

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 1/17/20

Introduction

Introduction

The names, logos, emblems, slogans, vehicle model names, and vehicle body designs appearing in this manual including, but not limited to, GM, the GM logo, CHEVROLET, the CHEVROLET Emblem,

MALIBU, and the MALIBU Emblem are trademarks and/or service marks of General Motors LLC, its subsidiaries, affiliates, or licensors.

For vehicles first sold in Canada, substitute the name "General Motors of Canada Company" for Chevrolet Motor Division wherever it appears in this manual.

This manual describes features that may or may not be on the vehicle because of optional equipment that was not purchased on the vehicle, model variants, country specifications, features/applications that may not be available in your region, or changes subsequent to the printing of this owner's manual.

Refer to the purchase documentation relating to your specific vehicle to confirm the features.

Keep this manual in the vehicle for quick reference.

Canadian Vehicle Owners

A French language manual can be obtained from your dealer, at [www.helminc.com](http://www.helminc.com), or from:

Propriétaires Canadiens

On peut obtenir un exemplaire de ce guide en français auprès du concessionnaire ou à l'adresse suivante:

Helm, Incorporated Attention: Customer Service 47911 Halyard Drive Plymouth, MI 48170 USA

Using this Manual

To quickly locate information about the vehicle, use the Index in the back of the manual. It is an alphabetical list of what is in the manual and the page number where it can be found.

Danger, Warning, and Caution

Warning messages found on vehicle labels and in this manual describe hazards and what to do to avoid or reduce them.

Litho in U.S.A.

Part No. 84313268 C Third Printing

+2020 General Motors LLC. All Rights Reserved.

## Introduction

### { Danger

Danger indicates a hazard with a high level of risk which will result in serious injury or death.

### { Warning

Warning indicates a hazard that could result in injury or death.

### Caution

Caution indicates a hazard that could result in property or vehicle damage.

A circle with a slash through it is a safety symbol which means “Do not. “Do not do this. or “Do not let this happen.”

## Symbols

The vehicle has components and labels that use symbols instead of text. Symbols are shown along with the text describing the operation or information relating to a specific component. control. message. gauge. or indicator.

M : Shown when the owner’s manual has additional instructions or information.

+ : Shown when the service manual has additional instructions or information.

0 : Shown when there is more information on another page — “see page.”

## Vehicle Symbol Chart

Here are some additional symbols that may be found on the vehicle and what they mean. See the features in this manual for information. u : Air Conditioning System G : Air Conditioning Refrigerant Oil 9 : Airbag Readiness Light : Antilock Brake System (ABS) \$ : Brake System Warning Light 9 : Dispose of Used Components Properly P : Do Not Apply High Pressure Water B : Engine Coolant Temperature g : First Responder \_ : Flame/Fire Prohibited H : Flammable [ : Forward Collision Alert R : Fuse Block Cover Lock Location

+ : Fuses

## Introduction

\_ : High Voltage j : ISOFIX/LATCH System Child Restraints Q : Keep Fuse Block Covers Properly Installed | : Lane Change Alert

+ : Lane Departure Warning A : Lane Keep Assist

+ : Malfunction Indicator Lamp : : Oil Pressure X : Park Assist ~ : Pedestrian Ahead Indicator O : Power 7 : Rear Cross Traffic Alert I : Registered Technician / : Remote Vehicle Start > : Seat Belt Reminders I : Side Blind Zone Alert h : Stop/Start 7 : Tire Pressure Monitor d : Traction Control/ StabiliTrak/ Electronic Stability Control (ESC)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Introduction

Instrument Panel Overview

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Introduction

Air Vents 0 141.

Turn Signal Lever. See Turn and Lane-Change Signals 0 129.

IntelliBeam System Button (If Equipped). See Exterior Lamp Controls 0 125.

Instrument Cluster (Base Level) 0 96 or Instrument Cluster (Uplevel) 0 97.

Driver Information Center (DIC) (Base Level) 0 113 or Driver Information Center (DIC) (Uplevel) 0 116.

Windshield Wiper/Washer 0 89.

Light Sensor. See Automatic Headlamp System 0 128.

Infotainment 0 133.

Climate Control Systems 0 134.

Dual Automatic Climate Control System 0 137 (If Equipped).

Hazard Warning Flashers 0 128.

Stop/Start Disable Button (If Equipped). See Stop/Start System 0 158.

Power Outlets 0 91.

Traction Control/Electronic Stability Control 0 170.

Assistance Systems for Parking or Backing 0 183 (If Equipped).

Shift Lever. See Automatic Transmission 0 164.

Electric Parking Brake 0 168 (If Equipped).

USB Port. See the infotainment manual.

ENGINE START/STOP Button.

See Ignition Positions 0 155.



Steering Wheel Controls 0 89.

Driver Information Center Buttons. See Driver Information Center (DIC) (Base Level) 0 113 or Driver Information Center (DIC) (Uplevel) 0 116.

Horn 0 89.

Steering Wheel Adjustment 0 89 (Out of View).

Cruise Control 0 172.

Adaptive Cruise Control 0 174 (If Equipped).

Heated Steering Wheel 0 89 (If Equipped).

Forward Collision Alert (FCA) System 0 188 (If Equipped).

Lane Keep Assist (LKA) 0 196 (If Equipped).

Hood Release. See Hood 0 214.

Data Link Connector (Out of View). See Malfunction Indicator Lamp (Check Engine Light) 0 104.

Parking Brake 0 167 (If Equipped).

Exterior Lamp Controls 0 125.

Instrument Panel Illumination Control 0 129.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Keys, Doors, and Windows

The key that is part of the Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) transmitter can be used for all locks.

To remove the key, press the button near the bottom of the transmitter, and pull the key out. Never pull the key out without pressing the button.

If it becomes difficult to turn the key, inspect the key blade for debris.

See your dealer if a new key is needed.

If locked out of the vehicle, see Roadside Assistance Program 0 323.

With an active OnStar or connected service plan, an OnStar Advisor may remotely unlock the vehicle.

See OnStar Overview 0 335.

Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System

See Radio Frequency Statement 0 329.

If there is a decrease in the Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) operating range:

Check the distance. The transmitter may be too far from the vehicle.

Check the location. Other vehicles or objects may be blocking the signal.

Check the transmitter's battery.

See "Battery Replacement" later in this section.

If the transmitter is still not working correctly, see your dealer or a qualified technician for service.

#### Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System Operation

The Keyless Access system allows for vehicle entry when the Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) transmitter is within 1 m (3 ft). See "Keyless Access Operation" following.

The transmitter functions may work up to 60 m (197 ft) away from the vehicle.

Other conditions can impact the performance of the transmitter. See Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System 0 8.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Keys, Doors, and Windows

With Remote Start Shown Q : Press to lock all doors.

The turn signal indicators may flash and/or the horn may sound on the second press to indicate locking.

See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

If the driver door is open when Q is pressed and Open Door Anti-Lockout is enabled, all doors will lock and then the driver door will immediately unlock. See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

If the passenger door is open when Q is pressed, all doors lock.

Pressing Q may also arm the alarm system. See Vehicle Alarm System 0 24.

K : Press to unlock the driver door.

Press again within five seconds to unlock all doors. The RKE transmitter can be programmed to unlock all doors on the first button press. See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

The turn signal indicators may flash to indicate unlocking. See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

Pressing K will disarm the alarm system. See Vehicle Alarm System 0 24.

X : Press twice quickly to release the trunk.

7 : Press and release one time to initiate vehicle locator. The exterior lamps flash and the horn chirps three times.

Press and hold 7 for at least three seconds to sound the panic alarm. The horn sounds and the 30 seconds until 7 is pressed again or the vehicle is started. / : If equipped, press Q and

#### Keyless Access Operation

The Keyless Access system lets you lock and unlock the doors and access the trunk without removing the RKE transmitter from your pocket, purse, briefcase, etc. The RKE transmitter should be within 1 m (3 ft) of the trunk or door being opened. If equipped, there will be buttons on the outside door handles.

Keyless Access can be programmed to unlock all doors on the first unlock/lock button press from the driver door. See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Instruments and Controls

Units : Press p while Units is displayed to enter the Units menu.

Choose U.S. or metric units by

Display Themes : Press p while Display Themes is displayed to enter the menu. Choose Sport or Touring by pressing V while the desired item is highlighted.

Pocket Gauges : Press p while Pocket Gauges is displayed to enter the menu and select gauges that can be displayed on the left or right of the display area. If equipped, choose oil temperature, battery voltage, fuel range, or fuel economy.

Info Pages : Press p while Info Pages is displayed to enter the Info Pages menu and select the items to

Speed Warning : The Speed Warning display allows the driver to set a speed that they do not want to exceed. To set the Speed Warning, press p when Speed Warning is

### Speedometer

The speedometer shows the vehicle's speed in either kilometers per hour (km/h) or miles per hour (mph).

### Odometer

The odometer shows how far the vehicle has been driven, in either kilometers or miles.

### Trip Odometer

The trip odometer shows how far the vehicle has been driven since the trip odometer was last reset.

The trip odometer is accessed and reset through the Driver Information Center (DIC). See Driver Information Center (DIC) (Base Level) 0 113 or Driver Information Center (DIC) (Uplevel) 0 116.

### Tachometer

The tachometer displays the engine speed in revolutions per minute (rpm).

For vehicles with the Stop/Start system, when the ignition is on, the tachometer indicates the vehicle status. When pointing to AUTO STOP, the engine is off but the vehicle is on and can move. The

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Instruments and Controls

When the engine is on, the tachometer will indicate the engine's revolutions per minute (rpm). The tachometer may vary by several hundred rpm's, during Auto Stop mode, when the engine is shutting off and restarting.

#### Caution

If the engine is operated with the rpm's in the warning area at the high end of the tachometer, the vehicle could be damaged, and the damage would not be covered by the vehicle warranty. Do not operate the engine with the rpm's in the warning area.

#### Fuel Gauge

##### Uplevel Metric

##### Uplevel English

When the ignition is on, the fuel gauge indicates about how much fuel is left in the tank.

An arrow on the fuel gauge indicates the side of the vehicle the fuel door is on.

When the indicator nears empty, the low fuel light comes on. There is still a little fuel left, but the fuel tank should be filled soon.

Here are four things that some owners ask about. None of these show a problem with the fuel gauge:

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Instruments and Controls

At the service station, the fuel pump shuts off before the gauge reads full.

It takes a little more or less fuel to fill up than the gauge indicated. For example, the gauge indicated the tank was half full, but it actually took a little more or less than half the tank's capacity to fill the tank.

The gauge moves a little while turning a corner or speeding up.

The gauge takes a few seconds to stabilize after the ignition is turned on, and goes back to empty when the ignition is turned off.

#### Engine Coolant Temperature Gauge

##### Uplevel Metric

## Uplevel English

This gauge shows the engine coolant temperature.

If the gauge pointer moves toward the warning area at the high end of the gauge, the engine is too hot.

The engine coolant temperature warning light comes on when the engine is too hot. See Engine Coolant Temperature Warning Light (Uplevel Only) 0 110.

This reading indicates the same thing as the warning light. It means that the engine coolant has overheated. If the vehicle has been operating under normal driving

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Instruments and Controls

### Seat Belt Reminders

#### Driver Seat Belt Reminder Light

There is a driver seat belt reminder light on the instrument cluster.

When the vehicle is started, this light flashes and a chime may come on to remind the driver to fasten their seat belt. Then the light stays on solid until the belt is buckled.

This cycle may continue several times if the driver remains or becomes unbuckled while the vehicle is moving.

If the driver seat belt is buckled, neither the light nor the chime comes on.

#### Passenger Seat Belt Reminder Light

There is a passenger seat belt reminder light near the passenger airbag status indicator. See Passenger Sensing System 0 59.

When the vehicle is started, this light flashes and a chime may come on to remind passengers to fasten their seat belt. Then the light stays on solid until the belt is buckled.

This cycle continues several times if the passenger remains or becomes unbuckled while the vehicle is moving.

If the passenger seat belt is buckled, neither the chime nor the light comes on.

The front passenger seat belt reminder light and chime may turn on if an object is put on the seat such as a briefcase, handbag, grocery bag, laptop, or other electronic device. To turn off the reminder light and/or chime, remove the object from the seat or buckle the seat belt.

#### Airbag Readiness Light

This light shows if there is an electrical problem with the airbag system. The system check includes the airbag sensor(s), passenger sensing system, the pretensioners, the airbag modules, the wiring,

and the crash sensing and diagnostic module. For more information on the airbag system, see Airbag System 0 53.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Instruments and Controls

The airbag readiness light comes on for several seconds when the vehicle is started. If the light does not come on then, have it fixed immediately. { Warning

If the airbag readiness light stays on after the vehicle is started or comes on while driving, it means the airbag system might not be working properly. The airbags in the vehicle might not inflate in a crash, or they could even inflate without a crash. To help avoid injury, have the vehicle serviced right away.

## Passenger Airbag Status Indicator

The vehicle has a passenger sensing system. See Passenger Sensing System 0 59 for important safety information. The overhead console has a passenger airbag status indicator.

## United States and Canada

### Mexico

When the vehicle is started, the passenger airbag status indicator will light ON and OFF, or the symbols for on and off, for several seconds as a system check. Then, after several more seconds, the status indicator will light either ON or OFF, or either the on or off symbol, to let you know the status of the front outboard passenger frontal airbag and knee airbag.

If the word ON, or the on symbol, are lit on the passenger airbag status indicator, it means that the passenger sensing system has turned on the front outboard passenger frontal airbag and knee airbag. If the word OFF, or the off symbol, are lit on the airbag status indicator, it means that the passenger sensing system has turned off the front outboard passenger frontal airbag and knee airbag.

If, after several seconds, both status indicator lights remain on, or if there are no lights at all, there may be a problem with the lights or the passenger sensing system. See your dealer for service. { Warning

If the airbag readiness light ever comes on and stays on, it means that something may be wrong with the airbag system. To help avoid injury to yourself or others, have the vehicle serviced right away. See Airbag Readiness Light 0 102 for more information, including important safety information.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Instruments and Controls

### Charging System Light

The charging system light comes on briefly when the ignition is turned on, but the engine is not running, as a check to show the light is working.

It should go out when the engine is started.

If the light stays on, or comes on while driving, there may be a problem with the electrical charging system. Have it checked by your dealer. Driving while this light is on could drain the battery.

When this light comes on, or is flashing, the Driver Information Center (DIC) also displays a message.

If a short distance must be driven with the light on, be sure to turn off all accessories, such as the radio and air conditioner.

#### Malfunction Indicator Lamp (Check Engine Light)

This light is part of the vehicle's emission control on-board diagnostic system. If this light is on while the engine is running, a malfunction has been detected and the vehicle may require service. The light should come on to show that it is working when the ignition is in Service Mode. See Ignition Positions 0 155.

Malfunctions are often indicated by the system before any problem is noticeable. Being aware of the light and seeking service promptly when it comes on may prevent damage.

#### Caution

If the vehicle is driven continually with this light on, the emission control system may not work as well, the fuel economy may be lower, and the vehicle may not run smoothly. This could lead to costly repairs that might not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

#### Caution

Modifications to the engine, transmission, exhaust, intake, or fuel system, or the use of replacement tires that do not meet the original tire specifications, can cause this light to come on. This could lead to costly repairs not covered by the vehicle warranty. This could also affect the vehicle's ability to pass an Emissions Inspection/ (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Instruments and Controls

#### Caution (Continued)

Maintenance test. See Accessories and Modifications 0 213.

If the light is flashing : A malfunction has been detected that could damage the emission control system and increase vehicle emissions. Diagnosis and service may be required.

To help prevent damage, reduce vehicle speed and avoid hard accelerations and uphill grades.

If towing a trailer, reduce the amount of cargo being hauled as soon as possible.

If the light continues to flash, find a safe place to park. Turn the vehicle off and wait at least 10 seconds before restarting the engine. If the light is still flashing, follow the previous guidelines and see your dealer for service as soon as possible.

If the light is on steady : A malfunction has been detected.

Diagnosis and service may be required.

Check the following:

If fuel has been added to the vehicle using the capless fuel funnel adapter, make sure that it has been removed. See "Filling the Tank with a Portable Gas Can" under Filling the Tank 0 200. The diagnostic system can detect if the adapter has been left installed in the vehicle, allowing fuel to evaporate into the atmosphere. A few driving trips with the adapter removed may turn off the light.

Poor fuel quality can cause inefficient engine operation and poor driveability, which may go away once the engine is warmed up. If this occurs, change the fuel brand. It may require at least one full tank of the proper

If the light remains on, see your dealer.

Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Programs

If the vehicle requires an Emissions Inspection/Maintenance test, the test equipment will likely connect to the vehicle's Data Link Connector (DLC).

The DLC is under the instrument panel to the left of the steering wheel. Connecting devices that are not used to perform an Emissions Inspection/Maintenance test or to service the vehicle may affect

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Instruments and Controls

The vehicle may not pass inspection if:

The light is on when the engine is running.

The light does not come on when the ignition is in Service Mode.

Critical emission control systems have not been completely diagnosed. If this happens, the vehicle would not be ready for inspection and might require several days of routine driving before the system is ready for inspection. This can happen if the 12-volt battery has recently been replaced or run down, or if the vehicle has been recently serviced.

See your dealer if the vehicle will not pass or cannot be made ready for the test.

Brake System Warning Light

Metric

English

This light should come on briefly when the vehicle is turned on. If it does not come on then, have it fixed so it will be ready to warn you if there is a problem.

If the light comes on and stays on at start up, there is a brake problem.

Have the brake system inspected right away.

If the light comes on while driving, pull off the road and stop carefully.

The brake pedal might be harder to push, or the brake pedal may go closer to the floor. It could take longer to stop. If the light is still on, have the vehicle towed for service.

See Towing the Vehicle 0 289.

{ Warning

The brake system might not be working properly if the brake system warning light is on.

Driving with the brake system warning light on can lead to a crash. If the light is still on after the vehicle has been pulled off the road and carefully stopped, have the vehicle towed for service.

Electric Parking Brake Light

Metric

English Base Level

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Instruments and Controls

English Uplevel

The Electric Parking Brake (EPB) status light comes on when the parking brake is applied. If the light continues flashing after the EPB is released, or while driving, there is a problem with the EPB system.

A message may also display on the Driver Information Center (DIC).

If the light does not come on, or remains flashing, see your dealer.

Service Electric Parking Brake Light

For vehicles with the Electric Parking Brake (EPB), the service electric parking brake light should come on briefly when the vehicle is on. If it does not come on, have the vehicle serviced by your dealer.

If this light stays on, there is a problem with a system on the vehicle that is causing the parking brake system to work at a reduced level. The vehicle can still be driven, but should be taken to a dealer as soon as possible. See Electric Parking Brake 0 168. A message may also display in the Driver Information Center (DIC).

Antilock Brake System (ABS) Warning Light

This warning light should come on briefly when the vehicle is turned on. If the light does not come on, have it fixed so it will be ready to warn if there is a problem.

If the light comes on while driving, safely stop as soon as it is possible and turn off the vehicle. Then turn on the vehicle again to reset the system.

If the ABS warning light stays on, or comes on again while driving, the vehicle needs service. A chime may also sound when the light stays on.

If the ABS warning light is the only light on, the vehicle has regular brakes, but ABS is not functioning.

If both the ABS warning light and the brake system warning light are on, ABS is not functioning and there is a problem with the regular brakes.

See your dealer for service.

See Brake System Warning Light 0 106.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Instruments and Controls

Lane Keep Assist (LKA) Light

After the vehicle is started, this light turns off and stays off if LKA has not been turned on or is unavailable.

If available, this light is white if LKA is turned on, but not ready to assist.

This light is green if LKA is turned on and is ready to assist.

LKA may assist by gently turning the steering wheel if the vehicle approaches a detected lane marking. The LKA light is amber when assisting.

This light flashes amber as a Lane Departure Warning (LDW) alert, to indicate that the lane marking has been crossed.

LKA will not assist or alert if the turn signal is active in the direction of lane departure, or if LKA detects that you are accelerating, braking, or actively steering.

See Lane Keep Assist (LKA) 0 196.

Vehicle Ahead Indicator

If equipped, this indicator will display green when a vehicle is detected ahead and amber when you are following a vehicle ahead much too closely.

See Forward Collision Alert (FCA) System 0 188.

Pedestrian Ahead Indicator

If equipped, this indicator will display amber when a nearby pedestrian is detected in front of the vehicle.

See Front Pedestrian Braking (FPB) System 0 191.

#### Traction Off Light

This light comes on briefly while starting the engine. If it does not, have the vehicle serviced by your

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Keys, Doors, and Windows

If equipped with memory seats, RKE transmitters 1 and 2 are linked to seating positions of memory 1 or 2.

See Memory Seats 0 38.

#### Keyless Unlocking/Locking from the Driver Door

When the doors are locked and the RKE transmitter is within 1 m (3 ft) of the driver door handle, pressing the lock/unlock button on the driver door handle will unlock the driver door. If the lock/unlock button is pressed again within five seconds, all passenger doors will unlock. Pull the door handle to unlatch the door.

#### Driver Side Shown. Passenger Similar

Pressing the lock/unlock button will cause all doors to lock if any of the following occur:

It has been no more than five seconds since the first lock/unlock button press.

Two lock/unlock button presses were used to unlock all doors.

Any vehicle door has opened and all doors are now closed.

#### Keyless Unlocking/Locking from Passenger Door(s)

When the doors are locked and the RKE transmitter is within 1 m (3 ft) of the door handle, pressing the lock/unlock button on that door handle will unlock the front doors or all doors. See "Passive Door Unlock" in Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

Pressing the lock/unlock button will cause the front doors or all doors to lock if any of the following occur:

The lock/unlock button was used to unlock all doors.

Any vehicle door has opened and all doors are now closed.

#### Disable/Enable Keyless Unlocking of Exterior Door Handles and Trunk

If equipped, keyless unlocking of the exterior door handles and trunk can be disabled and enabled.

## Instruments and Controls

The traction off light comes on when the Traction Control System (TCS) has been turned off by pressing and releasing the TCS/StabiliTrak/ESC button.

This light and the StabiliTrak/ESC OFF light come on when StabiliTrak/ Electronic Stability Control (ESC) is turned off.

If the TCS is off, wheel spin is not limited. Adjust driving accordingly.

See Traction Control/Electronic Stability Control 0 170.

### StabiliTrak OFF Light

This light comes on briefly while starting the engine. If it does not, have the vehicle serviced by your dealer.

This light comes on when the StabiliTrak/Electronic Stability Control (ESC) system is turned off.

If StabiliTrak/ESC is off, the Traction Control System (TCS) is also off.

