

Advanta-STAR Consumer Research on the Scion xA

2005

Scion xA compared with the Chevrolet Cavalier	1
Scion xA compared with the Chevrolet Aveo.....	3
Scion xA compared with the Chrysler PT Cruiser.....	5
Scion xA compared with the Dodge Neon	7
Scion xA compared with the Ford Focus.....	10
Scion xA compared with the Honda Civic	11
Scion xA compared with the Hyundai Accent	13
Scion xA compared with the Hyundai Elantra.....	15
Scion xA compared with the Kia Rio.....	16
Scion xA compared with the Kia Spectra.....	19
Scion xA compared with the Mazda 3	21
Scion xA compared with the MINI.....	22
Scion xA compared with the Mitsubishi Lancer.....	24
Scion xA compared with the Nissan Sentra.....	26
Scion xA compared with the Pontiac Sunfire.....	28
Scion xA compared with the Pontiac Vibe	30
Scion xA compared with the Saturn Ion.....	32
Scion xA compared with the Subaru Impreza.....	34
Scion xA compared with the Suzuki Aerio.....	35
Scion xA compared with the Suzuki Forenza.....	37
Scion xA compared with the Toyota Echo	39
Scion xA compared with the Volkswagen Beetle.....	41
Scion xA compared with the Volkswagen Golf	43
Scion xA compared with the Volkswagen Jetta.....	44
Scion xA compared with the Chevrolet Cobalt	45
Scion xA compared with the Suzuki Reno.....	46

Scion xA compared with the Chevrolet Cavalier

Safety

To maximize occupant safety, the front seat shoulder belts of the Scion xA have pretensioners to eliminate dangerous slack in the event of a collision and force limiters to limit the pressure the belts will exert on the passengers. The Chevrolet Cavalier doesn't offer pretensioners.

The Scion xA offers available head airbag curtains which act as a forgiving barrier between the driver and front passenger's upper bodies and the window and pillars. Combined with high-strength steel door beams this system increases head protection in broadside collisions. The Cavalier doesn't offer side airbag protection for the head.

The Scion xA has standard four wheel antilock brakes for quicker stops and controlled steering ability, especially under poor traction conditions. Antilock brakes cost extra on the Cavalier.

The Scion xA Series 1.0 has standard skid prevention, which uses the antilock brake hardware along with powerful software and additional sensors to detect the beginning of a skid. The skid prevention then intervenes by automatically applying the brake at one appropriate wheel, preventing a skid. The Cavalier doesn't offer skid prevention.

Both the Scion xA and the Cavalier have standard driver and passenger frontal airbags, front wheel drive, height adjustable front shoulder belts, available front seat side-impact airbags and traction control.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration does 35 MPH front crash tests on new cars. In this test, results indicate that the Scion xA is safer than the Cavalier:

	Scion xA	Cavalier
Driver		
STARS	4 Stars	4 Stars
<i>Head Injury Index</i>	344	514
<i>Chest forces</i>	46 g's	54 g's
<i>Leg injuries (L/R)</i>	129 / 921	984 / 1449
Passenger		
STARS	4 Stars	4 Stars
<i>Head Injury Index</i>	247	751

More stars indicate a better overall result. Lower numbers indicate better individual test results.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration does 38.5 MPH side impact tests on new cars. In this test, results indicate that the Scion xA is safer than the Cavalier:

	Scion xA	Cavalier
Front Seat		
STARS	4 Stars	1 Star
<i>Thoracic Trauma</i>	69	105
<i>Pelvis Deceleration</i>	65 G's	141 G's
Rear Seat		
STARS	4 Stars	3 Stars
<i>Thoracic Trauma</i>	63	83
<i>Pelvis Deceleration</i>	60 G's	103 G's

More stars indicate a better chance of avoiding serious injuries. Lower numbers indicate better actual numeric test results.

Instrumented handling tests conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and analysis of its dimensions indicate that the Scion xA is 11% to 12% less likely to roll over than the Cavalier.

Warranty

Scion's powertrain warranty covers the xA 2 years and 24,000 miles longer than Chevrolet covers the Cavalier. Any repair needed on the engine, transmission, axles, joints or driveshafts is fully covered for 5 years and 60,000 miles. Coverage on the Cavalier ends after only 3 years or 36,000 miles.

The Scion xA's corrosion warranty is unlimited miles longer than the Cavalier's (unlimited vs. 100,000 miles).

Reliability

The Scion xA's reliability is better than the Cavalier's. In *Consumer Reports*, the Scion xA's reliability is 14% better.

Fuel Economy and Range

The Scion xA gets better fuel mileage than the Cavalier:

4 cyl./Manual
4 cyl./Auto

Scion xA	Cavalier
32 city/37 hwy	26 city/37 hwy
31 city/38 hwy	24 city/34 hwy

Brakes and Stopping

The Scion xA with its standard antilock brakes stops much shorter than the Cavalier with antilock brakes:

60 to 0 MPH

Scion xA	Cavalier
130 feet	140 feet

Motor Trend

Tires and Wheels

The Scion xA's standard tires provide better handling because they have a lower 60 series profile (height to width ratio), which provides a stiffer sidewall than the Cavalier's standard 70 series tires. The Scion xA Series 1.0's tires have a lower 40 series profile than the Cavalier's optional 55 series tires.

