

The following service and repair information is taken from Subaru technical service bulletins (TSBs).

De-Powered Air Bags Bulletin 17-03-98 (Replaces Bulletin 17-01-98)

The automotive industry has been directed by the Federal Government to have "DE-POWERED" AIR BAGS installed in 1998 model year vehicles. This affective change occurred in September of 1997 for the 1998 model year Legacy and Forester vehicles and in June 1997 for the 1998 model Impreza's. SUBARU has introduced de-powered airbags in 1998 MY production according to the chart below:

MODEL	BODY STYLE	STARTING VIN	PRODUCTION DATE
LEGACY	Sedan	W*204868	September, 1997
	SW	W*307101	
	Outback	W*617283	
	Postal	W*307141	
IMPREZA	Coupe	W*400001	June, 1997 (Start of 98 MY Production)
	Sedan	W*500001	
	Wagon	W*800001	
FORESTER	(ALL)	W*750007	September, 1997

Subaru does not recommend any attempts at interchanging parts from newer systems into older vehicles or vice versa under any circumstances whatsoever.

Refer to page 21 for the most recent parts applicability information. This information can also be found in Subaru Parts Bulletin PT-74-04-98.

The National Safety Council reports that "the vast majority of people can maintain the benefits and minimize the risks of air bags by following the ABC's of air bag safety:

Adjust the front seats back and always maintain a distance of at least 10 inches from the chest to where the air bag is housed;

Buckle everyone;

Children 12 and under ride properly restrained in the back seat."

To assure proper installation, please refer to the information listed below.

1998 Model Year LEGACY

Full Power Air Bags were in vehicles up to VIN Numbers:

W*617282 - Outback Models
W*204867 - Sedan Models
W*307100 - Wagon Models
W*307140 - Postal Models

The **Full Power** Air Bags part numbers are as follows:

98211AC880ML - Driver Side
98211AC950ML - Passenger Side

The **“De-Powered”** Air Bags are in vehicles starting with VIN numbers:

W*617283 - Outback Models
W*204868 - Sedan Models
W*307101 - Wagon Models
W*307141 - Postal Models

The **“De-Powered”** Air Bags part numbers are as follows:

98211AC881ML - Driver Side
98211AC951ML - Passenger Side

1998 Model Year FORESTER

Full Power Air Bags were in vehicles up to VIN Numbers:

W*750006 - All Forester Models

The **Full Power** Air Bags part numbers are as follows:

98211FC030ML - Driver Side
98271FC001OE - Passenger Side, dark gray
98271FC001DC - Passenger Side, dark brown

The **“De-Powered”** Air Bags are in vehicles starting with VIN numbers:

W*750007 - All Forester Models

The **“De-Powered”** Air Bags part numbers are as follows:

98211FC060ML - Driver Side
98271FC002OE - Passenger Side, dark gray
98271FC002DC - Passenger Side, dark brown

1998 Model Year IMPREZA

The installation of the **“De-Powered”** Air Bags in the 1998 Impreza models started on the first production of the 1998 model. There was NO “mid-model” year change like the Legacy and Forester.

The **“De-Powered”** Air Bags are in vehicles starting with VIN numbers:

W*400001 - Coupe Models
W*500001 - Sedan Models
W*800001 - Wagon Models

The **“De-Powered”** Air Bags part numbers are as follows:

98211FC001ML - Driver Side
98211FA180OE - Passenger Side, dark gray
98211FA1S0DE - Passenger Side, brown