If StabiliTrak/ESC and TCS are off, the system does not assist in controlling the vehicle. Turn on the TCS and the StabiliTrak/ESC systems, and the warning light turns off.

See Traction Control/Electronic Stability Control 0 170.

### Traction Control System (TCS)/StabiliTrak Light

This light comes on briefly when the engine is started.

If the light does not come on, have the vehicle serviced by your dealer.

If the system is working normally, the indicator light turns off.

If the light is on and not flashing, the TCS and potentially the StabiliTrak/ ESC system have been disabled.

A Driver Information Center (DIC) message may display. Check the DIC messages to determine which feature(s) is no longer functioning and whether the vehicle requires service.

If the light is on and flashing, the TCS and/or the StabiliTrak/ESC system is actively working.

See Traction Control/Electronic Stability Control 0 170.

## Instruments and Controls

### Engine Coolant Temperature Warning Light (Uplevel Only)

This light comes on briefly while starting the vehicle.

If it does not, have the vehicle serviced by your dealer. If the system is working normally the indicator light goes off.

#### Caution

The engine coolant temperature warning light indicates that the vehicle has overheated. Driving with this light on can damage the engine and it may not be covered by the vehicle warranty. See Engine Overheating 0 228.

The engine coolant temperature warning light comes on when the engine has overheated.

If this happens, pull over and turn off the engine as soon as possible.

See Engine Overheating 0 228.

#### Tire Pressure Light

For vehicles with the Tire Pressure Monitor System (TPMS), this light comes on briefly when the engine is started. It provides information about tire pressures and the TPMS.

#### When the Light Is On Steady

This indicates that one or more of the tires are significantly underinflated.

A Driver Information Center (DIC) tire pressure message may also display. Stop as soon as possible, and inflate the tires to the pressure

#### When the Light Flashes First and Then Is On Steady

If the light flashes for about a minute and then stays on, there may be a problem with the TPMS. If the problem is not corrected, the light will come on at every ignition cycle.

See Tire Pressure Monitor Operation 0 260.

#### Engine Oil Pressure Light

#### Caution

Lack of proper engine oil maintenance can damage the engine. Driving with the engine oil low can also damage the engine.

The repairs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty. Check the oil level as soon as possible.

Add oil if required, but if the oil level is within the operating range and the oil pressure is still low.

(Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Instruments and Controls

#### Caution (Continued)

This light should come on briefly as the engine is started. If it does not come on, have the vehicle serviced by your dealer.

If the light comes on and stays on, it means that oil is not flowing through the engine properly. The vehicle could be low on oil and might have some other system problem. See your dealer.

#### Low Fuel Warning Light (Base Level)

##### Metric Shown

This light comes on for a few seconds when the ignition is turned on as a check to indicate it is working. If it does not come on, have it fixed.

The low fuel warning light comes on and a chime sounds when the vehicle is low on fuel. The light turns off when fuel is added to the fuel tank.

#### Low Fuel Warning Light (Uplevel)

This light is near the fuel gauge and comes on briefly when the ignition is turned on as a check to show it is working.

It also comes on when the fuel tank is low on fuel. The light turns off when fuel is added. If it does not, have the vehicle serviced.

#### Security Light

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

##### Instruments and Controls

The security light should come on briefly as the engine is started. If it does not come on, have the vehicle serviced by your dealer. If the system is working normally, the indicator light turns off.

If the light stays on and the engine does not start, there could be a problem with the theft-deterrent system. See Immobilizer Operation 0 25.

#### High-Beam On Light

This light comes on when the high-beam headlamps are in use.

See Headlamp High/Low-Beam Changer 0 127.

#### IntelliBeam Light

This light comes on when the IntelliBeam system, if equipped, is enabled. See Exterior Lamp Controls 0 125.

#### Lamps On Reminder

This light comes on when the exterior lamps are in use, except when only the Daytime Running Lamps (DRL) are active. See Exterior Lamp Controls 0 125.

#### Cruise Control Light

The cruise control light is white when the cruise control is on and ready, and turns green when the cruise control is set and active. See Cruise Control 0 172.

## Adaptive Cruise Control Light

This light comes on when Adaptive Cruise Control (if equipped) is active. See Adaptive Cruise Control 0 174.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Instruments and Controls

### Door Ajar Light (Uplevel)

This light comes on when a door is open or not securely latched. Before driving, check that all doors are properly closed.

## Information Displays

### Driver Information Center (DIC) (Base Level)

The DIC displays are shown in the center of the instrument cluster. See Instrument Cluster (Base Level) 0 96 or Instrument Cluster (Uplevel) 0 97.

The displays show the status of many vehicle systems.

+ or p : Press to move between the DIC menus.

V : Press to open a menu or select a menu item. Press and hold to reset values on certain screens.

### Trip/Fuel Menu (TRIP) Items

Use w or x to scroll through the menu items. Not all items are available on every vehicle. The following is a list of all possible menu items:

Digital Speed : Displays how fast the vehicle is moving in either kilometers per hour (km/h) or miles per hour (mph). The speedometer cannot be reset.

Trip 1 or Trip 2. Average Fuel Economy : Displays the current distance traveled, in either kilometers (km) or miles (mi), from the last reset for the trip odometer.

The trip odometer can be reset to zero by pressing and holding V while the trip odometer display is showing.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Instruments and Controls

Also displays the approximate average liters per 100 kilometers (L/ 100 km) or miles per gallon (mpg).

This number is based on the number of L/100 km (mpg) recorded since the last time this menu item was reset. This number reflects only the approximate average fuel economy that the vehicle

has right now. and will change as driving conditions change. Reset the average consumption by pressing V when it is displayed.

Fuel Range : Displays the approximate distance the vehicle can be driven without refueling. The fuel range estimate is based on an average of the vehicle's fuel economy over recent driving history and the amount of fuel remaining in the fuel tank. Fuel range cannot be reset.

Average Vehicle Speed : Displays the average vehicle speed of the vehicle in kilometers per hour (km/h) or miles per hour (mph). This average is based on the various

Timer : To start the timer. press V while Timer is displayed. The display will show the amount of time that has passed since the timer was last reset. not including time the ignition is off. Time will continue to be counted as long as the ignition is on. even if another display is being shown on the DIC. The timer will record up to 99 hours. 59 minutes. and 59 seconds (99:59:59) after which the display will return to zero.

To stop the timer. press V briefly while Timer is displayed. To reset

Vehicle Information Menu (VEHICLE) Items

Use w or x to scroll through the menu items. Not all items are available on every vehicle. The following is a list of all possible menu items:

Remaining Oil Life : Displays an estimate of the oil's remaining useful life. If REMAINING OIL LIFE 99% is displayed. that means 99% of the current oil life remains.

When the remaining oil life is low. the CHANGE ENGINE OIL SOON message will appear on the display.

The oil should be changed as soon as possible. See Engine Oil 0 219.

In addition to the engine oil life system monitoring the oil life. additional maintenance is recommended. See Maintenance Schedule 0 304.

The Oil Life display must be reset after each oil change. Do not reset the Oil Life display accidentally at any time other than when the oil has just been changed. It cannot be reset accurately until the next oil

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Instruments and Controls

Oil Pressure : Oil pressure is displayed in either kilopascal (kPa) or in pounds per square inch (psi).

Oil pressure can vary with engine speed. outside temperature. and oil viscosity. On some models. the oil pump will vary engine oil pressure according to engine needs. Oil pressure may change quickly as the engine speed or load varies. This is normal. If the oil pressure warning light or Driver

Information Center (DIC) message indicates oil pressure outside the normal operating range. check the vehicle's oil as soon as possible.

Air Filter Life : Shows an estimate of the engine air filter's remaining useful life and the state of the system. Engine Air Filter Life 95% means 95% of the current air filter life remains. Messages will display based on the engine air filter life and the state of the system. When the REPLACE AT NEXT OIL CHANGE message displays. the engine air

The Air Filter Life display must be reset after the engine air filter replacement. To reset. see Engine Air Filter Life System 0 223.

Tire Pressure : Displays a vehicle with the approximate pressures of all four tires. Tire pressure is displayed in either kilopascal (kPa) or in pounds per square inch (psi).

See Tire Pressure Monitor System 0 259 and Tire Pressure Monitor Operation 0 260.

Battery Voltage : Displays the current battery voltage. if equipped.

Battery voltage changes are normal while driving. See Charging System Light 0 104. If there is a problem with the battery charging system. the DIC will display a message.

Coolant Temperature : Shows the engine coolant temperature in either degrees Celsius (°C) or degrees Fahrenheit (°F).

Speed Warning : This display is used to set the vehicle speed at which the speed warning chime sounds and the alert is displayed.

The speed can be set by pressing V while the speed warning display is showing.

Units : Move w or x to change between Metric or US when the Unit

ECO Drive Assist Menu (ECO) Items

Use w or x to scroll through the menu items. Not all items are available on every vehicle.

Best Average Fuel Economy : The bottom displays the best average fuel economy (AFE) that is achieved

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Instruments and Controls

When viewing best AFE. a several second press and hold of V will reset the best value. The best value will show "--" until the selected distance has been traveled.

The display provides feedback on how current driving behavior in the bar graph affects the running average in the top display and how well recent driving compares to the best that has been achieved.

Driver Information Center (DIC) (Uplevel)

The DIC displays are shown in the center of the instrument cluster in the Info app. See Instrument Cluster (Base Level) 0 96 or Instrument Cluster (Uplevel) 0 97.

The displays show the status of many vehicle systems.

+ or p : Press o to open application menus on the left. Press p to open interaction menus on the right.

V : Press to select a menu item.

Press and hold to reset values on certain screens. or on the main view reset info pages to the original setting.

#### DIC Info Page Options

The info pages on the DIC can be turned on or off through the Settings menu.

Press o to access the cluster applications.

Press w or x to scroll to the Settings application.

Press V to enter the Settings menu.

Scroll to Info Pages and press p.

Press w or x to move through the list of possible information displays.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Instruments and Controls

Press V while an item is highlighted to select or deselect that item. When an item is selected, a checkmark will appear next to it.

#### DIC Info Pages

The following is the list of all possible DIC info page displays.

Some may not be available for your particular vehicle. Some items may not be turned on by default but can be turned on through the Settings app. See “DIC Info Page Options” earlier in this section.

Speed : Shows the vehicle speed in either kilometers per hour (km/h) or miles per hour (mph).

Trip A or Trip B : Shows the current distance traveled, in either kilometers (km) or miles (mi), since the trip odometer was last reset.

This also shows the approximate average liters per 100 kilometers (L/100 km) or miles per gallon (mpg). This number is calculated based on the number of L/100 km (mpg) recorded since the

Press and hold V while this display is active to reset the trip odometer and the average fuel economy. Trip A and Trip B can also be reset by

Fuel Range : Shows the approximate distance the vehicle can be driven without refueling.

LOW will be displayed when the vehicle is low on fuel. The fuel range estimate is based on an average of the vehicle's fuel economy over recent driving history and the amount of fuel remaining in the fuel tank.

Instantaneous Fuel Economy : Displays the current fuel economy in liters per 100 kilometers (L/100 km) or miles per gallon (mpg). This number reflects only the approximate fuel economy that the

Oil Life : Shows an estimate of the oil's remaining useful life.

If REMAINING OIL LIFE 99% is displayed, that means 99% of the current oil life remains.

When the remaining oil life is low, the CHANGE ENGINE OIL SOON message will appear on the display.

The oil should be changed as soon as possible. See Engine Oil 0 219.

In addition to the engine oil life system monitoring the oil life, additional maintenance is recommended in the Maintenance Schedule. See Maintenance Schedule 0 304.

The Oil Life display must be reset after each oil change. It will not reset itself. Do not reset the Oil Life display at any time other than when the oil has just been changed.

It cannot be reset accurately until the next oil change. To reset the engine oil life system, press and

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Instruments and Controls

Air Filter Life : Shows an estimate of the engine air filter's remaining useful life and the state of the system. Engine Air Filter Life 95% means 95% of the current air filter life remains. Messages will display based on the engine air filter life and the state of the system. When the REPLACE AT NEXT OIL CHANGE message displays, the engine air filter should be replaced at the time of the next oil change. When the REPLACE NOW message displays, the engine air filter should be replaced as soon as possible.

The Air Filter Life display must be reset after the engine air filter replacement. To reset, see Engine Air Filter Life System 0 223.

Tire Pressure : Shows the approximate pressures of all four tires. Tire pressure is displayed in either kilopascal (kPa) or in pounds per square inch (psi). If the pressure is low, the value for that tire is

Average Vehicle Speed : Displays the average vehicle speed of the vehicle in kilometers per hour (km/h) or miles per hour (mph). This average is based on the various vehicle speeds recorded since the last reset. Reset the average speed by pressing V when it is displayed.

Fuel Economy : The center displays the approximate instantaneous fuel economy as a number and bar graph. Displayed above the bar graph is a running average of fuel economy for the most

recently traveled selected distance. Displayed below the bar graph is the best average fuel economy that has been achieved for the selected distance. The selected distance is displayed at the top of the page as “last xxx mi/km.”

Press p to select the distance or

Press w and x to select “Reset

Best Score.” Press V to reset the best average fuel economy. After reset, the best value displays “-.” until the selected distance has been traveled.

The display provides information on how current driving behavior affects the running average and how well recent driving compares to the best that has been achieved for the selected distance.

Timer : This display can be used as a timer. To start the timer, press V while this display is active. The display will show the amount of time that has passed since the timer was

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Keys, Doors, and Windows

Disabling Keyless Unlocking:

With the vehicle off, press and hold Q and K on the RKE transmitter at the same time for approximately three seconds. The turn signal lamps will flash four times quickly to indicate access is disabled. Using any exterior handle to unlock the doors or open the trunk will cause the turn signal lamps to flash four times quickly, indicating access is disabled. If disabled, disarm the alarm system before starting the vehicle.

Enabling Keyless Unlocking:

With the vehicle off, press and hold Q and K on the RKE transmitter at the same time for approximately three seconds. The turn signal lamps will flash twice quickly to indicate access is enabled.

Passive Locking

This feature will lock the vehicle several seconds after all doors are closed, if the vehicle is off and at

If other electronic devices interfere with the RKE transmitter signal, the vehicle may not detect the RKE transmitter inside the vehicle.

If passive locking is enabled, the doors may lock with the RKE transmitter inside the vehicle. Do not leave the RKE transmitter in an unattended vehicle.

To customize the doors to automatically lock when exiting the vehicle, see Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

Temporary Disable of Passive Locking

Temporarily disable passive locking by pressing and holding K on the interior door switch with a door open for at least four seconds. or until three chimes are heard. Passive locking will then remain disabled until Q on the interior door is pressed. or until the vehicle is turned on.

#### Remote Left In Vehicle Alert

When the vehicle is turned off and an RKE transmitter is left in the vehicle. the horn will chirp three times after all doors are closed. To turn on or off see Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

#### Remote No Longer In Vehicle Alert

If the vehicle is on with a door open. and then all doors are closed. the vehicle will check for an RKE transmitter inside. If an RKE transmitter is not detected. the Driver Information Center (DIC) will display NO REMOTE DETECTED and the horn will chirp three times.

This occurs only once each time the vehicle is driven. See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

#### Keyless Trunk Opening

Press the touch pad on the rear of the trunk to open it if the RKE transmitter is within 1 m (3 ft) of the trunk.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Instruments and Controls

**Speed Limit :** Shows the current speed limit on vehicles with the navigation system. The information for this page comes from a roadway database.

**Follow Distance :** When Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) is not engaged. the current follow time to the vehicle ahead is displayed as a time value on this page. When ACC has been engaged. the display switches to the gap setting page.

This page shows the current gap setting along with the vehicle ahead indicator.

**Battery Voltage :** Displays the current battery voltage. if equipped.

Battery voltage changes are normal while driving. See Charging System Light 0 104. If there is a problem with the battery charging system. the DIC will display a message.

**Coolant Temperature :** Shows the engine coolant temperature in either degrees Celsius (°C) or degrees Fahrenheit (°F).

**Oil Pressure :** Oil pressure is displayed in either kilopascal (kPa) or in pounds per square inch (psi).

Oil pressure can vary with engine speed. outside temperature. and oil viscosity. On some models. the oil pump will vary engine oil pressure according to engine needs. Oil pressure may change quickly as the engine speed or load varies. This is normal. If the oil pressure warning light or Driver Information Center (DIC) message indicates oil pressure outside the normal operating range. check the vehicle's oil as soon as possible.

Blank Page : Shows no information.

## Vehicle Messages

Messages displayed on the DIC indicate the status of the vehicle or some action that may be needed to correct a condition. Multiple messages may appear one after another.

The messages that do not require immediate action can be acknowledged and cleared by pressing V. The messages that require immediate action cannot be cleared until that action is performed.

All messages should be taken seriously; clearing the message does not correct the problem.

If a SERVICE message appears, see your dealer.

Follow the instructions given in the messages. The system displays messages regarding the following topics:

### Service Messages

### Fluid Levels

### Vehicle Security

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Instruments and Controls

### Brakes

### Steering

### Ride Control Systems

### Driver Assistance Systems

### Cruise Control

### Lighting and Bulb Replacement

### Wiper/Washer Systems

### Doors and Windows

### Seat Belts

### Airbag Systems

### Engine and Transmission

### Tire Pressure

### Battery

### Engine Power Messages

## ENGINE POWER IS REDUCED

This message displays when the vehicle's propulsion power is reduced. A reduction in propulsion power can affect the vehicle's ability to accelerate. If this message is on, but there is no observed reduction in performance, proceed to your destination. The performance may

Under certain operating conditions, propulsion will be disabled. Try restarting after the vehicle has been off for 30 seconds.

### Vehicle Speed Messages

#### SPEED LIMITED TO XXX KM/ H (MPH)

This message shows that the vehicle speed has been limited to the speed displayed. The limited speed is a protection for various propulsion and vehicle systems, such as lubrication, thermal, brakes, suspension, Teen Driver if equipped, or tires.

### Vehicle Personalization

The following are all possible vehicle personalization features.

Depending on the vehicle, some may not be available.

For System, Apps, and Personal features and functions, see "Settings" in the infotainment manual.

To access the vehicle personalization menu:

Touch the Settings icon on the Home Page of the infotainment display.

Touch Vehicle to display a list of available options.

Touch to select the desired feature setting.

Touch 9 or R to turn a feature off or on.

Touch z to go to the top level of the Settings menu.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Instruments and Controls

The menu may contain the following:

#### Rear Seat Reminder

This allows for a chime and a message when the rear door has been opened before or during operation of the vehicle.

Touch Off or On.

#### Climate and Air Quality

Touch and the following may display:

#### Auto Fan Speed

Auto Heated Seats

Auto Defog

Auto Rear Defog

Auto Fan Speed

This feature will set the auto fan speed.

Touch Low, Medium, or High.

Auto Heated Seats

When enabled, this feature will automatically activate the heated seats at the level required by the

Touch Off or On.

Auto Defog

When turned on and high humidity is detected, the climate control system may adjust to outside air supply and turn on the air conditioner or the heater. The fan speed may slightly increase to help prevent fogging. When high humidity is no longer detected, the system will return to its prior operation.

Touch Off or On.

Auto Rear Defog

When on, this feature turns on the rear defogger at vehicle start when the interior temperature is cold and fog is likely. The auto rear defog function can be disabled by pressing K. When off, the feature can be turned on by pressing K.

See "Rear Window Defogger" under Dual Automatic Climate Control System 0 137.

Touch Off or On.

Collision/Detection Systems

Touch and the following may display:

Forward Collision System

Front Pedestrian Detection

Rear Cross Traffic Alert

Adaptive Cruise Go Notifier

Lane Change Alert

Rear Camera Park Assist Symbols

Forward Collision System

This setting controls the vehicle response when detecting a vehicle ahead of you. The Off setting disables all FCA and AEB functions.

With the Alert and Brake setting, both FCA and AEB are available.

The Alert setting disables AEB. See Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) 0 190.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Instruments and Controls

Touch Off, Alert, or Alert and Brake.

#### Front Pedestrian Detection

This feature may help avoid or reduce the harm caused by front-end crashes with nearby pedestrians.

See Front Pedestrian Braking (FPB) System 0 191.

Touch Off, Alert, or Alert and Brake.

#### Rear Cross Traffic Alert

This allows the Rear Cross Traffic Alert feature to be turned on or off.

See “Rear Cross Traffic Alert” in Assistance Systems for Parking or Backing 0 183.

Touch Off or On.

#### Adaptive Cruise Go Notifier

This feature will give a reminder that Adaptive Cruise Control provides when it has brought the vehicle to a complete stop behind another stopping vehicle, and then that vehicle drives on. See Adaptive Cruise Control 0 174.

Touch Off or On.

#### Lane Change Alert

This allows the Lane Change Alert feature to be turned on or off. See Lane Change Alert (LCA) 0 194.

When Lane Change Alert is disabled, Side Blind Zone Alert is also disabled.

Touch Off or On.

#### Rear Camera Park Assist Symbols

This setting enables the Rear Camera Park Assist Symbols. See Assistance Systems for Parking or Backing 0 183.

Touch Off or On.

#### Comfort and Convenience

Touch and the following may display:

Chime Volume

Reverse Tilt Mirror

Chime Volume

This allows the selection of the chime volume level.

Touch + or – to adjust the volume.

Reverse Tilt Mirror

When on, driver, passenger, or both driver and passenger outside mirrors will tilt downward when the vehicle is shifted to R (Reverse) to improve visibility of the ground near the rear wheels. They will return to their previous driving position when the vehicle is shifted out of R (Reverse) or the engine is turned off. See Reverse Tilt Mirrors 0 27.

Touch Off, On - Driver and Passenger, On - Driver, or On Passenger.

Lighting

Touch and the following may display:

Vehicle Locator Lights

Exit Lighting

Vehicle Locator Lights

This setting flashes the vehicle's headlamps when K is pressed on the Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) transmitter.

Touch Off or On.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Instruments and Controls

Exit Lighting

This setting specifies how long the headlamps stay on after the vehicle is turned off and exited.

Touch Off, 30 Seconds, 60 Seconds, or 120 Seconds.

Power Door Locks

Touch and the following may display:

Open Door Anti Lock Out

Auto Door Unlock

Delayed Door Lock

Open Door Anti Lock Out

This setting prevents the driver door from locking when the door is open.

If this setting is on, the Delayed Door Lock menu will not be available.



Touch Off or On.

Auto Door Unlock

This allows selection of which of the doors will automatically unlock when the vehicle is shifted into P (Park).

Touch Off. All Doors. or Driver Door.

Delayed Door Lock

When on, this feature will delay the locking of the doors. To override the delay, press the power door lock switch on the door.

Touch Off or On.

