

CLASS NOTES

1) What are bumpers made of?

- Plastic*
- Steel
- Aluminum
- Fiberglass
- Polypropylene Foam
- Thermoplastic

2) Why are bumpers important?

- Keep damage away from safety-related equipment (ex: headlights and taillights)
- Protect parts that are expensive to repair (ex: hood, fenders, exhaust and cooling systems)

Better bumpers = less money for repairs and less insurance costs

3) What are the characteristics of a good bumper system?

- Stability
- Geometry- bumpers should overlap each other
- Energy Absorption- confine damage to bumper itself
- Extend to corners of vehicles to protect headlights and fenders
- Well-designed to inexpensive to repair/replace
- Outset- leaving space for absorption

4) Are all bumpers alike?

No, automakers use a variety of designs and materials.

- Some designs have bumpers that fit too snug, which means it does not resist damage because no absorption room
- Sleek looking bumpers = little resistance against damage