



Keep Your Hands on the Wheel: Outfitting your Car with Bluetooth for Safer Hands-free Talk

73 percent of drivers say they talk on cell phones while driving, according to a study by the Insurance Information Institute. Moreover, a study conducted by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that driver distraction was accountable for 25 to 30 percent of crashes, with cell phone usage named as the most common distraction.

Due to the dangers associated with driving while talking on a cell phone, several states, counties and cities throughout the country have adopted laws that require drivers to use a hands-free wireless device to talk on the phone while in their vehicles. The wireless experts at RadioShack can help people make this transition.

Talk Hands-Free with Bluetooth Technology

Whether or not your state has enforced a hands-free wireless law, it is always important to practice safe driving habits. Using Bluetooth technology in the car is an easy way for you to keep both hands where they belong – on the wheel. A short-range communications technology, Bluetooth actually replaces the cables connecting portable or fixed devices, letting your phone “talk” to a headset or other device wirelessly.

Some new cars today feature built-in Bluetooth technology, which syncs up with your Bluetooth-enabled cell phone when it is in the immediate area, allowing you to take calls through the monitor and speakers on your console without ever picking up your phone. If you don't have this option in your car, however, RadioShack offers many different accessories to create a hands-free environment.

Bluetooth-Enabled Cell Phones

The first step to creating a safe Bluetooth environment is making sure your cell phone is Bluetooth-enabled. While most people are familiar with the term Bluetooth, many are unaware that their cell phone must have Bluetooth capability in order to use Bluetooth headsets and other accessories. RadioShack offers a variety of Bluetooth enabled [cell phones](#) that can be perfectly paired with other Bluetooth products. One option is the Palm Centro Smartphone, which offers broadband Web access, Google Maps, media player, camera, video and Bluetooth capabilities.

Bluetooth Accessories

Once you've selected a Bluetooth cell phone, there are a number of great Bluetooth [accessories](#) that will allow you to talk hands-free while driving. Attach a speakerphone such as the Jabra SP5050 to your vehicle visor for easy access. It comes equipped with a built-in microphone and speaker, so you can take calls directly through the device, while keeping your hands on the wheel and this particular model is ultra-thin in design making it easy to move between vehicles.

Another popular option is a Bluetooth headset, which can be used both inside and outside of the car. A headset like the Plantronics Voyager 520 fits easily around your ear and liberates your hands while the device communicates wirelessly with your cell phone. Most Bluetooth headsets have a range of about 30 feet, so even when you step out of your car you can keep talking. Before you buy a headset, however, make sure it's compatible with your particular type of phone. Not all Bluetooth headsets and phones can work together, but a knowledgeable RadioShack store associate can help you select the pair that's right for you.



RadioShack **crash course**

For more information and helpful advice on Bluetooth products and creating a safe hands-free environment, stop by any of RadioShack's 4,500 convenient, neighborhood locations or visit www.RadioShack.com - where you don't just buy stuff, you do stuff.

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