Remote Lock. Unlock. Start

Touch and the following may display:

Remote Unlock Light Feedback

Remote Lock Feedback

Remote Door Unlock

Remote Start Auto Cool Seats

Remote Start Auto Heat Seats

Passive Door Unlock

Passive Door Lock

Remote Left in Vehicle Alert

Remote Unlock Light Feedback

This setting flashes the exterior lamps when the vehicle is unlocked with the RKE transmitter.

Touch Off or Flash Lights.

Remote Lock Feedback

This setting specifies how the vehicle responds when the vehicle is locked with the RKE transmitter.

Touch Off. Lights and Horn. Lights Only. or Horn Only.

Remote Door Unlock

This setting specifies whether all doors, or just the driver door, unlock when pressing K on the RKE transmitter.

Touch All Doors or Driver Door.

Remote Start Auto Cool Seats

If equipped and turned on, this feature will turn the ventilated seats on when using remote start on warm days.

Touch Off, On-Driver and Passenger, or On-Driver.

#### Remote Start Auto Heat Seats

This setting automatically turns on the heated seats when using the remote start function on cold days.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Instruments and Controls

See Heated and Ventilated Front Seats 0 41 and Remote Vehicle Start 0 16.

Touch Off, On-Driver and Passenger, or On-Driver.

#### Passive Door Unlock

This setting specifies which doors unlock when using the button on the driver door handle to unlock the vehicle.

Touch All Doors or Driver Door Only.

#### Passive Door Lock

This setting specifies if the vehicle will automatically lock, or lock and provide an alert after all the doors are closed, and you walk away from the vehicle with the RKE transmitter.

See Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System Operation 0 8.

Touch Off, On with Horn Chirp, or On.

#### Remote Left in Vehicle Alert

This feature sounds an alert when the RKE transmitter is left in the vehicle. This menu also enables Remote No Longer in Vehicle Alert.

Touch Off or On.

#### Seating Position

Touch and the following may display:

Seat Entry Memory

Seat Exit Memory

Seat Entry Memory

This feature automatically recalls the previously stored 1 or 2 button positions when the ignition is changed from off to on or ACC/ ACCESSORY. See Memory Seats 0 38.

Touch Off or On.

## Seat Exit Memory

This feature automatically recalls the previously stored exit button positions when the ignition is changed from on or ACC/ ACCESSORY to off if the driver door is open or opened. See Memory Seats 0 38.

Touch Off or On.

## Teen Driver

See “Teen Driver” under “Settings” in the infotainment manual.

## Valet Mode

This will lock the infotainment system and steering wheel controls.

It may also limit access to vehicle storage locations. if equipped.

To enable valet mode:

Enter a four-digit code on the keypad.

Touch Enter to go to the confirmation screen.

Re-enter the four-digit code.

Touch Lock or Unlock to lock or unlock the system. Touch Back to go back to the previous menu.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Lighting

; : Turns on the parking lamps including all lamps. except the headlamps.

5 : Turns on the headlamps together with the parking lamps and instrument panel lights.

## IntelliBeam System

If equipped. this system turns the vehicle's high-beam headlamps on and off according to surrounding traffic conditions.

The system turns the high-beam headlamps on when it is dark enough and there is no other traffic present.

This light b comes on in the instrument cluster when the IntelliBeam system is enabled.

## Turning On and Enabling IntelliBeam

To enable the IntelliBeam system. press b on the turn signal lever when the exterior lamp control is in the AUTO or 5 position.

## Driving with IntelliBeam

The system only activates the high beams when driving over 40 km/h (25 mph).

The blue high-beam on light appears on the instrument cluster when the high beams are on.

There is a sensor near the top center of the windshield that automatically controls the system.

Keep this area of the windshield clear of debris to allow for best system performance.

The high-beam headlamps remain on, under the automatic control, until one of the following situations occurs:

The system detects an approaching vehicle's headlamps.

The system detects a preceding vehicle's taillamps.

The outside light is bright enough that high-beam headlamps are not required.

The vehicle's speed drops below 20 km/h (12 mph).

The IntelliBeam system is disabled by the button on the turn signal lever. If this happens, press b on the turn signal lever when the exterior lamp control is in the AUTO or 5 position. The instrument cluster light will come on to indicate the IntelliBeam system is reactivated.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Lighting

The high beams may not turn off automatically if the system cannot detect another vehicle's lamps because of any of the following:

The other vehicle's lamps are missing, damaged, obstructed from view, or otherwise undetected.

The other vehicle's lamps are covered with dirt, snow, and/or road spray.

The other vehicle's lamps cannot be detected due to dense exhaust, smoke, fog, snow, road spray, mist, or other airborne obstructions.

The vehicle's windshield is dirty, cracked, or obstructed by something that blocks the view of the light sensor.

The vehicle is loaded such that the front end points upward, causing the light sensor to aim high and not detect headlamps and taillamps.

Driving on winding or hilly roads.

The IntelliBeam system may need to be disabled if any of the above conditions exist.

## Exterior Lamps Off Reminder

A warning chime sounds if the driver door is opened while the ignition is off and the exterior lamps are on.

Headlamp High/ Low-Beam Changer 3 : Push the turn signal lever away from you and release, to turn the high beams on. To return to low beams, push the lever again or pull it toward you and release.

This indicator light turns on in the instrument cluster when the high-beam headlamps are on.

## Flash-to-Pass

To flash the high beams, pull the turn signal lever toward you, and release.

## Daytime Running Lamps (DRL)

DRL can make it easier for others to see the front of your vehicle during the day. Fully functional DRL are required on all vehicles first sold in Canada.

The DRL system comes on in daylight when the following conditions are met:

The ignition is on.

The exterior lamp control is in AUTO, if equipped.

The light sensor determines it is daytime.

The vehicle is not in P (Park).

When the DRL are on, the taillamps, sidemarker lamps, instrument panel lights, and other lamps will not be on.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Lighting

The DRL turn off when the headlamps are turned to O or (, or when the ignition is off. For vehicles first sold in Canada, the DRL can only be turned off when the vehicle is parked.

## Automatic Headlamp System

The headlamps come on automatically when the exterior lamp control is set to AUTO and it is dark enough outside.

There is a light sensor on top of the instrument panel. Do not cover the sensor, otherwise the headlamps will come on when they are not needed.

The system may also turn on the headlamps when driving through a parking garage or tunnel.

When it is bright enough outside, the headlamps will turn off or may change to Daytime Running Lamps (DRL).

The automatic headlamp system turns off when the exterior lamp control is turned to O or the ignition is off.

## Lights On with Wipers

If the windshield wipers are activated in daylight with the engine on, and the exterior lamp control is in AUTO, the headlamps, parking lamps, and other exterior lamps come on. The transition time for the lamps coming on varies based on wiper speed. When the wipers are

## Hazard Warning Flashers

With Stop/Start Disable Button Shown. Without Similar | : Press this button to make the front and rear turn signal lamps flash on and off. Press again to turn the flashers off.

The hazard warning flashers turn on automatically if the airbags deploy.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Keys, Doors, and Windows

Key Access

To access a vehicle with a weak transmitter battery, see Door Locks 0 17.

Programming Transmitters to the Vehicle

Only RKE transmitters programmed to the vehicle will work. If a transmitter is lost or stolen, a replacement can be purchased and programmed through your dealer.

The vehicle can be reprogrammed so that lost or stolen transmitters no longer work. Any remaining transmitters will need to be reprogrammed. Each vehicle can have up to eight transmitters matched to it.

Programming with Recognized Transmitters

A new transmitter can be programmed to the vehicle when there are two recognized transmitters. To program, the vehicle must be off and all of the

Place the two recognized transmitters in the cupholder.

Remove the key lock cylinder cap on the driver door handle.

See Door Locks 0 17. Insert the vehicle key of the new transmitter into the key lock cylinder on the outside of the driver door and turn the key counterclockwise five times within 10 seconds.

The DIC displays READY FOR REMOTE #2, 3, 4 or 5.

Place the first new transmitter into the transmitter pocket with the buttons facing the rear of the vehicle. The transmitter pocket is inside the center console storage area.

Press ENGINE START/STOP.

When the transmitter is learned, the DIC will show that it is ready to program the next transmitter.

Remove the transmitter from the transmitter pocket and press K or Q.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Lighting

Turn and Lane-Change Signals

Move the lever all the way up or down to signal a turn.

An arrow on the instrument cluster flashes in the direction of the turn or lane change.

Raise or lower the lever until the arrow starts to flash to signal a lane change. Hold it there until the lane change is completed. If the lever is briefly pressed and released, the turn signal flashes three times.

The turn and lane-change signal can be turned off manually by moving the lever back to its original position.

If after signaling a turn or lane change, the arrow flashes rapidly or does not come on, a signal bulb may be burned out.

Replace any burned out bulbs. If a bulb is not burned out, check the fuse. See Fuses and Circuit Breakers 0 242.

## Interior Lighting

### Instrument Panel Illumination Control

The brightness of the instrument cluster display, infotainment display and controls, steering wheel controls, and all other illuminated controls, as well as feature status indicators, can be adjusted.

The knob for this feature is on the instrument panel beside the steering column.

Push the knob in all the way until it extends out and then turn the knob clockwise or counterclockwise to brighten or dim the lights. Push the knob back in when finished.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Lighting

### Courtesy Lamps

The courtesy lamps come on when any door is opened unless the dome lamp override is activated. To deactivate the dome lamp override, press j OFF and the indicator light on the button will turn off.

### Dome Lamps

#### Dome Lamp Controls

##### Center Dome Lamp

The dome lamp controls are in the overhead console.

To operate, press the following buttons:

+ ON/OFF : Press to turn the dome lamps on manually. j OFF : Press to turn off the dome lamps when a door is open.

An indicator light on the button will turn on when the dome lamp override is activated. Press j OFF again to deactivate this feature

### Reading Lamps

There may be front and rear reading lamps.

If equipped, the front reading lamps are in the overhead console.

Press the lamp lenses to turn the reading lamps on or off.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Lighting

If equipped, the rear reading lamps are in the headliner.

Press the button near each lamp to turn reading lamps on or off.

## Lighting Features

### Entry Lighting

Some exterior lamps and most of the interior lamps turn on briefly at night or in areas with limited lighting when the Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) transmitter K button is pressed. See Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System Operation 0 8. After about 30 seconds the exterior lamps turn off, then the dome lamps and remaining interior lamps dim to off.

Entry lighting can be disabled manually by turning the ignition on or to ACC/ACCESSORY, or by pressing Q on the RKE transmitter.

This feature can be changed. See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

### Exit Lighting

Some exterior lamps and interior lights come on at night, or in areas with limited lighting, when the driver door is opened after the ignition is turned off. The dome lamp comes on after the ignition is turned off.

The exterior lamps and dome lamp remain on for a set amount of time, then automatically turn off.

The exterior lamps turn off immediately by turning the exterior lamp control off.

This feature can be changed. See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

### Battery Load Management

The vehicle has Electric Power Management (EPM) that estimates the battery's temperature and state of charge. It then adjusts the voltage for best performance and extended life of the battery.

When the battery's state of charge is low, the voltage is raised slightly to quickly bring the charge back up.

When the state of charge is high, the voltage is lowered slightly to prevent overcharging. If the vehicle has a voltmeter gauge or a voltage display on the Driver Information Center (DIC), you may see the

## Lighting

The battery can be discharged at idle if the electrical loads are very high. This is true for all vehicles.

This is because the generator (alternator) may not be spinning fast enough at idle to produce all of the power needed for very high electrical loads.

A high electrical load occurs when several of the following are on, such as: headlamps, high beams, rear window defogger, climate control fan at high speed, heated seats, engine cooling fans, trailer loads, and loads plugged into accessory power outlets.

EPM works to prevent excessive discharge of the battery. It does this by balancing the generator's output and the vehicle's electrical needs.

It can increase engine idle speed to generate more power whenever needed. It can temporarily reduce the power demands of some accessories.

Normally, these actions occur in steps or levels, without being noticeable. In rare cases at the highest levels of corrective action, this action may be noticeable to the driver. If so, a DIC message might be displayed and it is recommended that the driver reduce the electrical loads as much as possible.

## Battery Power Protection

The battery saver feature is designed to protect the vehicle's battery.

If some interior lamps are left on and the ignition is turned off, the battery rundown protection system automatically turns the lamp off after some time.

## Exterior Lighting Battery Saver

The exterior lamps turn off about 10 minutes after the ignition is turned off, if the parking lamps or headlamps have been manually left on. This protects against draining the battery. To restart the 10-minute

To keep the lamps on for more than 10 minutes, the ignition must be on or in ACC/ACCESSORY.

## Infotainment System

### Infotainment System

Introduction Infotainment . . . . . 133

### Introduction

### Infotainment



See the infotainment manual for information on the radio, audio players, phone, navigation system, and voice or speech recognition.

It also includes information on settings.

### Active Noise Cancellation (ANC)

If equipped, ANC reduces engine noise in the vehicle's interior. ANC requires the factory-installed audio system, radio, speakers, amplifier (if equipped), induction system, and exhaust system to work properly.

Deactivation is required by your dealer if related aftermarket equipment is installed.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Climate Controls

**Air Delivery Mode Controls** : Press the air delivery mode buttons to change the direction of the airflow. The indicator light in the selected button will turn on. The current mode appears in the display screen.

To change the current mode, select one or more of the following modes: **0** : Clears the windows of fog or moisture. Air is directed to the windshield. **{** : Air is directed to the instrument panel outlets. **z** : Air is directed to the floor outlets.

**0 MAX** : Air is directed to the windshield and the fan runs at a higher speed. This mode overrides the previous mode selected and clears fog or frost from the windshield more quickly. When the button is pressed again, the system returns to the previous mode setting and fan speed. The current mode setting and fan speed appear in the display screen.

For best results, clear all snow and ice from the windshield before defrosting.

**A/C** : Press to turn the air conditioning system on or off. This status appears in the display screen. If the fan control is turned off or the outside temperature falls below freezing, the air conditioner will not run.

**+** : Press to turn on recirculation.

An indicator light comes on and the status appears in the display screen. Air is recirculated to quickly cool the inside of the vehicle or to reduce the entry of outside air and odors.

**Ionizer** : If equipped, this feature helps to clean the air inside the vehicle and remove contaminants such as pollen, odors, and dust.

If the climate control system is on and the ionizer is enabled, the ionizer status indicator will be lit on the climate control display. To turn the ionizer on or off, see "Climate and Air Quality" under Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

Rear Window Defogger K : Press to turn the rear window defogger on or off. An indicator light on the button comes on to show that the rear window defogger is on. The defogger turns off when the ignition is turned to off or to ACC/ ACCESSORY.

The upper lines on the rear window are antenna grids and are not intended to defrost the glass.

The rear window defogger can be set to automatic operation. See "Climate and Air Quality" under Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

When Auto Rear Defog is selected, the rear window defogger turns on automatically when the interior temperature is cold and the outside temperature is about 7 °C (44 °F) and below. The auto rear defogger turns off automatically.

If the vehicle is equipped with heated outside mirrors, they turn on when the rear window defogger button is on and help to clear fog or frost from the surface of the mirror.

See Heated Mirrors 0 27.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Climate Controls

### Caution

Do not try to clear frost or other material from the inside of the front windshield and rear window with a razor blade or anything else that is sharp. This may damage the rear window defogger grid and affect the radio's ability to pick up stations clearly. The repairs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

Driver and Passenger Heated Seats : If equipped, press L or M to heat the driver or passenger seat.

See Heated and Ventilated Front Seats 0 41.

Remote Start Climate Control Operation : If equipped with remote start, the climate control system may run when the vehicle is started remotely. The system will determine the best mode and temperature setting for operation. Once the vehicle is started with the Engine Start/Stop button, the climate control

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Climate Controls

### Dual Automatic Climate Control System

The heating, cooling, and ventilation for the vehicle can be controlled with this system.

### Driver and Passenger Ventilated Seats (If Equipped)

### Driver and Passenger Temperature Controls

MAX Defrost

Air Delivery Mode Controls

A/C (Air Conditioning)

Driver and Passenger Heated Seats (If Equipped)

SYNC

AUTO (Automatic Operation)

Fan Controls

Power (On/Off)

Recirculation

Rear Window Defogger

Climate Control Display

Driver and Passenger Temperature Settings

Fan Control

Driver and Passenger Temperature Controls

Sync (Synchronized Temperature)

Recirculation

Air Delivery Mode Controls

Auto (Automatic Operation)

A/C (Air Conditioning)

On/Off (Power)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Climate Controls

The fan, air delivery mode, air conditioning, driver and passenger temperatures, and Sync settings can be controlled by touching CLIMATE on the infotainment Home Page or the climate button in the climate control display application tray. A selection can then be made on the front climate control page displayed. See the infotainment manual.

Climate Control Status Display

The climate control status display appears briefly when the center stack climate controls are adjusted.

Automatic Operation

The system automatically controls the fan speed, air delivery, air conditioning, and recirculation in order to heat or cool the vehicle to the desired temperature.

When AUTO is lit, all four functions operate automatically. Each function can also be manually set and the selected setting is displayed.

Functions not manually set will continue to be automatically controlled, even if the AUTO indicator is not lit.

For automatic operation:

Press AUTO.

Set the temperature. Allow the system time to stabilize. Adjust the temperature as needed for best comfort.

To improve fuel efficiency and to cool the vehicle faster with A/C on, the system will automatically turn on recirculation in warm weather. The recirculation light will not be lit.

Press @ to manually select recirculation and the indicator light will turn on. Press it again to select outside air and the indicator light will turn off.

Driver and Passenger Temperature Controls : The temperature can be adjusted separately for the driver and the passenger. Turn the knob clockwise or counterclockwise to increase or decrease the driver or passenger temperature setting.

SYNC : Press to link the passenger temperature settings to the driver setting. The SYNC indicator light will turn on. When the passenger settings are adjusted, the SYNC indicator light turns off.

Manual Operation O : Press to turn the fan off or on.

If on is selected, or any other button is pressed or knob turned, the climate control system will turn on and return to delivering airflow as set. The temperature control and air delivery mode can still be adjusted.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Keys, Doors, and Windows

To program additional transmitters, repeat Steps 3–5 for each new transmitter.

When all additional transmitters are programmed, press and hold ENGINE START/STOP for 12 seconds to exit programming mode.

Put the key back into the transmitter.

Replace the key lock cylinder cap. See Door Locks 0 17.

Programming without Recognized Transmitters

If two currently recognized transmitters are not available, follow this procedure to program up to eight transmitters. This feature is not available in Canada. This procedure will take approximately

30 minutes to complete. The vehicle must be off and all of the transmitters to be programmed must be with you.

Remove the key lock cylinder cap on the driver door handle.

See Door Locks 0 17. Insert

The DIC displays REMOTE LEARN PENDING.

## **PLEASE WAIT.**

Wait for 10 minutes until the DIC displays PRESS ENGINE START BUTTON TO LEARN and then press ENGINE START/STOP.

The DIC will again display REMOTE LEARN PENDING.

PLEASE WAIT.

Repeat Step 2 two additional times. After the third time, all previously known transmitters will no longer work with the vehicle. Remaining transmitters can be relearned during the next steps.

The DIC should now display READY FOR REMOTE # 1.

Place the new transmitter into the transmitter pocket with the buttons facing toward the rear of the vehicle. The transmitter pocket is inside the center console storage area.

Press ENGINE START/STOP.

When the transmitter is learned, the DIC will show that it is ready to program the next transmitter.

Remove the transmitter from the transmitter pocket and press K or Q.

To program additional transmitters, repeat Steps 4–6.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Climate Controls

^ : Press the large fan symbol to increase the fan speed. Press the small fan symbol to decrease the fan speed. The fan speed setting appears on the main display. When the fan speed is decreased completely, the fan turns off.

Pressing either button cancels automatic fan control and the fan is controlled manually. Press AUTO to return to automatic operation.

Air Delivery Mode Controls : Press X, Y, or [ to change the direction of the airflow. Any combination of the three buttons can be selected. The indicator light in the button will turn on. The current mode appears in the display screen. Pressing any button cancels automatic air delivery control and the direction of the airflow is controlled manually. Press AUTO to return to automatic operation.

To change the current mode, select one or more of the following modes: X : Air is directed to the windshield.

Y : Air is directed to the instrument panel outlets. [ : Air is directed to the floor outlets.

0 MAX : Air is directed to the windshield. the fan runs at a higher speed. and the temperature of the air is increased if not already at maximum. This mode overrides the previous mode selected and clears fog or frost from the windshield more quickly. When the button is pressed again. the system returns to the previous mode setting and fan speed.

For best results. clear all snow and ice from the windshield before defrosting.

A/C : Press to turn the air conditioning system on or off. If the fan control is turned off or the outside temperature falls below freezing. the air conditioner will not run.

Pressing this button cancels automatic air conditioning and turns off the air conditioner. Press AUTO to return to automatic operation and

If selected during cool or cold weather. the windshield and windows may fog. Turn off recirculation to help clear the windshield and windows.

Auto Defog : The climate control system may have a sensor to automatically detect high humidity inside the vehicle. When high humidity is detected. the climate control system may adjust to outside air supply and turn on the air conditioner. The fan speed may slightly increase to help prevent fogging. If the climate control

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Climate Controls

To turn Auto Defog off or on. see “Climate and Air Quality” under Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

Rear Window Defogger K : Press to turn the rear window defogger on or off. An indicator light on the button comes on to show that the rear window defogger is on. The rear window defogger only works when the ignition is on. The defogger turns off when the ignition is turned off or to ACC/ ACCESSORY.

The upper lines on the rear window are antenna grids and are not intended to defrost the glass.

The rear window defogger can be set to automatic operation. See “Climate and Air Quality” under Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

When Auto Rear Defog is selected. the rear window defogger turns on automatically when the interior temperature is cold and the outside

If equipped with heated outside mirrors. they turn on when the rear window defogger button is on and help to clear fog or frost from the surface of the mirror. See Heated Mirrors 0 27.

## Caution

Do not try to clear frost or other material from the inside of the front windshield and rear window with a razor blade or anything else that is sharp. This may damage the rear window defogger grid

and affect the radio's ability to pick up stations clearly. The repairs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

Driver and Passenger Heated and Ventilated Seats : If equipped. press L or M to heat the driver or passenger seat.

If equipped. press { or C to ventilate the driver or passenger seat. See Heated and Ventilated Front Seats 0 41.

Remote Start Climate Control Operation : If equipped with remote start. the climate control system may run when the vehicle is started remotely. The system will determine the best mode and temperature setting for operation. Once the vehicle is started with the Engine Start/Stop button. the climate control system will begin to operate at the last customer selected operating mode and temperature. If equipped with heated or ventilated seats. they may come on during a remote start.

See Remote Vehicle Start 0 16 and Heated and Ventilated Front Seats 0 41.

