500 mats for the ES 350 and 24,500 mats for the 2007 and 2008 Toyota Camry. Owners will be told of the recall in October, and offered replacement mats in November. It also warned drivers to check their floor mats and make sure that only one was installed.

Sudden and unintended acceleration cases carry a stigma in the U.S. auto industry, due to the collapse of the Audi brand in the late 1980s following a "60 Minutes" report alleging runaway cars. Federal safety officials later cleared Audi, but it took years for the company to rebuild its reputation.

While some auto safety advocates maintain that several models still suffer from sudden acceleration, NHTSA has investigated hundreds of such complaints over the past two decades but rarely found any defects. Most of the complaints have been blamed on drivers mistaking the accelerator for the brake.

Contact **JUSTIN HYDE** at 202-906-8204 or jhyde@freepress.com. *Alejandro Bodpo-Memba contributed to this report.*

RECENT COMMENTS 

[Post a Comment](#) [View All Comments](#)

[Redacted]

LOL. Floor mat recall?

I don't buy it. This is just a front so they can get the cars in the dealerships so they can fix the problems with the faulty electrical systems.

Posted: Wed Sep 26, 2007 1:17 pm

[Redacted]

Bet they blame the customers who don't clean under the mats! Damn french fries!!!!

Posted: Wed Sep 26, 2007 12:48 pm

[Redacted]

I love it...they HATE it when recalls are not addressed solely through the mail and actually make it into the public domain.

Posted: Wed Sep 26, 2007 12:36 pm

[Redacted]

Hmmm. Not sure if this is an industry first or not but I'd guess that Toyota can now also lay claim to leading the industry in floor mat recalls.

Posted: Wed Sep 26, 2007 12:19 pm

[Post a Comment](#) [View All Comments](#)

Most Popular:

- Highlights of deal
- UAW, GM TENTATIVE DEAL E NATIONAL STRIKE
- Roseville teacher arraigned on student aide
- General Motors statement on a
- TIGERS 8, TWINS 0: DREW S celebrating left to do in Detroit, j

Latest Updates:

- Army lags in staffing new center veterans, report says - 1:54 pm
- Vick tests positive for marijuana
- Suspicious package at Indy airp security training bomb - 1:46 pm
- Mr. Hockey and neighbors settle 1:38 pm
- Vick tests positive for marijuana restrictions - 1:38 pm



Hot Careers

- CAREER FAIR - Find a new j
- - Finance/Management
- - Engineering
- - Info Tech
- - Healthcare
- - Manufacturing
- - Education
- - Sales/Marketing
- - Construction/Skilled Trades
- - Out of State
- Orthopedic Medical Assistant
- Nursing
- Home Care Nursing
- Director of Nursing
- Cell & Molecular Biology
- Billing Department Manager
- Supervisors & Managers
- ->CAREER TRAINING - FINI

[BUY A LINK HERE](#)

SITE INDEX

- [NEWS](#)
- [SPORTS](#)
- [ENTERTAINMENT](#)
- [BUSINESS](#)
- [AUTOS](#)
- [FEATURES](#)
- [MORE](#)
- [OPINION](#)

Front	Front	Front	Front	Front	Front	Print Edition	Front
Community	Scores	Arts	Michigan	Auto Reviews	Lifestyles	Subscribe	Editorials
Metro	Lions/NFL	Movies	Nation/World	Auto Shows	Travel	Contact Us	Letters
Detroit	Red Wings/NHL	DVD	My Market Watch		Books	Send a News Tip	Editorial Cartoons
Wayne	Tigers/MLB	Music	Air Travel		Fashion	Freep Bookstore	Bloggers
Oakland	Pistons/NBA	Names & Faces	Technology		Food	Order a Photo	Columnists
Macomb	Shock/WNBA	Dining Out	Real Estate		Gardening	Jobs in Journalism	Forums
Michigan	U-M	Nightlife			Health	Text Me Freep	
Nation/World	MSU	Casinos			Comics	Mobile	
Roadwork & Traffic	Other Colleges	TV & Radio			Yak's Corner	Submit a Photo	
Weather	Preps	Video Games			Pets	Photo Galleries	
Obituaries	Outdoors				Twist	Videos	
Death Notices	Olympics						
	Auto Racing						
	Golf						

Partners: [Jobs: CareerBuilder.com](#) * [Cars: Cars.com](#) * [Apartments: Apartments.com](#) * [Shopping: ShopLocal.com](#)

[Customer Service](#) [Terms of Service](#) [Send feedback](#) [Subscribe Now](#) [Jobs in Journalism](#)

Copyright ©2007 the Detroit Free Press. All rights reserved. Users of this site agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy/Your California Privacy Rights \(Te](#)

[USA Today](#) [USA Weekend](#) [Gannett Co. Inc.](#) [Gannett Foundation](#)