For better ride, handling and brake cooling the Scion xA has standard 15 inch wheels. Smaller 14 inch wheels are standard on the Cavalier. The Scion xA Series 1.0's 17 inch wheels are larger than the 16 inch wheels optional on the Cavalier.

Suspension and Handling

The Scion xA has standard front and rear stabilizer bars, which help keep the Scion xA flat and controlled during cornering. The Cavalier base model's suspension doesn't offer a rear stabilizer bar.

Chassis

The Scion xA may be more efficient, handle and accelerate better because it weighs about 300 pounds less than the Chevrolet Cavalier.

The Scion xA is 2 feet, 4.6 inches shorter than the Cavalier, making the Scion xA easier to handle, maneuver and park in tight spaces.

The design of the Scion xA amounts to more than styling. The Scion xA has an aerodynamic coefficient of drag of .31 Cd. That is lower than the Cavalier (.326) and many sports cars. A more efficient exterior helps keep the interior quieter and helps the Scion xA get better fuel mileage.

Cargo Capacity

To allow full utilization of available cargo room, the Scion xA's hatch uses gas strut supported hinges that don't intrude into the cargo area. The Cavalier's useful trunk space is reduced by its intrusive beam hinge.

Servicing Ease

The battery on the Cavalier has side-mounted terminals, which make giving or receiving a jump-start very difficult. The Scion xA has top mount battery posts.

Ergonomics

The Scion xA's standard power windows allow the driver or passenger to lower and raise the windows without leaning over or being distracted. Power windows cost extra on the Cavalier.

The Scion xA's standard power window controls are mounted on the armrest for easy access. The Cavalier's optional power window controls are spread out on the center console where they can't be seen without the driver completely removing his eyes from the road.

The Scion xA's standard power locks allow the driver or passenger to lock or unlock all the doors at a touch without leaning over, or reaching to the back seat. Power locks cost extra on the Cavalier.

The Cavalier's optional power locks don't automatically lock the doors. The Scion xA's standard doors lock when the ignition is turned on. This is an important feature for occupant safety. Locked doors are proven to open less often in collisions, and they are also effective in preventing crime at traffic lights. (The power lock's automatic feature may have to be activated by your dealer.)

The Scion xA has standard lighted power window switches so that they are easily found at night. The Cavalier doesn't have lighted switches.

The Scion xA has a standard locking fuel door with a remote release located convenient to the driver. A locking fuel door helps prevent vandalism, such as sugar in the tank and fuel theft. The Cavalier doesn't offer a locking fuel door.

To improve rear visibility by keeping the rear window clear, the Scion xA has a standard rear wiper. The Cavalier doesn't offer a rear wiper.

The Scion xA's optional rear view mirror has an automatic dimming feature. This mirror can be set to automatically darken quickly when headlights shine on it, keeping following vehicles from blinding or distracting the driver. The Cavalier doesn't offer the luxury of an automatic dimming rear view mirror.

Economic Advantages

Insurance will cost less for the Scion xA owner. *The Complete Car Cost Guide* estimates that insurance for the Scion xA will cost \$925 to \$2215 less than the Cavalier over a five year period.

The Scion xA will cost the buyer less in the long run because of its superior resale value. *Kiplinger's* estimates that the Scion xA will retain a greater percentage of its original price after two and four years than the Cavalier.

	Scion xA	Cavalier
Four Year	40%	22% to 25%
Two Year	59%	34% to 37%

Scion xA compared with the Chevrolet Aveo

Safety

The Scion xA offers optional front seat side-impact airbags and available head airbags, which act as a forgiving barrier between the passengers and the door. Combined with high-strength steel door beams this system increases protection from broadside collisions. The Aveo doesn't offer side-impact airbags.

The Scion xA has standard four wheel antilock brakes for quicker stops and controlled steering ability, especially under poor traction conditions. Antilock brakes cost extra on the Aveo.

The Scion xA Series 1.0 has standard skid prevention, which uses the antilock brake hardware along with powerful software and additional sensors to detect the beginning of a skid. The skid prevention then intervenes by automatically applying the brake at one appropriate wheel, preventing a skid. The Aveo doesn't offer skid prevention.

Both the Scion xA and the Aveo have standard driver and passenger frontal airbags, front seatbelt pretensioners, front wheel drive and height adjustable front shoulder belts.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration does 38.5 MPH side impact tests on new cars. In this test, results indicate that the Scion xA is safer than the Aveo:

	Scion xA	Aveo
Front Seat		
STARS	4 Stars	3 Stars
<i>Thoracic Trauma</i>	69	85
<i>Pelvis Deceleration</i>	65 G's	149 G's
Rear Seat		
STARS	4 Stars	3 Stars
<i>Thoracic Trauma</i>	63	86
<i>Pelvis Deceleration</i>	60 G's	91 G's

More stars indicate a better chance of avoiding serious injuries. Lower numbers indicate better actual numeric test results.

Instrumented handling tests conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and analysis of its dimensions indicate that the Scion xA is 13.3% less likely to roll over than the Aveo.