### Sensor

The solar sensor. on top of the instrument panel near the windshield. monitors the solar heat.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Climate Controls

The climate control system uses the sensor information to adjust the temperature. fan speed. recirculation. and air delivery mode for best comfort.

Do not cover the sensor; otherwise the automatic climate control system may not work properly.

### Air Vents

Use the louvers on the air vents to change the direction of the airflow.

On the center air vents. move the sliding knob down to close off airflow.

On the side air vents. move the sliding knob to the outboard side of the vehicle to close off the airflow.

### Operation Tips

Keep all outlets open whenever possible for best system performance.

Keep the path under all seats clear of objects to help circulate the air inside the vehicle more effectively.

Clear snow off the hood to improve visibility and help decrease moisture drawn into the vehicle. which may improve long term system performance.

Use of non-GM approved hood deflectors can adversely affect the performance of the system.

Do not attach any devices to the air vent slats; this restricts airflow and may cause damage to the air vents.

## Climate Controls

### Maintenance

#### Passenger Compartment Air Filter

The filter removes dust, pollen, and other airborne irritants from outside air that is pulled into the vehicle.

The filter should be replaced as part of routine scheduled maintenance; see Maintenance Schedule 0 304.

To find out what type of filter to use, see Maintenance Replacement Parts 0 314.

Open the glove box completely.

Disconnect the glove box door dampener arm from the glove box door assembly.

Squeeze both sides of the glove box door to open beyond the stops.

Release the retainer clips holding the service door. Open the service door and remove the old filter.

Install the new air filter.

Close the service door and retainer clips.

Reverse the steps to reinstall the glove box.

See your dealer if additional assistance is needed.

### Service

All vehicles have a label underhood that identifies the refrigerant used in the vehicle. The refrigerant system should only be serviced by trained and certified technicians. The air conditioning evaporator should never be repaired or replaced by one from a salvage vehicle.

It should only be replaced by a new evaporator to ensure proper and safe operation.

During service, all refrigerants should be reclaimed with proper equipment. Venting refrigerants directly to the atmosphere is harmful to the environment and may also create unsafe conditions based on inhalation, combustion, frostbite, or other health-based concerns.

The air conditioning system requires periodic maintenance. See Maintenance Schedule 0 304.

## Driving and Operating

Do not use a phone in demanding driving situations.

Use a hands-free method to place or receive necessary phone calls.

Watch the road. Do not read, take notes, or look up information on phones or other electronic devices.

Designate a front seat passenger to handle potential distractions.

Become familiar with vehicle features before driving, such as programming favorite radio stations and adjusting climate control and seat settings.

Program all trip information into any navigation device prior to driving.

Wait until the vehicle is parked to retrieve items that have fallen to the floor.

Stop or park the vehicle to tend to children.

Keep pets in an appropriate carrier or restraint.

Avoid stressful conversations while driving, whether with a passenger or on a cell phone. { Warning

Taking your eyes off the road too long or too often could cause a crash resulting in injury or death.

Focus your attention on driving.

Refer to the infotainment manual for more information on using that system and the navigation system, if equipped, including pairing and using a cell phone.

### Defensive Driving

Defensive driving means “always expect the unexpected.” The first step in driving defensively is to wear the seat belt. See Seat Belts 0 45.

Assume that other road users (pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers) are going to be careless and make mistakes.

Anticipate what they may do and be ready.

Allow enough following distance between you and the driver in front of you.

Focus on the task of driving.

### Drunk Driving

Death and injury associated with drinking and driving is a global tragedy. { Warning

Drinking and then driving is very dangerous. Your reflexes, perceptions, attentiveness, and judgment can be affected by even a small amount of alcohol. You can have a serious — or even fatal — collision if you drive after drinking.

Do not drink and drive or ride with a driver who has been drinking.

Ride home in a cab; or if you are with a group, designate a driver who will not drink.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Driving and Operating

## Control of a Vehicle

Braking, steering, and accelerating are important factors in helping to control a vehicle while driving.

### Braking

Braking action involves perception time and reaction time. Deciding to push the brake pedal is perception time. Actually doing it is reaction time.

Average driver reaction time is about three-quarters of a second. In that time, a vehicle moving at 100 km/h (60 mph) travels 20 m (66 ft), which could be a lot of distance in an emergency.

Helpful braking tips to keep in mind include:

Keep enough distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.

Avoid needless heavy braking.

Keep pace with traffic.

If the engine ever stops while the vehicle is being driven, brake normally but do not pump the brakes. Doing so could make the pedal harder to push down. If the engine stops, there will be some power brake assist but it will be used when the brake is applied.

Once the power assist is used up, it can take longer to stop and the brake pedal will be harder to push.

### Steering

#### Caution

To avoid damage to the steering system, do not drive over curbs, parking barriers, or similar objects at speeds greater than 3 km/h (1 mph). Use care when driving over other objects such as lane dividers and speed bumps.

Damage caused by misuse of the vehicle is not covered by the vehicle warranty.

#### Variable Effort Steering

The vehicle has a steering system that varies the amount of effort required to steer the vehicle in relation to the speed of the vehicle.

The amount of steering effort required is less at slower speeds to make the vehicle more maneuverable and easier to park. At faster speeds, the steering effort increases to provide a sport-like feel to the steering. This provides maximum control and stability.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Driving and Operating

#### Electric Power Steering

The vehicle has electric power steering. It does not have power steering fluid. Regular maintenance is not required.

If power steering assist is lost due to a system malfunction, the vehicle can be steered, but may require increased effort.

If the steering wheel is turned until it reaches the end of its travel and is held against that position for an extended period of time, power steering assist may be reduced.

If the steering assist is used for an extended period of time while the vehicle is not moving, power assist may be reduced.

Normal use of the power steering assist should return when the system cools down.

See your dealer if there is a problem.

### Curve Tips

Take curves at a reasonable speed.

Reduce speed before entering a curve.

Maintain a reasonable steady speed through the curve.

Wait until the vehicle is out of the curve before accelerating gently into the straightaway.

### Steering in Emergencies

There are some situations when steering around a problem may be more effective than braking.

Holding both sides of the steering wheel allows you to turn 180 degrees without removing a hand.

Antilock Brake System (ABS) allows steering while braking.

### Off-Road Recovery

The vehicle's right wheels can drop off the edge of a road onto the shoulder while driving. Follow these tips:

Ease off the accelerator and then, if there is nothing in the way, steer the vehicle so that it straddles the edge of the pavement.

Turn the steering wheel about one-eighth of a turn, until the right front tire contacts the pavement edge.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Driving and Operating

Turn the steering wheel to go straight down the roadway.

### Loss of Control

### Skidding



There are three types of skids that correspond to the vehicle's three control systems:

Braking Skid — wheels are not rolling.

Steering or Cornering Skid — too much speed or steering in a curve causes tires to slip and lose cornering force.

Acceleration Skid — too much throttle causes the driving wheels to spin.

Defensive drivers avoid most skids by taking reasonable care suited to existing conditions, and by not overdriving those conditions. But skids are always possible.

If the vehicle starts to slide, follow these suggestions:

Ease your foot off the accelerator pedal and steer the way you want the vehicle to go.

The vehicle may straighten out.

Be ready for a second skid if it occurs.

Slow down and adjust your driving according to weather conditions. Stopping distance can be longer and vehicle control can be affected when traction is reduced by water, snow, ice, gravel, or other material on the road. Learn to recognize warning clues — such as enough water, ice, or packed snow on the road to make a mirrored surface — and slow down when you have any doubt.

Try to avoid sudden steering, acceleration, or braking, including reducing vehicle speed by shifting to a lower gear. Any sudden changes could cause the tires to slide.

Remember: Antilock brakes help avoid only the braking skid.

#### Driving on Wet Roads

Rain and wet roads can reduce vehicle traction and affect your ability to stop and accelerate.

Always drive slower in these types of driving conditions and avoid driving through large puddles and deep-standing or flowing water. { Warning

Wet brakes can cause crashes.

They might not work as well in a quick stop and could cause pulling to one side. You could lose control of the vehicle.

After driving through a large puddle of water or a car/vehicle wash, lightly apply the brake pedal until the brakes work normally.

Flowing or rushing water creates strong forces. Driving through flowing water could cause the vehicle to be carried away. If this happens, you and other vehicle (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Keys, Doors, and Windows

When all additional transmitters are programmed, press and hold ENGINE START/STOP for 12 seconds to exit programming mode.

Return the key back into the transmitter.

Replace the key lock cylinder cap. See Door Locks 0 17.

#### Starting the Vehicle with a Low Transmitter Battery

While trying to start the vehicle, if the transmitter battery is weak or if there is interference with the signal, the DIC may display NO REMOTE DETECTED or NO REMOTE KEY WAS DETECTED PLACE KEY IN TRANSMITTER POCKET THEN START YOUR VEHICLE. The DIC may also display REPLACE BATTERY IN REMOTE KEY.

To start the vehicle:

Open the center console and place the transmitter in the transmitter pocket with the buttons facing the rear of the vehicle.

With the vehicle in P (Park) or N (Neutral), press the brake pedal and press ENGINE START/STOP. See Starting the Engine 0 157.

Replace the transmitter battery as soon as possible.

#### Battery Replacement { Warning

Never allow children to play with the RKE transmitter. The transmitter contains a small battery, which can be a choking hazard. If swallowed, internal burns can occur, resulting in severe injury or death. Seek medical attention immediately if a battery is swallowed.

#### { Warning

To avoid personal injury, do not touch metal surfaces on the RKE transmitter when it has been exposed to extreme heat. These surfaces can be hot to the touch at temperatures above 59 °C (138 °F).

#### Caution

When replacing the battery, do not touch any of the circuitry on the transmitter. Static from your body could damage the transmitter.

#### Caution

Always replace the battery with the correct type. Replacing the battery with an incorrect type could potentially create a risk of (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

#### Warning (Continued)

#### Hydroplaning

Hydroplaning is dangerous. Water can build up under the vehicle's tires so they actually ride on the water. This can happen if the road is wet enough and you are going fast enough. When the vehicle is hydroplaning, it has little or no contact with the road.

There is no hard and fast rule about hydroplaning. The best advice is to slow down when the road is wet.

#### Other Rainy Weather Tips

Besides slowing down, other wet weather driving tips include:

Allow extra following distance.

Pass with caution.

Keep windshield wiper equipment in good shape.

Keep the windshield washer fluid reservoir filled.

Have good tires with proper tread depth. See Tires 0 250.

Turn off cruise control.

#### Hill and Mountain Roads

Driving on steep hills or through mountains is different than driving on flat or rolling terrain. Tips include:

Keep the vehicle serviced and in good shape.

Check all fluid levels and brakes, tires, cooling system, and transmission.

Shift to a lower gear when going down steep or long hills. { Warning

Using the brakes to slow the vehicle on a long downhill slope can cause brake overheating. can (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

{ Warning

Coasting downhill in N (Neutral) or with the ignition off is dangerous. This can cause overheating of the brakes and loss of steering assist. Always have the engine running and the vehicle in gear.

Drive at speeds that keep the vehicle in its own lane. Do not swing wide or cross the center line.

Be alert on top of hills; something could be in your lane (e.g. stalled car, crash).

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

Pay attention to special road signs (e.g. falling rocks area, winding roads, long grades, passing or no-passing zones) and take appropriate action.

## Winter Driving

### Driving on Snow or Ice

Snow or ice between the tires and the road creates less traction or grip. so drive carefully. Wet ice can occur at about 0 °C (32 °F) when freezing rain begins to fall. Avoid driving on wet ice or in freezing rain until roads can be treated.

### For Slippery Road Driving:

Accelerate gently. Accelerating too quickly causes the wheels to spin and makes the surface under the tires slick.

Turn on Traction Control. See Traction Control/Electronic Stability Control 0 170.

The Antilock Brake System (ABS) improves vehicle stability during hard stops. but the brakes should be applied sooner

### Blizzard Conditions

Stop the vehicle in a safe place and signal for help. Stay with the vehicle unless there is help nearby.

If possible. use Roadside Assistance. See Roadside Assistance Program 0 323. To get help and keep everyone in the vehicle safe:

Turn on the hazard warning flashers.

Tie a red cloth to an outside mirror.

### { Warning

Snow can trap engine exhaust under the vehicle. This may cause exhaust gases to get inside. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide (CO). which cannot be seen or smelled. It can cause unconsciousness and even death.

If the vehicle is stuck in snow:

Clear snow from the base of the vehicle. especially any blocking the exhaust pipe.

Open a window about 5 cm (2 in) on the vehicle side that is away from the wind. to bring in fresh air.

Fully open the air outlets on or under the instrument panel.

Adjust the climate control system to circulate the air inside the vehicle and set (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Driving and Operating

### Warning (Continued)

For more information about CO. see Engine Exhaust 0 163.

To save fuel, run the engine for short periods to warm the vehicle and then shut the engine off and partially close the window. Moving about to keep warm also helps.

If it takes time for help to arrive, when running the engine, push the accelerator pedal slightly so the engine runs faster than the idle speed. This keeps the battery charged to restart the vehicle and to signal for help with the headlamps.

Do this as little as possible, to save fuel.

#### If the Vehicle Is Stuck

Slowly and cautiously spin the wheels to free the vehicle when stuck in sand, mud, ice, or snow.

If stuck too severely for the traction system to free the vehicle, turn the traction system off and use the rocking method. See Traction Control/Electronic Stability Control 0 170. { Warning

If the vehicle's tires spin at high speed, they can explode, and you or others could be injured. The vehicle can overheat, causing an engine compartment fire or other damage. Spin the wheels as little as possible and avoid going above 56 km/h (35 mph).

#### Rocking the Vehicle to Get it Out

Turn the steering wheel left and right to clear the area around the front wheels. Turn off any traction system. Shift back and forth between R (Reverse) and a low forward gear, spinning the wheels as little as possible. To prevent transmission wear, wait until the

#### Vehicle Load Limits

It is very important to know how much weight the vehicle can carry. This weight is called the vehicle capacity weight and includes the weight of all occupants, cargo, and all nonfactory-installed options.

Two labels on the vehicle may show how much weight it may properly carry: the Tire and Loading Information label and the Certification label.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

##### { Warning

Do not load the vehicle any heavier than the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR), or either the maximum front or rear Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR).

This can cause systems to break and change the way the vehicle handles. This could cause loss of control and a crash. Overloading can also reduce stopping distance, damage the tires, and shorten the life of the vehicle.

#### Tire and Loading Information Label

##### Label Example

A vehicle-specific Tire and Loading Information label is attached to the vehicle's center pillar (B-pillar). The Tire and Loading Information label shows the number of occupant seating positions (1), and the maximum vehicle capacity weight (2) in kilograms and pounds.

The Tire and Loading Information label also shows the tire size of the original

There is also important loading information on the Certification label. It may show the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) and the Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) for the front and rear axle. See "Certification Label" later in this section.

"Steps for Determining Correct Load Limit–

1. Locate the statement "The combined weight of occupants and cargo should never exceed XXX kg or XXX lbs." on your vehicle's placard.

2. Determine the combined weight of the driver and passengers that will be riding in your vehicle.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

3. Subtract the combined weight of the driver and passengers from XXX kg or XXX lbs.

4. The resulting figure equals the available amount of cargo and luggage load capacity. For example, if the "XXX" amount equals 1400 lbs. and there will be five 150 lb passengers in your vehicle, the amount of available cargo and luggage load capacity is 650 lbs. (1400-750 (5 x 150) = 650 lbs.)

5. Determine the combined weight of luggage and cargo being loaded on the vehicle.

That weight may not safely exceed the available cargo and luggage load capacity calculated in Step 4.

6. If your vehicle will be towing a trailer, load from your trailer will be transferred to

See Trailer Towing 0 206 for important information on towing a trailer, towing safety rules, and trailering tips.

Example 1

1. Vehicle Capacity Weight for Example 1 = 453 kg (1,000 lbs).

2. Subtract Occupant Weight @ 68 kg (150 lbs) × 2 = 136 kg (300 lbs).

3. Available Occupant and Cargo Weight = 317 kg (700 lbs).

Example 2

1. Vehicle Capacity Weight for Example 2 = 453 kg (1,000 lbs).

2. Subtract Occupant Weight @ 68 kg (150 lbs) × 5 = 340 kg (750 lbs).

3. Available Cargo Weight = 113 kg (250 lbs).

## Driving and Operating

### Example 3

1. Vehicle Capacity Weight for Example 3 = 453 kg (1.00 lbs).
2. Subtract Occupant Weight @ 91 kg (200 lbs) × 5 = 453 kg (1.00 lbs).
3. Available Cargo Weight = 0 kg (0 lbs).

Refer to the vehicle's Tire and Loading Information label for specific information about the vehicle's capacity weight and seating positions. The combined

## Certification Label

### Label Example

A vehicle-specific Certification label is attached to the vehicle's center pillar (B-pillar). The label may show the gross weight capacity of the vehicle, called the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). The GVWR includes the weight of the vehicle, all occupants, fuel, and cargo.

### { Warning

Things inside the vehicle can strike and injure people in a sudden stop or turn, or in a crash.

Put things in the cargo area of the vehicle. In the cargo area, put them as far forward as possible.

Try to spread the weight evenly.

Never stack heavier things, like suitcases, inside the vehicle so that some of them are above the tops of the seats.

Do not leave an unsecured child restraint in the vehicle.

Secure loose items in the vehicle. (Continued)

## Driving and Operating

### Warning (Continued)

Do not leave a seat folded down unless needed.

## Starting and Operating

### New Vehicle Break-In

### Caution

The vehicle does not need an elaborate break-in. But it will perform better in the long run if you follow these guidelines:

Do not drive at any one constant speed. fast or slow. for the first 800 km (500 mi).

Do not make full-throttle starts. Avoid downshifting to brake or slow the vehicle.

Avoid making hard stops for the first 300 km (200 mi) or so. During this time the new brake linings are not yet broken in. Hard stops with new linings can mean premature wear and earlier replacement. Follow this (Continued)

Caution (Continued)

Following break-in. engine speed and load can be gradually increased.

Ignition Positions

The vehicle has an electronic keyless ignition with pushbutton start.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

The RKE transmitter must be in the vehicle for the system to operate.

If the pushbutton start is not working. the vehicle may be near a strong radio antenna signal causing interference to the Keyless Access system. See Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System Operation 0 8.

To shift out of P (Park). the ignition must be on or in Service Mode. and the brake pedal must be applied.

Stopping the Engine/LOCK/ OFF (No Indicator Lights) : When the vehicle is stopped. press ENGINE START/STOP once to turn the engine off.

If the vehicle is in P (Park). the ignition will turn off. and Retained Accessory Power (RAP) will remain active. See Retained Accessory Power (RAP) 0 160.

If the vehicle is not in P (Park). the ignition will return to ACC/ ACCESSORY and display the message SHIFT TO PARK in the Driver Information Center (DIC).

When the vehicle is shifted into P (Park). the ignition will turn off.

Do not turn the engine off when the vehicle is moving. This will cause a loss of power assist in the brake and steering systems and disable the airbags.

If the vehicle must be shut off in an emergency:

Brake using a firm and steady pressure. Do not pump the brakes repeatedly. This may deplete power assist. requiring increased brake pedal force.

Shift the vehicle to N (Neutral).

This can be done while the vehicle is moving. After shifting to N (Neutral). firmly apply the brakes and steer the vehicle to a safe location.

Come to a complete stop. shift to P (Park). and turn the ignition off. The shift lever must be in P (Park) to turn the ignition off.

Set the parking brake. See Electric Parking Brake 0 168.

{ Warning

Turning off the vehicle while moving may cause loss of power assist in the brake and steering systems and disable the airbags.

While driving. only shut the vehicle off in an emergency.

If the vehicle cannot be pulled over and must be shut off while driving. press and hold ENGINE START/ STOP for longer than two seconds. or press twice in five seconds.

ACC/ACCESSORY (Amber Indicator Light) : This mode allows you to use some electrical accessories when the engine is off.

With the ignition off. pressing the button one time without the brake pedal applied will place the ignition system in ACC/ACCESSORY.

The ignition will switch from ACC/ ACCESSORY to off after five minutes to prevent battery run down.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

ON/RUN/START (Green Indicator Light) : This mode is for driving and starting. With the ignition off. and the brake pedal applied. pressing the button once will turn the ignition on. Once engine cranking begins. release the button. Engine cranking will continue until the engine starts.

See Starting the Engine 0 157. The ignition will then remain on.

Service Mode

This power mode is available for service and diagnostics. and to verify the proper operation of the malfunction indicator lamp as may be required for emission inspection purposes. With the vehicle off. and the brake pedal not applied. pressing and holding the button for more than five seconds will place the vehicle in Service Mode. The instruments and audio systems will operate as they do with the ignition on. but the vehicle will not be able to be driven. The engine will not start in Service Mode. Press the button again to turn the vehicle off.

Starting the Engine

Move the shift lever to P (Park) or N (Neutral). The engine will not start in any other position. To restart the engine when the vehicle is already moving. use N (Neutral) only.

Caution

Do not try to shift to P (Park) if the vehicle is moving. If you do, you could damage the transmission.

Shift to P (Park) only when the vehicle is stopped.

#### Caution

If you add electrical parts or accessories, you could change the way the engine operates. Any resulting damage would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

See Add-On Electrical Equipment 0 210.

#### Starting Procedure

With the Keyless Access system, the RKE transmitter must be in the vehicle. Press ENGINE START/STOP with the brake pedal applied. When the engine begins cranking, let go of the button.

The idle speed will go down as the engine gets warm. Do not race the engine immediately after starting it.

If the RKE transmitter is not in the vehicle, if there is interference, or if the RKE transmitter battery is low, the Driver Information Center (DIC) will display a message. See Driver Information Center (DIC) (Base Level) 0 113 or Driver Information Center (DIC) (Uplevel) 0 116 and Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System Operation 0 8.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

##### Caution

Cranking the engine for long periods of time, by trying to start the engine immediately after cranking has ended, can overheat and damage the cranking motor, and drain the battery. Wait at least 15 seconds between each try, to let the cranking motor cool down.

If the engine does not start after five to 10 seconds, especially in very cold weather (below  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), it could be flooded with too much gasoline. Try pushing the accelerator pedal all the way to the floor and holding it there as you hold ENGINE START/ STOP, for up to a maximum of 15 seconds. Wait at least 15 seconds between each try, to allow the cranking motor to cool down.

When the engine starts, let go of the button and the accelerator. If the vehicle

#### Stop/Start System

If equipped, the Stop/Start system will shut off the engine to help conserve fuel. It has components designed for the increased number of starts. { Warning

The automatic engine Stop/Start feature causes the engine to shut off while the vehicle is still on. Do not exit the vehicle before shifting to P (Park). The vehicle may restart and move unexpectedly.

