



Structural Uprights

Structural upright is an engineering term commonly used in automobile manufacturer's engineering design departments. To us laymen it's called a 'pillar' or post. Pillars were originally designed to support a car's roof and thereby to protect your noggin. Back in the 1970's Federal Safety Standards heavily influenced automotive styling and pillars became stronger and larger to meet rollover safety standards.

Today the NHSTA has stringent roof-crushing standards that every new car sold in the USA must meet. As a result, some pillars now commonly house air bag mechanisms. The pillars are typically designated in alphabetical order from the front to the rear of a car. The **A-Pillar** is the front most post which supports the windshield and the front window. The **B-Pillar** supports the roof just behind the driver and front passenger, while the **C-Pillar** supports the roof at the back of the car. In some cars the **C and or D-Pillars** in some cars has become so large that a rear view camera is now offered on these vehicles. Now days **D-Pillars** are are commonly found on SUVs or station wagons.

Happy Motoring...Ron Couturier



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