# NOTHING COMPARES TO FORMALDEHYDE

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## ROAD SAFETY

**Ratchet Wheel**
(within the retractor mechanism)

Formaldehyde plays a key role in a variety of **car components** including filler caps, window wipers, mirror housings and loudspeaker grilles.

It plays a particularly important role in seatbelts. The red release **button** and the **ratchet wheel** are created using **formaldehyde based polyacetal plastics (POM).**


**Red release button**

The European Commission estimates that approximately **5,700 lives are saved by seatbelts and child restraints** in the EU annually[1].

Seatbelt mechanisms must be able to resist **huge amounts of stress** particularly in the event of impact.

Formaldehyde-based POM is the only type of plastic which is **lightweight and robust enough to ensure the seatbelt keeps us safe.**

This is because POM is rigid, tough, and durable. It can also withstand high temperatures, and is resistant to fuels, oil and grease all of which is important to ensure **POM can meet tough EU vehicle specifications**[2].


**References:**
1 – European Commission 'Monitoring Road Safety in the EU: Towards a comprehensive set of Safety Performance Indicators'.
2 – I. G. Helps 'Plastics in European Cars, 2000-2008'.