Always shift to P (Park), and then turn the ignition off before exiting the vehicle.

## Auto Engine Stop/Start

When the brakes are applied and the vehicle is at a complete stop, the engine may turn off. When stopped, the tachometer displays AUTO STOP. See Tachometer 0 99.

When the brake pedal is released or the accelerator pedal is pressed, the engine will restart.

To maintain vehicle performance, other conditions may cause the engine to automatically restart before the brake pedal is released.

Auto Stops may not occur and/or auto restarts may occur because:

The climate control settings require the engine to be running to cool or heat the vehicle interior.

The vehicle battery charge is low.

The vehicle battery has recently been disconnected.

Minimum vehicle speed has not been reached since the last Auto Stop.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Keys, Doors, and Windows

### Caution (Continued)

Replace the battery if the DIC displays REPLACE BATTERY IN REMOTE KEY.

The battery is not rechargeable. To replace the battery:

Press the button on the side of the RKE transmitter near the bottom and pull the key out.

Never pull the key out without pressing the button.

Separate the two halves of the transmitter using a flat tool inserted into the bottom center of the transmitter. Do not use the key slot.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Driving and Operating

The accelerator pedal is pressed.

The engine or transmission is not at the required operating temperature.

The outside temperature is not in the required operating range.

The vehicle is in any gear other than D (Drive).

Tow/Haul Mode or other driver modes have been selected.

The vehicle is on a steep hill or grade.

The driver door has been opened or driver seat belt has been unbuckled.

The hood has been opened.



The Auto Stop has reached the maximum allowed time.

#### Auto Stop Disable Switch

The automatic engine Stop/Start feature can be disabled and enabled by pressing the switch with the h symbol. Auto Stop is enabled each time you start the vehicle.

When h is illuminated, the system is enabled.

#### Engine Heater

The engine heater, if available, can help in cold weather conditions at or below  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) for easier starting and better fuel economy

#### To Use the Engine Heater

Turn off the engine.

Open the hood and unwrap the electrical cord.

The electrical cord is on the passenger side of the engine compartment, between the fender and the air cleaner.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

Plug it into a normal, grounded 110-volt AC outlet. { Warning

Plugging the cord into an ungrounded outlet could cause an electrical shock. Also, the wrong kind of extension cord could overheat and cause a fire. You could be seriously injured. Plug the cord into a properly grounded three-prong 110-volt AC outlet.

If the cord will not reach, use a heavy-duty three-prong extension cord rated for at least 15 amps.

Before starting the engine, be sure to unplug and store the cord as it was before to keep it away from moving engine parts.

The length of time the heater should remain plugged in depends on several factors. Ask a dealer in the area where you will be parking the vehicle for the best advice on this.

#### Retained Accessory Power (RAP)

Some vehicle accessories may be used after the ignition is turned off.

The power windows and sunroof, if equipped, will continue to work for up to 10 minutes or until any door is opened.

The infotainment system will continue to work for 10 minutes, until the driver door is opened, or until the ignition is turned on or placed in ACC/ACCESSORY.

#### Shifting Into Park

Hold the brake pedal down and set the parking brake. See Parking Brake 0 167 and Electric Parking Brake 0 168.

Move the shift lever into P (Park) by holding in the button on the shift lever and pushing the shift lever all the way toward the front of the vehicle.

Leaving the Vehicle with the Engine Running { Warning

It can be dangerous to leave the vehicle with the engine running.

It could overheat and catch fire.

It is dangerous to get out of the vehicle if the shift lever is not fully in P (Park) with the parking brake firmly set. The vehicle can roll.

Do not leave the vehicle when the engine is running. If you have left the engine running, the vehicle can move suddenly. You or others could be injured. To be sure the vehicle will not move, even when you are on fairly level ground, always set the parking brake and move the shift lever to P (Park).

See Shifting Into Park 0 160.

If you have to leave the vehicle with the engine running, be sure the vehicle is in P (Park) and the parking brake is firmly set before you leave it. After you have moved

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

If you can, it means that the shift lever was not fully locked in P (Park).

Torque Lock

Torque lock is when the weight of the vehicle puts too much force on the parking pawl in the transmission. This happens when parking on a hill and shifting the transmission into P (Park) is not done properly, then it is difficult to shift out of P (Park). To prevent torque lock, set the parking brake and then shift into P (Park). To find out how, see "Shifting Into Park" listed previously.

If torque lock does occur, your vehicle may need to be pushed uphill by another vehicle to relieve the parking pawl pressure, so you can shift out of P (Park).

If you are towing a trailer and parking on a hill, see Driving Characteristics and Towing Tips 0 203.

Shifting out of Park

This vehicle is equipped with an electronic shift lock release system.

The shift lock release is designed to prevent movement of the shift lever out of P (Park), unless the ignition is on and the brake pedal is applied.

The shift lock release is always functional except in the case of an uncharged or low voltage (less than 9-volt) battery.

If the vehicle has an uncharged battery or a battery with low voltage. try charging or jump starting the battery. See Jump Starting - North America 0 286.

To shift out of P (Park):

Turn the ignition on or to Service Mode.

Apply the brake pedal.

Press the shift lever button.

Move the shift lever to the desired position.

If still unable to shift out of P (Park):

Fully release the shift lever button.

Hold the brake pedal down and press the shift lever button again.

Move the shift lever to the desired position.

This vehicle may have the Buckle to Drive feature. which may prevent the vehicle from shifting out of P (Park). See Seat Belts 0 45.

If you are still having a problem shifting. see your dealer.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

Parking over Things That Burn

{ Warning

Things that can burn could touch hot exhaust parts under the vehicle and ignite. Do not park over papers. leaves. dry grass. or other things that can burn.

Active Fuel Management

The vehicle's engine may be equipped with Active Fuel Management. which allows the engine to operate on either all of its cylinders. or in reduced cylinder operation. depending on the driving conditions.

When less power is required. such as cruising at a constant vehicle speed. the system will operate in reduced operation mode. allowing the vehicle to achieve better fuel economy. When greater power demands are required. such as accelerating from a stop. passing.

If the vehicle has an Active Fuel Management indicator. see Driver Information Center (DIC) for more information on using this display.

Extended Parking

It is best not to park with the vehicle running. If the vehicle is left running. be sure it will not move and there is adequate ventilation.

See Shifting Into Park 0 160 and Engine Exhaust 0 163.

If the vehicle is left parked and running with the RKE transmitter outside the vehicle. it will continue to run for up to half an hour.

If the vehicle is left parked and running with the RKE transmitter inside the vehicle. it will continue to run for up to an hour.

The vehicle could turn off sooner if it is parked on a hill. due to lack of available fuel.

The timer will reset if the vehicle is taken out of P (Park) while it is running.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

Engine Exhaust

{ Warning

Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide (CO). which cannot be seen or smelled. Exposure to CO can cause unconsciousness and even death.

Exhaust may enter the vehicle if:

The vehicle idles in areas with poor ventilation (parking garages. tunnels. deep snow that may block underbody airflow or tail pipes).

The exhaust smells or sounds strange or different.

The exhaust system leaks due to corrosion or damage.

The vehicle exhaust system has been modified. damaged. or improperly repaired. (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

There are holes or openings in the vehicle body from damage or aftermarket modifications that are not completely sealed.

If unusual fumes are detected or if it is suspected that exhaust is coming into the vehicle:

Drive it only with the windows completely down.

Have the vehicle repaired immediately.

Never park the vehicle with the engine running in an enclosed area such as a garage or a building that has no fresh air ventilation.

Running the Vehicle While Parked

It is better not to park with the engine running.

If the vehicle is left with the engine running. follow the proper steps to be sure the vehicle will not move.

See Shifting Into Park 0 160 and Engine Exhaust 0 163.

If parking on a hill and pulling a trailer. see Driving Characteristics and Towing Tips 0 203.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

Automatic Transmission

P : This position locks the drive wheels. Use P (Park) when starting the engine because the vehicle cannot move easily. { Warning

It is dangerous to get out of the vehicle if the shift lever is not fully in P (Park) with the parking brake firmly set. The vehicle can roll. (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

Do not leave the vehicle when the engine is running. If you have left the engine running, the vehicle can move suddenly. You or others could be injured. To be sure the vehicle will not move, even when you are on fairly level ground, always set the parking brake and move the shift lever to P (Park).

See Shifting Into Park 0 160.

Make sure the shift lever is fully in P (Park) before starting the engine.

The vehicle has an automatic transmission shift lock control system. The brake pedal must be fully applied, then press the shift lever button before shifting from P (Park) while the ignition is on.

If the vehicle will not shift out of P (Park), ease pressure on the shift lever and push the shift lever all the way into P (Park) while maintaining brake application. Then move the shift lever into another gear. See Shifting out of Park 0 161.

R : Use this gear to back up.

Caution

Shifting to R (Reverse) while the vehicle is moving forward could damage the transmission. The repairs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty. Shift to R (Reverse) only after the vehicle is stopped.

To rock the vehicle back and forth to get out of snow, ice, or sand without damaging the transmission, see If the Vehicle Is Stuck 0 151.

N : In this position, the engine does not connect with the wheels. To restart the engine when the vehicle is already moving, use N (Neutral) only. { Warning

Shifting into a drive gear while the engine is running at high speed is dangerous. Unless your foot is (Continued)

## Driving and Operating

### Warning (Continued)

#### Caution

Shifting out of P (Park) or N (Neutral) with the engine running at high speed may damage the transmission. The repairs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty. Be sure the engine is not running at high speed when shifting the vehicle.

D : This position is for normal driving. If more power is needed for passing, press the accelerator pedal down.

L : This position allows you to change gears similar to a manual transmission. If the vehicle has this feature, see Manual Mode 0 165.

#### Caution

A transmission hot message may display if the automatic transmission fluid is too hot.

Driving under this condition can damage the vehicle. Stop and idle the engine to cool the automatic transmission fluid. This message clears when the transmission fluid has cooled sufficiently.

### Operating Modes

The transmission may operate in a lower gear than normal to improve vehicle performance. The engine speed may be higher and there may be an increase in noise during the following conditions:

When climbing a grade.

When driving downhill.

When driving in hot temperatures or at high altitude.

### Manual Mode

#### Electronic Range Select (ERS) Mode

ERS mode allows you to choose the top-gear limit of the transmission and the vehicle's speed while driving downhill or towing a trailer.

The vehicle has an electronic shift position indicator within the instrument cluster. When using the ERS mode a number will display next to the L, indicating the current gear that has been selected.

## Driving and Operating

To use this feature:

Move the shift lever to L (Manual Mode).

Press + (Plus) or – (Minus) on the shift lever to increase or decrease the gear range available.

When you shift from D (Drive) to L (Manual Mode), the transmission will shift to a pre-determined lower gear range. The highest gear available for this pre-determined

While in L (Manual Mode), the transmission will prevent shifting to a lower gear range if the engine speed is too high. You have a brief period of time to slow the vehicle.

If vehicle speed is not reduced within the time allowed, the lower gear range shift will not be completed. You must further slow the vehicle, then press the – (Minus) button to the desired lower gear range.

## Brakes

### Antilock Brake System (ABS)

The Antilock Brake System (ABS) helps prevent a braking skid and maintain steering while braking hard.

ABS performs a system check when the vehicle is first driven.

A momentary motor or clicking noise may be heard while this test is going on, and the brake pedal may move slightly. This is normal.

If there is a problem with ABS, this warning light stays on. See Antilock Brake System (ABS) Warning Light 0 107.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Driving and Operating

ABS does not change the time needed to get a foot on the brake pedal and does not always decrease stopping distance. If you get too close to the vehicle ahead, there will not be enough time to apply the brakes if that vehicle suddenly slows or stops. Always leave enough room ahead to stop, even with ABS.

### Using ABS

Do not pump the brakes. Just hold the brake pedal down firmly.

Hearing or feeling ABS operate is normal.

### Braking in Emergencies

ABS allows steering and braking at the same time. In many emergencies, steering can help even more than braking.

### Parking Brake

To set the manual parking brake, if equipped:

Hold the brake pedal down, then push the parking brake pedal down.

If the ignition is on, the brake system warning light will come on.

See Brake System Warning Light 0 106.

#### Caution

Driving with the parking brake on can overheat the brake system and cause premature wear or damage to brake system parts.

Make sure that the parking brake is fully released and the brake warning light is off before driving.

To release the parking brake, hold the regular brake pedal down, then push down momentarily on the parking brake pedal until you feel the pedal release. Slowly pull your foot up off the parking brake pedal.

If the parking brake is not released when you begin to drive, the brake system warning light will be on and a chime will sound warning you that the parking brake is still on.

If you are towing a trailer and are parking on a hill, see Driving Characteristics and Towing Tips 0 203.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

##### Electric Parking Brake

The vehicle may have an Electric Parking Brake (EPB). The EPB can always be activated, even if the ignition is off. To prevent draining the battery, avoid repeated cycles of the EPB system when the engine is not running. In case of insufficient electrical power, the EPB cannot be applied or released.

The system has a Y, f, or PARK Electric Parking Brake light, and a 8

Service Parking Brake light. See Electric Parking Brake Light 0 106 and Service Electric Parking Brake Light 0 107.

Before leaving the vehicle, check for the Y, f, or PARK light to ensure that the parking brake is applied.

##### EPB Apply

To apply the EPB:

Be sure the vehicle is at a complete stop.

Lift up the EPB switch momentarily.

The Y, f, or PARK light will flash and then stay on once the EPB is fully applied. If the Y, f, or PARK light flashes continuously, then the EPB is only partially applied or there is a problem with the EPB. A DIC (Driver Information Center) message will display. Release the EPB and try to apply it again.

If the light does not come on, or keeps flashing, have the vehicle serviced. Do not drive the vehicle if the Y. f.

If the 8 light is on, pull the EPB switch and hold it. Continue to hold the switch until the Y. f. or PARK light remains on. If the 8 light remains on, see your dealer.

If the EPB is applied while the vehicle is moving, the vehicle will decelerate as long as the switch is pressed. If the switch is pressed until the vehicle comes to a stop, the EPB will remain applied.

The vehicle may automatically apply the EPB in some situations when the vehicle is not moving. This is normal, and is done to periodically check the correct operation of the EPB system.

If the EPB fails to apply, block the rear wheels to prevent vehicle movement.

#### EPB Release

To release the EPB:

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Keys, Doors, and Windows

Remove the battery by pushing on the battery and sliding it toward the bottom of the transmitter. Do not use a metal object.

Insert the new battery, positive side facing the back cover.

Push the battery down until it is held in place. Replace with a CR2032 or equivalent battery.

Snap the battery cover back on to the transmitter.

Reinsert the key.

#### Remote Vehicle Start

If equipped, this feature allows the engine to be started from outside the vehicle. / : This button will be on the RKE transmitter if the vehicle has remote start.

The climate control system will determine the best mode and temperature setting for operation during the remote start. Once the vehicle is started with the Engine Start/Stop button, the climate control system will begin to operate at the last customer selected operating mode and temperature. The rear window defogger may come on during a remote start based on cold ambient conditions. The rear defog indicator light does not come on during a remote start.

If the vehicle has heated seats, they may come on during a remote start.

See Heated and Ventilated Front Seats 0 41.

Laws in some local communities may restrict the use of remote starters. For example, some laws require a person using remote start to have the vehicle in view. Check local regulations for any requirements.

Other conditions can affect the performance of the transmitter. See Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System 0 8.

If your vehicle is low on fuel, do not use the remote start feature. The vehicle may run out of fuel.

### Starting the Engine Using Remote Start

To start the engine using the remote start feature:

Press and release Q.

Immediately after completing Step 1, press and hold / for at least four seconds or until the turn signal lamps flash. The turn signal lamps flashing confirms the request to remote start the vehicle has been received.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Driving and Operating

Turn the ignition on or to ACC/ ACCESSORY.

Apply and hold the brake pedal.

Press the EPB switch momentarily.

The EPB is released when the Y, f, or PARK light is off.

If the 8 light is on, release the EPB by pressing and holding the EPB switch. Continue to hold the switch until the Y, f, or PARK light is off.

If either light stays on after release is attempted, see your dealer.

### Caution

Driving with the parking brake on can overheat the brake system and cause premature wear or damage to brake system parts.

Make sure that the parking brake is fully released and the brake warning light is off before driving.

### Automatic EPB Release

The EPB will automatically release if the vehicle is running, placed into gear, and an attempt is made to drive away. Avoid rapid acceleration when the EPB is applied, to preserve parking brake lining life.

### Brake Assist

Brake Assist detects rapid brake pedal applications due to emergency braking situations and provides additional braking to activate the Antilock Brake System (ABS) if the brake pedal is not pushed hard enough to activate ABS normally. Minor noise, brake pedal pulsation, and/or pedal movement during this time may occur. Continue to apply the brake pedal as the driving situation dictates. Brake Assist disengages when the brake pedal is released.

## Hill Start Assist (HSA)

{ Warning

Do not rely on the HSA feature.

HSA does not replace the need to pay attention and drive safely.

You may not hear or feel alerts or warnings provided by this system.

Failure to use proper care when driving may result in injury, death, or vehicle damage. See Defensive Driving 0 145.

When the vehicle is stopped on a grade, Hill Start Assist (HSA) prevents the vehicle from rolling in an unintended direction during the transition from brake pedal release to accelerator pedal apply. The brakes release when the accelerator pedal is applied. If the accelerator pedal is not applied within a few minutes, the Electric Parking Brake will apply. The brakes may also release under other conditions. Do not rely on HSA to hold the vehicle.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Driving and Operating

HSA is available when the vehicle is facing uphill in a forward gear, or when facing downhill in R (Reverse). The vehicle must come to a complete stop on a grade for HSA to activate.

## Ride Control Systems

### Traction Control/ Electronic Stability Control

#### System Operation

The vehicle has a Traction Control System (TCS) and StabiliTrak/ Electronic Stability Control (ESC).

These systems help limit wheel slip and assist the driver in maintaining control, especially on slippery road conditions.

TCS activates if it senses that any of the drive wheels are spinning or beginning to lose traction. When this happens, TCS applies the brakes to the spinning wheels and reduces engine power to limit wheel spin.

StabiliTrak/ESC activates when the vehicle senses a difference between the intended path and the direction the vehicle is actually traveling.

StabiliTrak/ESC selectively applies braking pressure to any one of the

If cruise control is being used and traction control or StabiliTrak/ESC begins to limit wheel spin, cruise control will disengage. Cruise control may be turned back on when road conditions allow.

Both systems come on automatically when the vehicle is started and begins to move. The systems may be heard or felt while they are operating or while performing diagnostic checks. This is normal and does not mean there is a problem with the vehicle.

It is recommended to leave both systems on for normal driving conditions. but it may be necessary to turn TCS off if the vehicle gets stuck in sand. mud. ice. or snow.

See If the Vehicle Is Stuck 0 151 and "Turning the Systems Off and On" later in this section.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Driving and Operating

The indicator light for both systems is in the instrument cluster. This light will:

Flash when TCS is limiting wheel spin.

Flash when StabiliTrak/ESC is activated.

Turn on and stay on when either system is not working.

If either system fails to turn on or to activate. a message displays in the Driver Information Center (DIC). and d comes on and stays on to indicate that the system is inactive and is not assisting the driver in maintaining control. The vehicle is safe to drive. but driving should be adjusted accordingly.

If d comes on and stays on:

Stop the vehicle.

Turn the engine off and wait 15 seconds.

Start the engine.

Drive the vehicle. If d comes on and stays on. the vehicle may need more time to diagnose the problem.

If the condition persists. see your dealer.

## Turning the Systems Off and On

### Caution

Do not repeatedly brake or accelerate heavily when TCS is off. The vehicle driveline could be damaged.

To turn off only TCS. press and release g. The traction off light i displays in the instrument cluster.

To turn TCS on again. press and release g. The traction off light i displayed in the instrument cluster will turn off.

To turn off both TCS and StabiliTrak/ ESC. press and hold g until the traction off light i and StabiliTrak/ ESC OFF light g come on and stay on in the instrument cluster.

To turn TCS and StabiliTrak/ESC on again, press and release g. The traction off light i and StabiliTrak/ ESC OFF light g in the instrument cluster turn off.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Driving and Operating

Adding accessories can affect the vehicle performance. See Accessories and Modifications 0 213.

### Cruise Control

Cruise control lets the vehicle maintain a speed of about 40 km/h (25 mph) or more without keeping your foot on the accelerator. Cruise control does not work at speeds below 40 km/h (25 mph). { Warning

Cruise control can be dangerous where you cannot drive safely at a steady speed. Do not use cruise control on winding roads or in heavy traffic.

Cruise control can be dangerous on slippery roads. On such roads, fast changes in tire traction can cause excessive wheel slip, and you could lose control. Do not use cruise control on slippery roads.

With the Traction Control System (TCS) or StabiliTrak/Electronic Stability Control (ESC), the system may begin to limit wheel spin while you are using cruise control. If this happens, cruise control will

Cruise control will disengage if either TCS or StabiliTrak/ESC is turned off.

If the brakes are applied, cruise control disengages.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Driving and Operating

5 : Press to turn the cruise control system on and off. A white indicator comes on in the instrument cluster when cruise is turned on.

+ : Press to disengage cruise control without erasing the set speed from memory.

+RES : If there is a set speed in memory, press to resume that speed or press and hold to accelerate. If cruise control is already active, use to increase vehicle speed.

-SET : Press briefly to set the speed and activate cruise control.

If cruise control is already active, use to decrease vehicle speed.

### Setting Cruise Control

If 5 is on when not in use, -SET or

+RES could get bumped and go into cruise when not desired. Keep 5 off when cruise is not being used.

To set a speed:

Press 5 to turn the cruise system on.

Get up to the desired speed.

Press and release -SET. The desired set speed briefly appears in the instrument cluster.

Remove your foot from the accelerator pedal.

The cruise control indicator on the instrument cluster turns green after cruise control has been set to the desired speed. See Instrument Cluster (Base Level) 0 96 or Instrument Cluster (Uplevel) 0 97.

### Resuming a Set Speed

If cruise control is set at a desired speed and then the brakes are applied, cruise control is disengaged without erasing the set speed from memory.

Once the vehicle speed reaches about 40 km/h (25 mph) or more, briefly press +RES. The vehicle returns to the previous set speed.

### Increasing Speed While Using Cruise Control

If the cruise control system is already activated:

Press and hold +RES until the vehicle accelerates to the desired speed, then release it.

To increase the speed in small increments, briefly press +RES.

For each press, the vehicle goes about 1 km/h (1 mph) faster.

