

# SA Toyota owners will be affected by recall

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Toyota Motors South Africa said on Wednesday, 10 October, that South African Toyota owners would be affected as part of a wider global recall of 7.4-million cars, but was unable to confirm immediately the full extent.



It is likely, however, that several thousand Corolla, Yaris, Auris, RAV4 and Camry cars built between 2005 and 2010 are affected.

The problem was related to the lubricant used in the electric window switches, "which can degrade over time," Toyota spokesman Leo Kok said.

Kok said there had been reports of smoke emanating from the switches, but added that "there have been no fires, incidents and no injuries as a result of this".

Kok said the worst case scenario would be a little smoke, but that "we can't replicate this in our own in-house tests". He added the recall was purely precautionary.

He said the "pre-emptive" recall would see Toyota contacting its customers and having their cars inspected. "If we find the fault, we'll replace the whole switch."

Globally, the company is recalling 1.39 million vehicles across Europe, 2.47 million in the US and 1.4 million in China.

Toyota has had a torrid time of late, with the company issuing a 12-million vehicle recall in 2009 after which it was hauled before US lawmakers, with its boss Akio Toyoda offering an apology.

Toyota also faced huge production challenges as a result of the tsunami and earthquake that hit Japan in March 2011.

The company has since recovered and is once again the world's largest vehicle manufacturer after briefly slipping behind General Motors.

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