The speedometer reading can be displayed in either English or metric units. See Driver Information Center (DIC) (Base Level) 0 113 or Driver Information Center (DIC) (Uplevel) 0 116. The increment value used depends on the units displayed.

### Reducing Speed While Using Cruise Control

If the cruise control system is already activated:

Press and hold -SET until the desired lower speed is reached, then release it.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Driving and Operating

To slow down in small increments, briefly press -SET.

For each press, the vehicle goes about 1 km/h (1 mph) slower.

The speedometer reading can be displayed in either English or metric units. See Driver Information Center (DIC) (Base Level) 0 113 or Driver Information Center (DIC) (Uplevel) 0 116. The increment value used depends on the units displayed.

### Passing Another Vehicle While Using Cruise Control

Use the accelerator pedal to increase the vehicle speed. When you take your foot off the pedal, the vehicle will slow down to the previous set cruise speed. While pressing the accelerator pedal or shortly following the release to override cruise control, briefly pressing -SET will result in cruise control set to the current vehicle speed.

#### Using Cruise Control on Hills

How well the cruise control works on hills depends upon the vehicle speed, load, and the steepness of the hills. When going up steep hills, you might have to step on the accelerator pedal to maintain the vehicle speed. When going downhill, you might have to brake or shift to a lower gear to keep your speed down. If the brake pedal is applied, cruise control will disengage.

#### Ending Cruise Control

There are four ways to end cruise control:

Step lightly on the brake pedal.

Press \*.

Shift the transmission to N (Neutral).

Press 5 to turn cruise control system off completely.

#### Erasing Speed Memory

The cruise control set speed is erased from memory if 5 is pressed or if the vehicle is turned off.

#### Adaptive Cruise Control

If equipped with Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC), it allows you to select the cruise control set speed and following gap. Read this entire section before using this system.

The following gap is the following time between your vehicle and a vehicle detected directly ahead in your path moving in the same direction. If no vehicle is detected in your path, ACC works like regular cruise control. ACC uses camera and radar sensors. See Radio Frequency Statement 0 329.

If a vehicle is detected in your path.

ACC can apply acceleration or limited, moderate braking to maintain the selected following gap.

To disengage ACC, apply the brake.

If ACC is controlling your vehicle speed when the Traction Control System (TCS) or StabiliTrak/ Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

Electronic Stability Control (ESC) system activates, the ACC may automatically disengage. See Traction Control/Electronic Stability Control 0 170. When road conditions allow ACC to be safely used, the ACC can be turned back on.



ACC will not engage if the TCS or StabiliTrak/ESC system is disabled. { Warning

ACC has limited braking ability and may not have time to slow the vehicle down enough to avoid a collision with another vehicle you are following. This can occur when vehicles suddenly slow or stop ahead. or enter your lane.

Also see “Alerting the Driver” in this section. Complete attention is always required while driving and you should be ready to take action and apply the brakes. See Defensive Driving 0 145.

{ Warning

ACC will not detect or brake for children. pedestrians. animals. or other objects.

Do not use ACC when:

On winding and hilly roads or when the sensors are blocked by snow. ice. or dirt.

The system may not detect a vehicle ahead. Keep the entire front of the vehicle clean.

Visibility is low. such as in fog. rain. or snow conditions. ACC performance is limited under these conditions.

On slippery roads where fast changes in tire traction can cause excessive wheel slip.

5 : Press to turn the system on or off. A white cruise control indicator comes on in the instrument cluster.

+RES : If there is a set speed in memory. press to resume that speed or press and hold to accelerate. If ACC is already active. use to increase vehicle speed.

–SET : Press briefly to set the speed and activate ACC. If ACC is already active. use to decrease vehicle speed.

+ : Press to disengage ACC without erasing the set speed from memory.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

[ : Press to select a following gap time (or distance) setting for ACC of Far. Medium. or Near.

Switching Between ACC and Regular Cruise Control

To switch between ACC and regular cruise control. press and hold \*.

A Driver Information Display (DIC) message displays. See Vehicle Messages 0 119.

ACC Indicator

Regular Cruise Control Indicator

When ACC is engaged. a green ] indicator will be lit on the instrument cluster. When the regular cruise control is engaged. a green J indicator will be lit on the instrument cluster.

When the vehicle is turned on, the cruise control mode will be set to the last mode used before the vehicle was turned off. { Warning

Always check the cruise control indicator on the instrument cluster to determine which mode cruise control is in before using the feature. If ACC is not active, the vehicle will not automatically brake for other vehicles, which could cause a crash if the brakes are not applied manually. You and others could be seriously injured or killed.

#### Setting Adaptive Cruise Control

If ACC is on when not in use, 5 could get pressed and ACC could become active when not desired.

Keep ACC off when it is not being used.

Select the set speed desired for cruise. This is the vehicle speed when no vehicle is detected in its path.

ACC will not set at a speed less than 25 km/h (16 mph), although it can be resumed when driving at lower speeds.

To set ACC:

Press 5.

Get up to the desired speed.

Press and release -SET.

Remove your foot from the accelerator.

After ACC is set, it may immediately apply the brakes if a vehicle ahead is detected closer than the selected following gap.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

The ACC indicator displays in the instrument cluster. When the ACC is active, the indicator turns green.

Be mindful of speed limits, surrounding traffic speeds, and weather conditions when selecting the set speed.

#### Resuming a Set Speed

If the ACC is set at a desired speed and then the brakes are applied, the ACC is disengaged without erasing the set speed from memory.

To begin using ACC again, briefly press +RES. The vehicle returns to the previous set speed.

#### Increasing Speed While ACC is at a Set Speed

If ACC is already activated, do one of the following:

Use the accelerator to get to the higher speed. Press -SET.

Release the control and the accelerator pedal. The vehicle will now cruise at the higher speed.

When the accelerator pedal is pressed. ACC will not brake because it is overridden. The ACC indicator on the instrument panel will turn blue.

Press and hold +RES until the desired set speed appears on the display. then release it.

To increase vehicle speed in small increments. briefly press

+RES. For each press. the vehicle goes 1 km/h or (1 mph) faster.

To increase vehicle speed in larger increments. briefly press and hold +RES. For each press. the vehicle goes 5 km/h or (5 mph) faster.

When it is determined that there is no vehicle ahead inside the selected following gap. then the vehicle speed will increase to the set speed.

#### Reducing Speed While ACC is at a Set Speed

If ACC is already activated. do one of the following:

Use the brake to get to the desired lower speed. Release the brake and press -SET. The vehicle will now cruise at the lower speed.

Press and hold -SET until the desired lower speed is reached. then release it.

To decrease the vehicle speed in smaller increments. press -SET down briefly. For each press. the vehicle goes about 1 km/h or (1 mph) slower.

To decrease vehicle speed in larger increments. briefly press and hold -SET. For each press. the vehicle goes 5 km/h or (5 mph) slower.

#### Selecting the Follow Distance

When a slower moving vehicle is detected ahead within the selected following gap. ACC will adjust the vehicle's speed and attempt to maintain the follow distance gap selected.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

Press [ on the steering wheel to adjust the following gap. When pressed. the current gap setting displays briefly on the instrument cluster. Subsequent presses cycle the gap button through three settings: Far. Medium. or Near. The gap setting will be maintained until it is changed.

Since each gap setting corresponds to a following time (Far. Medium. or Near). the following distance will vary based on vehicle speed. The faster the vehicle speed. the further back your vehicle will follow a vehicle detected ahead. Consider traffic and weather conditions when selecting the following gap. The range of selectable gaps may not be appropriate for all drivers and driving conditions.

Changing the gap setting automatically changes the alert timing sensitivity (Far, Medium, or Near) for the Forward Collision Alert (FCA) feature. See Forward Collision Alert (FCA) System 0 188.

#### Alerting the Driver

If ACC is engaged, driver action may be required when ACC cannot apply sufficient braking because of approaching a vehicle too rapidly.

When this condition occurs, a series of red lights will flash on the windshield and eight beeps will sound from the front.

See Defensive Driving 0 145.

#### Approaching and Following a Vehicle

The vehicle ahead indicator is in the instrument cluster.

It only displays when a vehicle is detected in your vehicle's path moving in the same direction.

If this symbol is not displaying, ACC will not respond to or brake to vehicles ahead.

ACC automatically slows the vehicle down and adjusts vehicle speed to follow the vehicle in front at the selected following gap. The vehicle speed increases or decreases to follow the vehicle in front of you, but will not exceed the set speed. It may apply limited braking, if necessary.

When braking is active, the brake lamps will come on. The automatic braking may feel or sound different than if the brakes were applied manually. This is normal.

#### Stationary or Very Slow-Moving Objects { Warning

ACC may not detect and react to stopped or slow-moving vehicles ahead of you. For example, the  
(Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Keys, Doors, and Windows

When the engine starts, the parking lamps will turn on and remain on as long as the engine is running. The doors will be locked and the climate control system may come on.

The engine will continue to run for 15 minutes. After 30 seconds, repeat the steps if a 15-minute extension is desired. Remote start can be extended only once.

Start the vehicle before driving.

#### Extending Engine Run Time

The engine run time can be extended by another 15 minutes, if during the first 15 minutes Steps 1 and 2 are repeated while the engine is still running. An extension can be requested 30 seconds after starting. When the remote start is extended, the second 15-minute period is added on to the first 15 minutes for a total of 30 minutes.

The remote start can only be extended once.

A maximum of two remote starts, or a single start with an extension, is allowed between ignition cycles.

The vehicle's ignition must be turned on and then back off before the remote start procedure can be used again.

#### Canceling a Remote Start

To cancel a remote start, do one of the following:

Aim the RKE transmitter at the vehicle and press and hold / until the parking lamps turn off.

Turn on the hazard warning flashers.

Turn the vehicle on and then off.

#### Conditions in Which Remote Start Will Not Work

The remote vehicle start feature will not operate if:

A transmitter is in the vehicle.

The hood is not closed.

The vehicle is on.

The hazard warning flashers are on.

The malfunction indicator lamp is on.

The engine coolant temperature is too high.

The oil pressure is low.

Two remote vehicle starts, or a single remote start with an extension, have already been used.

The vehicle is not in P (Park).

#### Door Locks

{ Warning

Unlocked doors can be dangerous.

Passengers, especially children, can easily open the doors and fall out of a moving vehicle. The doors can be unlocked and opened while the vehicle is (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

Warning (Continued)

#### ACC Automatically Disengages

ACC may automatically disengage and the driver will need to manually apply the brakes to slow the vehicle if:



The sensors are blocked.

The Traction Control System (TCS) or StabiliTrak/ESC system has activated or been disabled.

There is a fault in the system.

The radar falsely reports blockage when driving in a desert or remote area with no other vehicles or roadside objects. A DIC message may display to indicate that ACC is temporarily unavailable.

The ACC indicator will turn white when ACC is no longer active.

#### Notification to Resume ACC

ACC will maintain a following gap behind a detected vehicle and slow your vehicle to a stop behind that vehicle.

If the stopped vehicle ahead has driven away and ACC has not resumed, the vehicle ahead indicator will flash as a reminder to check traffic before proceeding. In addition, three beeps will sound.

See “Adaptive Cruise Go Notifier” in “Collision/Detection Systems” under Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

When the vehicle ahead drives away, press +RES or the accelerator pedal to resume ACC.

If stopped for more than two minutes or if the driver door is

A DIC warning message may display indicating to shift to P (Park) before exiting the vehicle. See Vehicle Messages 0 119. { Warning

If ACC has stopped the vehicle, and if ACC is disengaged, turned off, or canceled, the vehicle will no longer be held at a stop. The vehicle can move. When ACC is holding the vehicle at a stop, always be prepared to manually apply the brakes.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

{ Warning

Leaving the vehicle without placing it in P (Park) can be dangerous. Do not leave the vehicle while it is being held at a stop by ACC. Always place the vehicle in P (Park) and turn off the ignition before leaving the vehicle.

#### ACC Override

If using the accelerator pedal while ACC is active, the ACC indicator turns blue on the instrument cluster to indicate that automatic braking will not occur. ACC will resume operation when the accelerator pedal is not being pressed. { Warning

The ACC will not automatically apply the brakes if your foot is resting on the accelerator pedal.

You could crash into a vehicle ahead of you.

## Curves in the Road { Warning

On curves. ACC may not detect a vehicle ahead in your lane. You could be startled if the vehicle accelerates up to the set speed. especially when following a vehicle exiting or entering exit ramps. You could lose control of the vehicle or crash. Do not use ACC while driving on an entrance or exit ramp. Always be ready to use the brakes if necessary.

### { Warning

On curves. ACC may respond to a vehicle in another lane. or may not have time to react to a vehicle in your lane. You could crash into a vehicle ahead of you. or lose control of your vehicle. Give extra attention in curves and be ready (Continued)

### Warning (Continued)

ACC may operate differently in a sharp curve. It may reduce the vehicle speed if the curve is too sharp.

When following a vehicle and entering a curve. ACC may not detect the vehicle ahead and accelerate to the set speed. When this happens the vehicle ahead indicator will not appear.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Driving and Operating

ACC may detect a vehicle that is not in your lane and apply the brakes.

ACC may occasionally provide an alert and/or braking that is considered unnecessary. It could respond to vehicles in different lanes. signs. guardrails. and other stationary objects when entering or exiting a curve. This is normal operation. The vehicle does not need service.

### Other Vehicle Lane Changes

ACC will not detect a vehicle ahead until it is completely in the lane. The brake may need to be manually applied.

### Do Not Use ACC on Hills and When Towing a Trailer

Do not use ACC when driving on steep hills or when towing a trailer.

ACC will not detect a vehicle in the lane while driving on steep hills. The driver will often need to take over acceleration and braking on steep hills. especially when towing a trailer. If the brakes are applied. the ACC disengages.

### Ending ACC

There are three ways to disengage ACC:

Step lightly on the brake pedal.

Press \*.

Press 5.

## Erasing Speed Memory

The cruise control set speed is erased from memory if 5 is pressed or if the ignition is turned off.

## Cleaning the Sensing System

The camera sensor on the windshield ahead of the rearview mirror and the radar sensors on the front of the vehicle can become

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Driving and Operating

For cleaning instructions, see "Washing the Vehicle" under Exterior Care 0 292.

System operation may also be limited under snow, heavy rain, or road spray conditions.

## Driver Assistance Systems

This vehicle may have features that work together to help avoid crashes or reduce crash damage while driving, backing, and parking. Read this entire section before using these systems. { Warning

Do not rely on the Driver Assistance Systems. These systems do not replace the need for paying attention and driving safely. You may not hear or see alerts or warnings provided by these systems. Failure to use proper care when driving may result in injury, death, or vehicle damage. See Defensive Driving 0 145.

Under many conditions, these systems will not: (Continued)

### Warning (Continued)

Detect children, pedestrians, bicyclists, or animals.

Detect vehicles or objects outside the area monitored by the system.

Work at all driving speeds.

Warn you or provide you with enough time to avoid a crash.

Work under poor visibility or bad weather conditions.

Work if the detection sensor is not cleaned or is covered by ice, snow, mud, or dirt.

Work if the detection sensor is covered up, such as with a sticker, magnet, or metal plate.

Work if the area surrounding the detection sensor is damaged or not properly repaired.

(Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Driving and Operating

### Warning (Continued)

Complete attention is always required while driving, and you should be ready to take action and apply the brakes and/or steer the vehicle to avoid crashes.

#### Audible Alert

Some driver assistance features alert the driver of obstacles by beeping. To change the volume of the warning chime, see “Comfort and Convenience” under Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

#### Cleaning

Depending on vehicle options, keep these areas of the vehicle clean to ensure the best driver assistance feature performance. Driver Information Center (DIC) messages may display when the systems are unavailable or blocked.

Front and rear bumpers and the area below the bumpers

Front grille and headlamps

Front camera lens in the front grille or near the front emblem

Front side and rear side panels

Outside of the windshield in front of the rearview mirror

Side camera lens on the bottom of the outside mirrors

Rear side corner bumpers

Rear Vision Camera above the license plate

#### Radio Frequency

This vehicle may be equipped with driver assistance systems that operate using radio frequency. See Radio Frequency Statement 0 329.

#### Assistance Systems for Parking or Backing

If equipped, the Rear Vision Camera (RVC), Front and Rear Park Assist (FRPA), Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA), and Automatic Parking Assist (APA) may help the driver park or avoid objects. Always check around the vehicle when parking or backing.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

##### Rear Vision Camera (RVC)

When the vehicle is shifted into R (Reverse), the RVC displays an image of the area behind the vehicle in the infotainment display. The previous screen displays when the vehicle is shifted out of R (Reverse) after a short delay. To return to the previous screen sooner, press any button on the infotainment system, shift into P (Park), or reach a vehicle speed of approximately 12 km/h (8 mph).

## 1. View Displayed by the Camera

### 1. View Displayed by the Camera 2. Corners of the Rear Bumper

Displayed images may be farther or closer than they appear. The area displayed is limited and objects that are close to either corner of the bumper or under the bumper do not display.

A warning triangle may appear on the infotainment display to show that Rear Park Assist (RPA) has detected an object. This triangle changes from amber to red and increases in size the closer the object.

{ Warning

The camera(s) do not display children, pedestrians, bicyclists, crossing traffic, animals, or any other object outside of the cameras' field of view, below the bumper, or under the vehicle.

Shown distances may be different from actual distances. Do not drive or park the vehicle using only these camera(s). Always check behind and around the vehicle before driving. Failure to use proper care may result in injury, death, or vehicle damage.

### Park Assist

With Front and Rear Park Assist (FRPA), as the vehicle moves at speeds of less than 8 km/h (5 mph) the sensors on the bumpers may detect objects up to 1.2 m (4 ft) in front and 2.5 m (8 ft) behind the vehicle within a zone 25 cm (10 in) high off the ground and below bumper level. These detection distances may be shorter during

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Driving and Operating

The Park Assist system does not detect children, pedestrians, bicyclists, animals, or objects located below the bumper or that are too close or too far from the vehicle. It is not available at speeds greater than 8 km/h (5 mph). To prevent injury, death, or vehicle damage, even with Park Assist, always check the area around the vehicle and check all mirrors before moving forward or backing.

The instrument cluster may have a Park Assist display with bars that show "distance to object" and object location information. As the object gets closer, more bars light up and the bars may change color from yellow to amber to red.

When an object is first detected in the rear, one beep will be heard from the rear. When an object is very close — <0.6 m (2 ft) in the vehicle rear, or <0.3 m (1 ft) in the vehicle front — five beeps will sound from the front or rear depending on where the object is detected. Beeps for Front Park Assist (FPA) are higher pitched than for Rear Park Assist (RPA).

### Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA)

If equipped, when the vehicle is shifted into R (Reverse), RCTA displays a red warning triangle with a left or right pointing arrow on the infotainment display to warn of traffic coming from the left or right.

This system detects objects coming from up to 20 m (65 ft) from the left or right side of the vehicle. When an object is detected, three beeps sound from either the left or right, depending on the direction of the detected vehicle.

#### Turning the Features On or Off

The X button on the center console is used to turn on or off the Front and Rear Park Assist and Rear Cross Traffic Alert at the same time. The indicator light next to the

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

To turn the rear Park Assist symbols or guidance lines on or off, see “Rear Camera Park Assist Symbols” under Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

RCTA can also be turned on or off through vehicle personalization. See “Collision/Detection Systems” under Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

#### Automatic Parking Assist (APA)

If equipped, APA searches for and steers the vehicle into parallel or perpendicular parking spots. When using APA, you must still shift gears, and control the brakes and accelerator. A display and audible beeps help to guide parking maneuvers.

#### { Warning

APA does not apply the brakes.

APA may not detect objects in the parking space, objects that are soft or narrow, objects high off the ground such as flatbed trucks, or objects below ground level such as large potholes. Always verify that the parking space is appropriate for parking a vehicle.

APA does not respond to changes in the parking space, such as movement of an adjacent vehicle, or a person or object entering the parking space. APA does not detect or avoid traffic that is behind or alongside of the vehicle. Always be prepared to stop the vehicle during the parking maneuver.

Press O on the center console to enable the system to search for a parking space that is large enough and within 1.5 m (5 ft) of the vehicle.

The vehicle speed must be below 30 km/h (18 mph).

The system cannot:

Detect whether it is a legal parking space.

Park exactly lined up with the vehicle next to it if the spot is approached at an angle or if the parking space is angled.

Park exactly centered in a spot that is marked too large.

Always detect short curbs.

When enabled, APA searches for parallel parking spaces to the right of the vehicle. To search for a parking space to the left, turn on the left turn signal or, if available, change the side selection in the infotainment display. To switch the parking mode between parallel and perpendicular, press and hold O during the search process or, if available, change the parking mode in the infotainment display.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Driving and Operating

After completely passing a large enough space, an audible beep occurs. A red stop symbol and message is displayed.

If the vehicle is in R (Reverse), but does not steer into the expected space, this may be because the system is maneuvering the vehicle into a previously detected space.

The APA system does not need service.

APA will instruct the vehicle to stop once a large enough space is found.

Follow the displayed instructions.

When instructed, shift to R (Reverse) to engage automatic steering. The steering wheel will briefly vibrate as a reminder to remove hands from the steering wheel. Check surroundings and continue braking or accelerating as needed, and be prepared to stop to avoid vehicles, pedestrians, or objects.

If the vehicle exceeds 10 km/h (6 mph), APA is automatically disengaged and automatic steering will turn off. A progress arrow displays the status of the parking maneuver. Depending on the space size, additional maneuvers may be

APA may automatically disengage if:

The steering wheel is used by the driver.

The maximum allowed speed is exceeded.

There is a failure with the APA system.

Electronic stability control or antilock brakes are activated.

A high priority vehicle message is displayed in the DIC.

To cancel APA, press O again.

When the System Does Not Seem to Work Properly

The APA system may require a short period of driving along curves to calibrate.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

Assistance Systems for Driving

If equipped, when driving the vehicle in a forward gear. Forward Collision Alert (FCA). Lane Departure Warning (LDW). Lane Keep Assist (LKA). Side Blind Zone Alert (SBZA). Lane Change Alert (LCA). Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB). and/or the Front Pedestrian Braking (FPB) System can help to avoid a crash or reduce crash damage.

Forward Collision Alert (FCA) System

If equipped, the FCA system may help to avoid or reduce the harm caused by front-end crashes. When approaching a vehicle ahead too quickly, FCA provides a flashing red alert on the windshield and rapidly beeps. FCA also lights an amber visual alert if following another vehicle much too closely.

FCA detects vehicles within a distance of approximately 60 m (197 ft) and operates at speeds

FCA is a warning system and does not apply the brakes. When approaching a slower-moving or stopped vehicle ahead too rapidly, or when following a vehicle too closely, FCA may not provide a warning with enough time to help avoid a crash. It also may not provide any warning at all. FCA does not warn of pedestrians, animals, signs, guardrails, bridges, construction barrels, or other objects. Be ready to take action and apply the brakes. See Defensive Driving 0 145.

FCA can be disabled with the FCA steering wheel control or, if equipped, through vehicle

Detecting the Vehicle Ahead

FCA warnings will not occur unless the FCA system detects a vehicle ahead. When a vehicle is detected, the vehicle ahead indicator will display green. Vehicles may not be detected on curves, highway exit ramps, or hills, due to poor visibility; or if a vehicle ahead is partially blocked by pedestrians or other objects. FCA will not detect another vehicle ahead until it is completely in the driving lane.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Keys, Doors, and Windows

Warning (Continued)

To lock or unlock the doors from the outside:

Press Q or K on the Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) transmitter.

See Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System Operation 0 8.

In the case of a dead battery, use the key in the driver door.

The key lock cylinder is covered with a cap.

To lock or unlock the doors from the inside:

Press Q or K on the power door lock switch.

Pull the door handle once to unlock the door. Pull the handle again to unlatch it.

### Keyless Access

The RKE transmitter must be within 1 m (3 ft) of the trunk or door being opened. Press the button on the door handle to open. See “Keyless Access Operation” in Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System Operation 0 8.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Driving and Operating

#### { Warning

FCA does not provide a warning to help avoid a crash, unless it detects a vehicle. FCA may not detect a vehicle ahead if the FCA sensor is blocked by dirt, snow, or ice, or if the windshield is damaged. It may also not detect a vehicle on winding or hilly roads, or in conditions that can limit visibility such as fog, rain, or snow, or if the headlamps or windshield are not cleaned or in proper condition. Keep the windshield, headlamps, and FCA sensors clean and in good repair.

#### Collision Alert

When your vehicle approaches another detected vehicle too rapidly, the red FCA display will flash on the windshield. Also, eight rapid high-pitched beeps will sound from the front. When this Collision Alert occurs, the brake system may prepare for driver braking to occur more rapidly which can cause a brief, mild deceleration. Continue to apply the brake pedal as the driving situation dictates. Cruise control may be disengaged when the Collision Alert occurs.

#### Tailgating Alert

The vehicle ahead indicator will display amber when you are following a detected vehicle ahead much too closely.

#### Selecting the Alert Timing

The Collision Alert control is on the steering wheel. Press [ to set the FCA timing to far, medium, near, or on some vehicles, off. The first button press shows the current control setting on the DIC.

Additional button presses will change this setting. The chosen setting will remain until it is changed and will affect the timing of both the Collision Alert and the Tailgating Alert features. The timing of both alerts will vary based on vehicle speed. The faster the vehicle speed, the farther away the alert will occur.

Consider traffic and weather conditions when selecting the alert timing. The range of selectable alert timing may not be appropriate for all drivers and driving conditions.

#### Following Distance Indicator

The following distance to a moving vehicle you are following is indicated in following time in seconds on the Driver Information

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

Center (DIC). See Driver Information Center (DIC) (Base Level) 0 113 or Driver Information Center (DIC) (Uplevel) 0 116. The minimum following time is 0.5 seconds away.

If there is no vehicle detected ahead, or the vehicle ahead is out of sensor range, dashes will be displayed.

#### Unnecessary Alerts

FCA may provide unnecessary alerts to turning vehicles, vehicles in other lanes, objects that are not vehicles, or shadows. These alerts are normal operation and the vehicle does not need service.

#### Cleaning the System

If the FCA system does not seem to operate properly, this may correct the issue:

Clean the outside of the windshield in front of the rearview mirror.

Clean the entire front of the vehicle.

Clean the headlamps.

#### Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB)

If the vehicle has Forward Collision Alert (FCA), it also has AEB, which includes Intelligent Brake Assist (IBA). When the system detects a vehicle ahead in your path that is traveling in the same direction that you may be about to crash into, it can provide a boost to braking or automatically brake the vehicle. This can help avoid or lessen the severity of crashes when driving in a forward gear. Depending on the situation, the vehicle may automatically brake moderately or hard. This automatic emergency braking can only occur if a vehicle is detected. This is shown by the FCA vehicle ahead indicator being lit.

See Forward Collision Alert (FCA) System 0 188.

The system works when driving in a forward gear between 8 km/h (5 mph) and 80 km/h (50 mph), or on vehicles with Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC), above 4 km/h (2 mph). It can detect vehicles up to approximately 60 m (197 ft).

{ Warning

AEB is an emergency crash preparation feature and is not designed to avoid crashes. Do not rely on AEB to brake the vehicle. AEB will not brake outside of its operating speed range and only responds to detected vehicles.

AEB may not:

Detect a vehicle ahead on winding or hilly roads.

Detect all vehicles, especially vehicles with a trailer, tractors, muddy vehicles, etc.

Detect a vehicle when weather limits visibility, such as in fog, rain, or snow.

Detect a vehicle ahead if it is partially blocked by pedestrians or other objects. (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

Warning (Continued)

Complete attention is always required while driving, and you should be ready to take action and apply the brakes and/or steer the vehicle to avoid crashes.

AEB may slow the vehicle to a complete stop to try to avoid a potential crash. If this happens, AEB may engage the Electric Parking Brake (EPB) to hold the vehicle at a stop. Release the EPB or firmly press the accelerator pedal. { Warning

AEB may automatically brake the vehicle suddenly in situations where it is unexpected and undesired. It could respond to a turning vehicle ahead, guardrails, signs, and other non-moving objects. To override AEB, firmly press the accelerator pedal, if it is safe to do so.

Intelligent Brake Assist (IBA)

IBA may activate when the brake pedal is applied quickly by providing a boost to braking based on the speed of approach and distance to a vehicle ahead.

Minor brake pedal pulsations or pedal movement during this time is normal and the brake pedal should continue to be applied as needed.

IBA will automatically disengage only when the brake pedal is released. { Warning

IBA may increase vehicle braking in situations when it may not be necessary. You could block the flow of traffic. If this occurs, take your foot off the brake pedal and then apply the brakes as needed.

AEB and IBA can be disabled through vehicle personalization. See "Collision/Detection Systems" under Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

{ Warning

Using AEB or IBA while towing a trailer could cause you to lose control of the vehicle and crash.

Turn the system to Alert, or if the vehicle has ACC to Off, when towing a trailer.

A system unavailable message may display if:

The front of the vehicle or windshield is not clean.

Heavy rain or snow is interfering with object detection.

There is a problem with the StabiliTrak/Electronic Stability Control (ESC) system.

The AEB system does not need service.

#### Front Pedestrian Braking (FPB) System

If equipped, the Front Pedestrian Braking (FPB) system may help avoid or reduce the harm caused by

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

The FPB system can detect and alert to pedestrians in a forward gear at speeds between 8 km/h (5 mph) and 80 km/h (50 mph).

During daytime driving, the system detects pedestrians up to a distance of approximately 40 m (131 ft).

During nighttime driving, system performance is very limited.

{ Warning

FPB does not provide an alert or automatically brake the vehicle, unless it detects a pedestrian.

FPB may not detect pedestrians, including children:

When the pedestrian is not directly ahead, fully visible, or standing upright, or when part of a group.

Due to poor visibility, including nighttime conditions, fog, rain, or snow.

If the FPB sensor is blocked by dirt, snow, or ice.

If the headlamps or windshield are not cleaned or in proper condition.

Be ready to take action and apply the brakes. For more information, see Defensive Driving 0 145.

Keep the windshield, headlamps, and FPB sensor clean and in good repair.

FPB can be set to Off, Alert, or Alert and Brake through vehicle personalization. See "Collision/Detection Systems" under Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

#### Detecting the Pedestrian Ahead

FPB alerts and automatic braking will not occur unless the FPB system detects a pedestrian.

When a nearby pedestrian is detected in front of the vehicle, the pedestrian ahead indicator will display amber.

## Front Pedestrian Alert

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Driving and Operating

When the vehicle approaches a pedestrian ahead too rapidly, the red FPB alert display will flash on the windshield. Eight rapid high-pitched beeps will sound from the front. When this Pedestrian Alert occurs, the brake system may prepare for driver braking to occur more rapidly which can cause a brief, mild deceleration. Continue to apply the brake pedal as needed.

Cruise control may be disengaged when the Front Pedestrian Alert occurs.

### Automatic Braking

If FPB detects it is about to crash into a pedestrian ahead, and the brakes have not been applied, FPB may automatically brake moderately or brake hard. This can help to avoid some very low speed pedestrian crashes or reduce pedestrian injury. FPB can automatically brake to detected pedestrians between 8 km/h (5 mph) and 80 km/h (50 mph). Automatic braking levels may be reduced under certain conditions, such as higher speeds.

If this happens, Automatic Braking may engage the Electric Parking Brake (EPB) to hold the vehicle at a stop. Release the EPB. A firm press of the accelerator pedal will also release Automatic Braking and the EPB. { Warning

FPB may alert or automatically brake the vehicle suddenly in situations where it is unexpected and undesired. It could falsely alert or brake for objects similar in shape or size to pedestrians, including shadows. This is normal operation and the vehicle does not need service. To override Automatic Braking, firmly press the accelerator pedal, if it is safe to do so.

Automatic Braking can be disabled through vehicle personalization. See "Front Pedestrian Detection" in "Collision/Detection Systems" under Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

{ Warning

Using the Front Pedestrian Braking system while towing a trailer could cause you to lose control of the vehicle and crash.

Turn the system to Alert or Off when towing a trailer.

### Cleaning the System

If FPB does not seem to operate properly, cleaning the outside of the windshield in front of the rearview mirror may correct the issue.

### Side Blind Zone Alert (SBZA)

If equipped, the SBZA system is a lane-changing aid that assists drivers with avoiding crashes that occur with moving vehicles in the side blind zone (or spot) areas.

When the vehicle is in a forward gear, the left or right side mirror display will light up if a moving vehicle is detected in that blind zone. If the turn signal is activated

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

Lane Change Alert (LCA)

If equipped, the LCA system is a lane-changing aid that assists drivers with avoiding lane change crashes that occur with moving vehicles in the side blind zone (or spot) areas or with vehicles rapidly approaching these areas from behind. The LCA warning display will light up in the corresponding outside side mirror and will flash if the turn signal is on. { Warning

LCA does not alert the driver to vehicles outside of the system detection zones, pedestrians, bicyclists, or animals. It may not (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

LCA Detection Zones

1. SBZA Detection Zone 2. LCA Detection Zone

The LCA sensor covers a zone of approximately one lane over from both sides of the vehicle, or 3.5 m

(11 ft). The height of the zone is approximately between 0.5 m (1.5 ft) and 2 m (6 ft) off the ground. The Side Blind Zone Alert (SBZA) warning area starts at approximately the middle of the vehicle and goes back 5 m (16 ft). Drivers are also warned of vehicles rapidly approaching from up to 25 m (82 ft) behind the vehicle.

How the System Works

The LCA symbol lights up in the side mirrors when the system detects a moving vehicle in the next lane over that is in the side blind zone or rapidly approaching that zone from behind. A lit LCA symbol indicates it may be unsafe to change lanes. Before making a lane change, check the LCA display, check mirrors, glance over your shoulder, and use the turn signals.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

Left Side Mirror Display

Right Side Mirror Display

When the vehicle is started, both outside mirror LCA displays will briefly come on to indicate the system is operating. When the vehicle is in a forward gear, the left or right side mirror display will light up if a moving vehicle is detected in the next lane over in that blind zone or rapidly approaching that zone.

If the turn signal is activated in the same direction as a detected vehicle, this display will flash as an extra warning not to change lanes.

LCA can be disabled through vehicle personalization. See "Collision/Detection Systems" under Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

If LCA is disabled by the driver, the LCA mirror displays will not light up.

#### When the System Does Not Seem to Work Properly

The LCA system requires some driving for the system to calibrate to maximum performance. This calibration may occur more quickly if the vehicle is driven on a straight highway road with traffic and roadside objects (e.g. guardrails, barriers). During a trip, the LCA system is not operational until the vehicle first reaches a speed of 24 km/h (15 mph).

LCA displays may not come on when passing a vehicle quickly, for a stopped vehicle, or when towing a trailer. The LCA detection zones that extend back from the side of the vehicle do not move further back when a trailer is towed. Use caution while changing lanes when towing a trailer. LCA may alert to objects attached to the vehicle, such as a trailer, bicycle, or object extending out to either side of the vehicle.

Attached objects may also interfere with the detection of vehicles. This is normal system operation; the vehicle does not need service.

LCA may not always alert the driver to vehicles in the next lane over, especially in wet conditions or when driving on sharp curves. The system does not need to be serviced. The system may light up due to guardrails, signs, trees, shrubs, and other non-moving objects. This is normal system operation; the vehicle does not need service.

LCA may not operate when the LCA sensors in the left or right corners of the rear bumper are covered with mud, dirt, snow, ice, or slush, or in heavy rainstorms. For cleaning instructions, see "Washing the Vehicle" under Exterior Care 0 292.

If the DIC still displays the system unavailable message after cleaning both sides of the vehicle toward the rear corners of the vehicle, see your dealer.

If the LCA displays do not light up when moving vehicles are in the side blind zone or rapidly approaching this zone and the system is clean, the system may need service. Take the vehicle to your dealer.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

Radio Frequency Information

See Radio Frequency Statement 0 329.

Lane Keep Assist (LKA)

If equipped, LKA may help avoid crashes due to unintentional lane departures. This system uses a camera to detect lane markings between 60 km/h (37 mph) and 180 km/h (112 mph). It may assist by gently turning the steering wheel if the vehicle approaches a detected lane marking. It may also provide a Lane Departure Warning (LDW) alert if the vehicle crosses a detected lane marking. LKA can be overridden by turning the steering wheel. This system is not intended to keep the vehicle centered in the lane. LKA will not assist and alert if the turn signal is active in the direction of lane departure, or if it detects that you are accelerating, braking or actively steering.

{ Warning

The LKA system does not continuously steer the vehicle.

It may not keep the vehicle in the lane or give a Lane Departure Warning (LDW) alert, even if a lane marking is detected.

The LKA and LDW systems may not:

Provide an alert or enough steering assist to avoid a lane departure or crash.

Detect lane markings under poor weather or visibility conditions. This can occur if the windshield or headlamps are blocked by dirt, snow, or ice; if they are not in proper condition; or if the sun shines directly into the camera.

Detect road edges.

Detect lanes on winding or hilly roads. (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

If LKA only detects lane markings on one side of the road, it will only assist or provide an LDW alert when approaching the lane on the side where it has detected a lane marking. Even with LKA and LDW, you must steer the vehicle. Always keep your attention on the road and maintain proper vehicle position within the lane, or vehicle damage, injury, or death could occur. Always keep the windshield, headlamps, and camera sensors clean and in good repair. Do not use LKA in bad weather conditions or on roads with unclear lane markings, such as construction zones.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

{ Warning

Using LKA while towing a trailer or on slippery roads could cause loss of control of the vehicle and a crash. Turn the system off.

How the System Works

LKA uses a camera sensor installed on the windshield ahead of the rearview mirror to detect lane markings. It may provide brief steering assist if it detects an unintended lane departure. It may further provide an audible alert indicating that a lane marking has been crossed.



To turn LKA on and off, press A on the steering wheel. If equipped, the indicator light on the button comes on when LKA is on and turns off when LKA is disabled.

When on, A is white, if equipped, indicating that the system is not ready to assist. A is green if LKA is ready to assist. LKA may assist

### Take Steering

The LKA system does not continuously steer the vehicle.

If LKA does not detect active driver steering, an alert and chime may be provided. Steer the vehicle to dismiss. LKA may become temporarily unavailable after repeated take steering alerts.

### When the System Does Not Seem to Work Properly

The system performance may be affected by:

Close vehicles ahead.

Sudden lighting changes, such as when driving through tunnels.

Banked roads.

Roads with poor lane markings, such as two-lane roads.

If the LKA system is not functioning properly when lane markings are clearly visible, cleaning the windshield may help.

A system unavailable message may display if the camera is blocked.

The LKA system does not need service.

A camera blocked message may display if the camera is blocked.

Some driver assistance systems may have reduced performance or not work at all. An LKA or LDW unavailable message may display if the systems are temporarily unavailable. This message could be due to a blocked camera. The LKA system does not need service.

Clean the outside of the windshield behind the rearview mirror.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Driving and Operating

LKA assistance and/or LDW alerts may occur due to tar marks, shadows, cracks in the road, temporary or construction lane markings, or other road imperfections. This is normal system operation; the vehicle does not need service. Turn LKA off if these conditions continue.

### Fuel

#### Top Tier Fuel

GM recommends the use of TOP TIER Detergent Gasoline to keep the engine clean, reduce engine deposits, and maintain optimal vehicle performance. Look for the TOP TIER Logo or see [www.toptiergas.com](http://www.toptiergas.com) for a list of TOP TIER Detergent Gasoline marketers and applicable countries.

#### Recommended Fuel (1.5L Engine)

Use regular unleaded gasoline meeting ASTM specification D4814 with a posted octane rating of 87 — (R+M)/2 — or higher. Do not use gasoline with a posted octane rating of less than 87, as this may cause engine knock and will lower fuel economy.

Do not use any fuel labeled E85 or FlexFuel. Do not use gasoline with ethanol levels greater than 15% by volume.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Keys, Doors, and Windows

##### Driver Door Key Lock Cylinder Access (In Case of Dead Battery)

To access the driver door key lock cylinder:

Pull the door handle (1) to the open position and hold it open until cap removal is complete.

Insert the key into the slot (3) on the bottom of the cap (2) and lift the key upward.

Move the cap (2) rearward and remove.

Use the key in the cylinder.

To replace the cap:

Pull the door handle (1) to the open position and hold it open until cap installation is complete.

Insert the two tabs (6) at the back of the cap between the seal (5) and the metal base (4).

Slide the cap forward and press the forward edge to install the cap in place.

Release the door handle.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

##### Recommended Fuel (2.0L Engine)

Premium unleaded gasoline meeting ASTM specification D4814 with a posted octane rating of 93 — (R+M)/2 — is highly recommended for best performance and fuel economy. Unleaded gasoline with an octane rated as low as 87 can be used. Using unleaded gasoline rated below 93 octane, however, will lead to reduced acceleration and fuel economy. If knocking occurs, use a gasoline rated at 93 octane as soon as possible, otherwise, the engine could be damaged. If heavy knocking is heard when using gasoline with a 93 octane rating, the engine needs service.

Do not use any fuel labeled E85 or FlexFuel. Do not use gasoline with ethanol levels greater than 15% by volume.

#### Prohibited Fuels

##### Caution

Do not use fuels with any of the following conditions; doing so may damage the vehicle and void its warranty:

For vehicles that are not FlexFuel, fuel labeled greater than 15% ethanol by volume, such as mid-level ethanol blends (16–50% ethanol), E85, or FlexFuel.

Fuel with any amount of methanol, methylal, ferrocene, and aniline.

These fuels can corrode metal fuel system parts or damage plastic and rubber parts. (Continued)

##### Caution (Continued)

Fuel containing metals such as methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl (MMT), which can damage the emissions control system and spark plugs.

Fuel with a posted octane rating of less than the recommended fuel. Using this fuel will lower fuel economy and performance, and may decrease the life of the emissions catalyst.

#### Fuels in Foreign Countries

The U.S., Canada, and Mexico post fuel octane ratings in anti-knock index (AKI). For fuel not to use in a foreign country, see Prohibited Fuels 0 199.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

##### Fuel Additives

TOP TIER Detergent Gasoline is highly recommended for use with your vehicle. If your country does not have TOP TIER Detergent Gasoline, add ACDelco Fuel System Treatment Plus–Gasoline to the vehicle's gasoline fuel tank at every oil change or 15 000 km (9,000 mi), whichever occurs first.

TOP TIER Detergent Gasoline and ACDelco Fuel System Treatment Plus–Gasoline will help keep your vehicle's engine fuel deposit free and performing optimally.

##### Filling the Tank

An arrow on the fuel gauge indicates which side of the vehicle the fuel door is on. See Fuel Gauge 0 100. { Warning

Fuel vapors and fuel fires burn violently and can cause injury or death. (Continued)

##### Warning (Continued)

Follow these guidelines to help avoid injuries to you and others:

Read and follow all the instructions on the fuel pump island.

Turn off the engine when refueling.

Keep sparks, flames, and smoking materials away from fuel.

Do not leave the fuel pump unattended.

Avoid using electronic devices while refueling.

Do not re-enter the vehicle while pumping fuel.

Keep children away from the fuel pump and never let children pump fuel. (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

Before touching the fill nozzle, touch a metallic object to discharge static electricity from your body.

Fuel can spray out if the fill nozzle is inserted too quickly. This spray can happen if the tank is nearly full, and is more likely in hot weather. Insert the fill nozzle slowly and wait for any hiss noise to stop before beginning to flow fuel.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

To open the fuel door, push and release the rearward center edge of the door.

The capless refueling system does not have a fuel cap. Fully insert and latch the fill nozzle, begin fueling. { Warning

Overfilling the fuel tank by more than three clicks of a standard fill nozzle may cause:

Vehicle performance issues, including engine stalling and damage to the fuel system. (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

Fuel spills.

Under certain conditions, fuel fires.

Be careful not to spill fuel. Wait five seconds after you have finished pumping before removing the fill nozzle. Clean fuel from painted surfaces as soon as possible. See Exterior Care 0 292. Push the fuel door closed until it latches. { Warning

If a fire starts while you are refueling, do not remove the fill nozzle. Shut off the flow of fuel by shutting off the pump or by notifying the station attendant.

Leave the area immediately.

Filling the Tank with a Portable Fuel Container

If the vehicle runs out of fuel and must be filled from a portable fuel container:

Locate the capless funnel adapter from under the carpet in the trunk.

Insert and latch the funnel into the capless fuel system. { Warning

Attempting to refuel from a portable fuel container without using the funnel adapter may cause fuel spillage and damage the capless fuel system. This could cause a fire. You or others could be badly burned and the vehicle could be damaged.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

Remove and clean the funnel adapter and return it to the storage location.

Filling a Portable Fuel Container

{ Warning

Never fill a portable fuel container while it is in the vehicle. Static electricity discharge from the container can ignite the fuel vapor. You or others could be badly burned and the vehicle could be damaged. To help avoid injury to you and others:

Dispense fuel only into approved containers.

Do not fill a container while it is inside a vehicle, in a vehicle's trunk, in a pickup bed, or on any surface other than the ground. (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

Bring the fill nozzle in contact with the inside of the fill opening before operating the nozzle.

Maintain contact until filling is complete.

Keep sparks, flames, and smoking materials away from fuel.

Do not use electronic devices while pumping fuel.

Trailer Towing

General Towing Information

Only use towing equipment that has been designed for the vehicle.

Contact your dealer or trailering dealer for assistance with preparing the vehicle to tow a trailer.

Read the entire section before towing a trailer.

To tow a disabled vehicle, see Towing the Vehicle 0 289. To tow the vehicle behind another vehicle such as a motor home, see Recreational Vehicle Towing 0 289.

When towing with the 2.0L L4 engine, only use unleaded gasoline with an octane rating of 89 or higher. Using gasoline with a lower octane rating while towing may damage the engine and may not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

See Recommended Fuel (1.5L Engine) 0 198 or Recommended Fuel (2.0L Engine) 0 199.

## Driving and Operating

### Driving Characteristics and Towing Tips

#### { Warning

You can lose control when towing a trailer if the correct equipment is not used or the vehicle is not driven properly. For example, if the trailer is too heavy or the trailer brakes are inadequate for the load, the vehicle may not stop as expected. You and others could be seriously injured. The vehicle may also be damaged, and the repairs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

Pull a trailer only if all the steps in this section have been followed.

Ask your dealer for advice and information about towing a trailer with the vehicle.

#### Driving with a Trailer

Trailer driving is different than just driving the vehicle by itself.

Trailer driving means changes in

The following information has many time-tested, important trailer driving tips and safety rules. Many of these are important for your safety and that of your passengers. Read this section carefully before pulling a trailer.

When towing a trailer:

Become familiar with and follow all state and local laws that apply to trailer towing. These requirements vary from state to state.

State laws may require the use of extended side view mirrors.

Even if not required, you should install extended side view mirrors if your visibility is limited or restricted while towing.

Do not tow a trailer during the first 800 km (500 mi) of vehicle use to prevent damage to the engine, axle, or other parts.

It is recommended to perform the first oil change before heavy towing.

During the first 800 km (500 mi) of trailer towing, do not drive over 80 km/h (50 mph) and do not make starts at full throttle.

Vehicles can tow in D (Drive).

If the transmission downshifts too often, a lower gear may be selected using Manual Mode. See Manual Mode 0 165.

If equipped, the following driver assistance features should be turned off when towing a trailer:

Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC)

Super Cruise Control

Lane Keep Assist (LKA)

Park Assist

Automatic Parking Assist (APA)

Reverse Automatic Braking (RAB)

If equipped, the following driver assistance features should be turned to alert or off when towing a trailer:

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB)

Intelligent Brake Assist (IBA)

Front Pedestrian Braking (FPB)

If equipped with Lane Change Alert (LCA), the LCA detection zones that extend back from the side of the vehicle do not move further back when a trailer is towed. Use caution while changing lanes when towing a trailer.

If equipped with Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA), use caution while backing up when towing a trailer, as the RCTA detection zones that extend out from the back of the vehicle do not move further back when a trailer is towed. { Warning

To prevent serious injury or death from carbon monoxide (CO), when towing a trailer: (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

Do not drive with the liftgate, trunk/hatch, or rear-most window open.

Fully open the air outlets on or under the instrument panel.

Adjust the climate control system to a setting that brings in only outside air.

See "Climate Control Systems" in the Index.

For more information about carbon monoxide, see Engine Exhaust 0 163.

Towing a trailer requires experience.

The combination of the vehicle and trailer is longer and not as responsive as the vehicle itself. Get used to the handling and braking of the combination by driving on a level road surface before driving on public roads.

The trailer structure, the tires, and the brakes must all be rated to carry the intended cargo.

Inadequate trailer equipment can cause the combination to operate in an unexpected or unsafe manner.

Before driving, inspect all trailer hitch parts and attachments, safety chains, electrical connectors, lamps, tires, and mirrors. See Towing Equipment 0 208. If the trailer has electric brakes, start the combination moving and then manually apply the trailer brake controller to check that the trailer brakes work. During the trip, occasionally check that the cargo and trailer are secure and that the lamps and any trailer brakes are working.

#### Towing with a Stability Control System

When towing, the stability control system might be heard. The system reacts to vehicle movement caused by the trailer, which mainly occurs during cornering. This is normal when towing heavier trailers.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

##### Following Distance

Stay at least twice as far behind the vehicle ahead as you would when driving without a trailer. This can help to avoid heavy braking and sudden turns.

##### Passing

More passing distance is needed when towing a trailer. The combination of the vehicle and trailer will not accelerate as quickly and is much longer than the vehicle alone. It is necessary to go much farther beyond the passed vehicle before returning to the lane. Pass on level roadways. Avoid passing on hills if possible.

##### Backing Up

Hold the bottom of the steering wheel with one hand. To move the trailer to the left, move that hand to the left. To move the trailer to the right, move that hand to the right.

Always back up slowly and, if possible, have someone guide you.

##### Making Turns

##### Caution

Turn more slowly and make wider arcs when towing a trailer to prevent damage to your vehicle.

Making very sharp turns could cause the trailer to contact the vehicle.

Make wider turns than normal when towing, so trailer will not go over soft shoulders, over curbs, or strike road signs, trees, or other objects.

Always signal turns well in advance.

Do not steer or brake suddenly.

##### Driving on Grades

Reduce speed and shift to a lower gear before starting down a long or steep downhill grade. If the transmission is not shifted down, the brakes may overheat and result in reduced braking efficiency.

The vehicle can tow in D (Drive).

Shift the transmission to a lower gear if the transmission shifts too often under heavy loads and/or hilly conditions.

When towing at higher altitudes, engine coolant will boil at a lower temperature than at lower altitudes.

If the engine is turned off immediately after towing at high altitude on steep uphill grades, the vehicle could show signs similar to engine overheating. To avoid this, let the engine run, preferably on level ground, with the transmission in P (Park) for a few minutes before turning the engine off. If the overheat warning comes on, see Engine Overheating 0 228.

#### Parking on Hills { Warning

To prevent serious injury or death, always park your vehicle and trailer on a level surface when possible.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

When parking your vehicle and your trailer on a hill:

Press the brake pedal, but do not shift into P (Park) yet. Turn the wheels into the curb if facing downhill or into traffic if facing uphill.

Have someone place chocks under the trailer wheels.

When the wheel chocks are in place, gradually release the brake pedal to allow the chocks to absorb the load of the trailer.

Reapply the brake pedal. Then apply the parking brake and shift into P (Park).

Release the brake pedal.

#### Leaving After Parking on a Hill

Apply and hold the brake pedal.

Start the engine.

Shift into a gear.

Release the parking brake.

Let up on the brake pedal.

Drive slowly until the trailer is clear of the chocks.

Stop and have someone pick up and store the chocks.

## Maintenance When Trailer Towing

The vehicle needs service more often when used to tow trailers. See Maintenance Schedule 0 304. It is especially important to check the automatic transmission fluid, engine oil, axle lubricant, belts, cooling system, and brake system before and during each trip.

Check periodically that all nuts and bolts on the trailer hitch are tight.

## Engine Cooling When Trailer Towing

The cooling system may temporarily overheat during severe operating conditions. See Engine Overheating 0 228.

## Trailer Towing

### Caution

Towing a trailer improperly can damage the vehicle and result in costly repairs not covered by the vehicle warranty. To tow a trailer correctly, follow the directions in this section and see your dealer for important information about towing a trailer with the vehicle.

### Trailer Weight { Warning

Never exceed the towing capacity for your vehicle.

Safe trailering requires monitoring the weight, speed, altitude, road grades, outside temperature, dimensions of the front of the trailer, and how frequently the vehicle is used to tow a trailer.

Before towing a trailer, always separately weigh:

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Driving and Operating

The fully loaded vehicle and trailer combination.

The trailer.

### The trailer tongue. { Warning

You and others could be seriously injured or killed if the trailer is too heavy or the trailer brakes are inadequate for the load. The vehicle may be damaged, and the repairs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

Only tow a trailer if all the steps in this section have been followed.

Ask your dealer for advice and information about towing a trailer.

## Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)

For information about the vehicle's maximum load capacity, see Vehicle Load Limits 0 151. When calculating the GVWR with a trailer attached.

## Maximum Trailer Weight

The trailer should never weigh more than 454 kg (1,000 lb). The maximum allowable weight of the trailer may be lower based on the weight of the passengers and cargo in your trailer.

#### Trailer Load Balance

The correct trailer load balance must be maintained to ensure trailer stability. Incorrect load balance is a leading cause of trailer sway.

The trailer tongue weight (1) should be 10–15% of the loaded trailer weight (2). Some specific trailer types, such as boat trailers, fall outside of this range. Always refer to the trailer owner's manual for the recommended trailer tongue weight for each trailer. Never exceed the maximum loads for your vehicle, hitch and trailer.

After loading the trailer, separately weigh the trailer and then the trailer tongue to see if the weights are appropriate for your vehicle. If the trailer weight is too high, it may be possible to transfer some of the cargo into your vehicle. If the trailer

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Driving and Operating

Do not exceed the maximum allowable tongue weight for your vehicle. Use the shortest hitch extension available to position the hitch ball closer to your vehicle. This will help reduce the effect of the trailer tongue weight on the trailer hitch and the rear axle.

If a cargo carrier is used in the trailer hitch receiver, choose a carrier that positions the load as close to the vehicle as possible.

Make sure the total weight, including the carrier, is no more than half of the maximum allowable tongue weight for the vehicle or 227 kg (500 lb), whichever is less.

Ask your dealer for trailering information or assistance.

#### Towing Equipment

##### Hitches

Always use the correct hitch equipment for your vehicle.

Crosswinds, large trucks going by, and rough roads can affect the trailer and the hitch.

Never attach rental hitches or other bumper-type hitches. Only use frame-mounted hitches that do not attach to the bumper.

Always seal any holes in your vehicle if the trailer hitch removed.

If not sealed, dirt, water, and carbon monoxide (CO) from the exhaust may enter your vehicle. See Engine Exhaust 0 163.

Consider using mechanical sway controls with any trailer. Ask a trailering professional about sway controls or refer to the trailer manufacturer's recommendations and instructions.

## Tires

Do not tow a trailer while using a compact spare tire on the vehicle.

Tires must be properly inflated to support loads while towing a trailer. See Tires 0 250 for instructions on proper tire inflation.

## Safety Chains

Always attach chains between the vehicle and the trailer, and attach the chains to the holes on the trailer hitch platform. Instructions about safety chains may be provided by the hitch manufacturer or by the trailer manufacturer.

Cross the safety chains under the tongue of the trailer to help prevent the tongue from contacting the road if it becomes separated from the hitch. Always leave just enough slack so the combination can turn.

Never allow safety chains to drag on the ground.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Keys, Doors, and Windows

Check that the cap is secure.

## Free-Turning Locks

The door key lock cylinder turns freely when either the wrong key is used, or the correct key is not fully inserted. The free-turning door lock feature prevents the lock from being forced open. To reset the lock, turn it to the vertical position with the correct key fully inserted. Remove the key and insert it again. If this does not reset the lock, turn the key halfway around in the cylinder and repeat the reset procedure.

## Power Door Locks

Q : Press to lock the doors.

K : Press to unlock the doors.

The indicator light in the switch will illuminate when the door is locked.

Locking or unlocking the doors will also lock or unlock the trunk. See Trunk 0 22.

## Delayed Locking

This feature delays the actual locking of the doors until five seconds after all doors are closed.

Delayed locking can only be turned on when the Open Door Anti-Lockout feature has been turned off.

When Q is pressed on the power door lock switch with the door open, a chime will sound three times indicating that delayed locking is active.

The doors will then lock automatically five seconds after all doors are closed. If a door is reopened before five seconds have elapsed, the five-second timer will reset once all the doors are closed again.

Press Q on the door lock switch again, or press Q on the RKE transmitter, to override this feature and lock the doors immediately.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Driving and Operating

State or local regulations may require trailers to have their own braking system if the loaded weight of the trailer exceeds certain minimums that can vary from state to state. Read and follow the instructions for the trailer brakes so they are installed, adjusted, and maintained properly. Never attempt to tap into your vehicle's hydraulic brake system. If you do, both the vehicle anti-lock brakes and the trailer brakes may not function, which could result in a crash.

## Trailer Lamps

Always check all trailer lamps are working at the beginning of each trip, and periodically on longer trips.

## Turn Signals When Towing a Trailer

When properly connected, the trailer turn signals will illuminate to indicate the vehicle is turning, changing lanes, or stopping. When towing a trailer, the arrows on the instrument cluster will illuminate even if the trailer is not properly connected or the bulbs are burned out.

## Trailer Tires

Special Trailer (ST) tires differ from vehicle tires. Trailer tires are designed with stiff sidewalls to help prevent sway and to support heavy loads. These features can make it difficult to determine if the trailer tire pressures are low only based on a visual inspection.

Always check all trailer tire pressures before each trip when the tires are cool. Low trailer tire pressure is a leading cause of trailer tire blow-outs.

Trailer tires deteriorate over time.

The trailer tire sidewall will show the week and year the tire was manufactured. Many trailer tire manufacturers recommend replacing tires more than six years old.

Overloading is another leading cause of trailer tire blow-outs. Never load your trailer with more weight than the tires are designed to support. The load rating is located on the trailer tire sidewall.

Always know the maximum speed rating for the trailer tires before driving. This may be significantly lower than the vehicle tire speed rating. The speed rating may be on the trailer tire sidewall. If the speed rating is not shown, the default trailer tire speed rating is 105 km/h (65 mph).

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Driving and Operating

Conversions and Add-Ons

Add-On Electrical Equipment

{ Warning

The Data Link Connector (DLC) is used for vehicle service and Emission Inspection/Maintenance testing. See Malfunction Indicator Lamp (Check Engine Light) 0 104 A device connected to the DLC — such as an aftermarket fleet or driver-behavior tracking device — may interfere with vehicle systems. This could affect vehicle operation and cause a crash.

Such devices may also access information stored in the vehicle's systems.

Caution

Some electrical equipment can damage the vehicle or cause components to not work and would not be covered by the vehicle warranty. Always check with your dealer before adding electrical equipment.

Add-on equipment can drain the vehicle's 12-volt battery, even if the vehicle is not operating.

The vehicle has an airbag system.

Before attempting to add anything electrical to the vehicle, see Servicing the Airbag-Equipped Vehicle 0 64 and Adding Equipment to the Airbag-Equipped Vehicle 0 64.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

California Proposition 65 Warning

{ Warning

Most motor vehicles, including this one, as well as many of its service parts and fluids, contain and/or emit chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Engine exhaust, many parts and systems, many fluids, and some component wear by-products contain and/or emit these chemicals. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/passenger-vehicle](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/passenger-vehicle).

See Battery - North America 0 232 and Jump Starting - North America 0 286 and the back cover.

California Perchlorate Materials Requirements

Certain types of automotive applications, such as airbag initiators, seat belt pretensioners, and lithium batteries contained in electronic keys, may contain perchlorate materials. Perchlorate Material – special handling may apply. See [www.dtsc.ca.gov/hazardouswaste/perchlorate](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/hazardouswaste/perchlorate).

## Accessories and Modifications

Adding non-dealer accessories or making modifications to the vehicle can affect vehicle performance and safety, including such things as airbags, braking, stability, ride and handling, emissions systems, aerodynamics, durability, and electronic systems like antilock brakes, traction control, and stability control. These accessories or modifications could even cause malfunction or damage not covered by the vehicle warranty.

Damage to suspension components caused by modifying vehicle height outside of factory settings will not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

Damage to vehicle components resulting from modifications or the installation or use of non-GM certified parts, including control module or software modifications, is not covered under the terms of the vehicle warranty and may affect remaining warranty coverage for affected parts.

GM Accessories are designed to complement and function with other systems on the vehicle. See your dealer to accessorize the vehicle using genuine GM Accessories installed by a dealer technician.

Also, see Adding Equipment to the Airbag-Equipped Vehicle 0 64.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### Vehicle Checks

#### Doing Your Own Service Work

##### { Warning

It can be dangerous to work on your vehicle if you do not have the proper knowledge, service manual, tools, or parts. Always follow owner's manual procedures and consult the service manual for your vehicle before doing any service work.

If doing some of your own service work, use the proper service manual. It tells you much more about how to service the vehicle than this manual can. To order the proper service manual, see Publication Ordering Information 0 329.

This vehicle has an airbag system.

Before attempting to do your own service work, see Servicing the Airbag-Equipped Vehicle 0 64.

If equipped with remote vehicle start, open the hood before performing any service work to prevent remote starting the vehicle accidentally. See Remote Vehicle Start 0 16.

Keep a record with all parts receipts and list the mileage and the date of any service work performed. See Maintenance Records 0 315.

## Caution

Even small amounts of contamination can cause damage to vehicle systems. Do not allow contaminants to contact the fluids, reservoir caps, or dipsticks.

Hood

{ Warning

For vehicles with auto engine stop/start, turn the vehicle off before opening the hood. If the  
(Continued)

Warning (Continued)


{ Warning

Components under the hood can get hot from running the engine.

To help avoid the risk of burning unprotected skin, never touch these components until they have cooled, and always use a glove or towel to avoid direct skin contact.

Clear any snow from the hood before opening.

To open the hood:

Pull the hood release lever with the  symbol. It is on the lower left side of the instrument panel.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

Go to the front of the vehicle and locate the secondary release lever under the front center of the hood. Push the secondary hood release lever to the right to release.

Lift the hood and release the hood prop rod from its retainer, in the front of the engine compartment. Securely insert the rod end into the slot marked with an arrow, on the underside of the hood.

To close the hood:

Before closing the hood, be sure all filler caps are on properly, and all tools are removed.

Lift the hood and remove the hood prop rod from the underside of the hood. Return the prop rod to its retainer. The

Lower the hood 20 cm (8 in) above the vehicle and release it. Check to make sure the hood is latched completely.

Repeat this process with additional force if necessary. { Warning

Do not drive the vehicle if the hood is not latched completely.

The hood could open fully, block your vision, and cause a crash.

You or others could be injured.

Always close the hood completely before driving.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### Engine Compartment Overview

#### 1.5L L4 Turbo Engine

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

Engine Air Cleaner/Filter 0 223.

Engine Oil Fill Cap. See Engine Oil 0 219.

Engine Oil Dipstick. See Engine Oil 0 219.

Engine Cooling Fan (Out of View). See Cooling System 0 225.

Brake Fluid Reservoir. See Brakes 0 230.

Coolant Surge Tank and Pressure Cap. See Cooling System 0 225.

Battery - North America 0 232.

Remote Positive (+) Battery Terminal (Under Cover). See Jump Starting - North America 0 286.

Engine Compartment Fuse Block 0 243.

Windshield Washer Fluid Reservoir. See Washer Fluid 0 229.

Remote Negative (-) Battery Terminal. See Jump Starting North America 0 286.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### 2.0L L4 Turbo Engine

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Keys, Doors, and Windows

Delayed locking can be programmed. See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

### Automatic Door Locks

The doors will lock automatically when all doors are closed, the ignition is on, and the vehicle is shifted out of P (Park).

If a vehicle door is unlocked, and then opened and closed, the doors will lock either when your foot is removed from the brake or the vehicle speed becomes faster than 13 km/h (8 mph).

To unlock the doors:

Press K on the power door lock switch.

Shift the transmission into P (Park).

Automatic door locking cannot be disabled. Automatic door unlocking can be programmed. See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

#### Lockout Protection

If the ignition is on or in ACC/ ACCESSORY and the power door lock switch is pressed with the driver door open, all the doors will lock and only the driver door will unlock.

If the vehicle is off and locking is requested while a door is open, when all doors are closed the vehicle will check for RKE transmitters inside. If an RKE transmitter is detected and the number of RKE transmitters inside has not reduced, the driver door will unlock and the horn will chirp three times.

Lockout Protection can be manually overridden with the driver door open by pressing and holding Q on the power door lock switch.

#### Open Door Anti-Lockout

If Open Door Anti-Lockout has been turned on and the vehicle is off, the driver door is open, and locking is requested, all the doors will lock and the driver door will remain open.

Press the button again to lock the driver door. The Open Door Anti-Lockout feature can be turned on or off. See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

#### Safety Locks

The rear door safety locks prevent passengers from opening the rear doors from inside the vehicle.

#### Manual Safety Locks

If equipped, the safety lock is on the inside edge of the rear doors. To use the safety lock:

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Engine Air Cleaner/Filter 0 223.

Engine Oil Fill Cap. See Engine Oil 0 219.

Engine Oil Dipstick. See Engine Oil 0 219.

Engine Cooling Fan (Out of View). See Cooling System 0 225.

Brake Fluid Reservoir. See Brakes 0 230.

Coolant Surge Tank and Pressure Cap. See Cooling System 0 225.

Battery - North America 0 232.

Remote Positive (+) Battery Terminal (Under Cover). See Jump Starting - North America 0 286.

Engine Compartment Fuse Block 0 243.

Windshield Washer Fluid Reservoir. See Washer Fluid 0 229.

Remote Negative (-) Battery Terminal. See Jump Starting North America 0 286.

## Engine Oil

To ensure proper engine performance and long life, careful attention must be paid to engine oil.

Following these simple, but important steps will help protect your investment:

Use engine oil approved to the proper specification and of the proper viscosity grade. See “Selecting the Right Engine Oil” in this section.

Check the engine oil level regularly and maintain the proper oil level. See “Checking Engine Oil” and “When to Add Engine Oil” in this section.

Change the engine oil at the appropriate time. See Engine Oil Life System 0 221.

Always dispose of engine oil properly. See “What to Do with Used Oil” later in this section.

## Checking Engine Oil

Check the engine oil level regularly, every 650 km (400 mi), especially prior to a long trip. The engine oil dipstick handle is a loop. See Engine Compartment Overview 0 216 for the location. {

### Warning

The engine oil dipstick handle may be hot; it could burn you.

Use a towel or glove to touch the dipstick handle.

If a low oil Driver Information Center (DIC) message displays, check the oil level.

Follow these guidelines:

To get an accurate reading, park the vehicle on level ground.

Check the engine oil level after the engine has been off for at least two hours. Checking the engine oil level on steep grades or too soon after engine shutoff can result in incorrect readings.

Accuracy improves when

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### When to Add Engine Oil

1.5L L4 Turbo Engine

2.0L L4 Turbo Engine

If the oil is below the cross-hatched area at the tip of the dipstick and the engine has been off for at least 15 minutes, add 1 L (1 qt) of the recommended oil and then recheck the level. See “Selecting the Right Engine Oil” later in this section for an explanation of what kind of oil to use. For engine oil crankcase capacity, see Capacities and Specifications 0 317.

#### Caution

Do not add too much oil. Oil levels above or below the acceptable operating range shown on the dipstick are harmful to the engine. If you find that you have an oil level above the (Continued)

#### Caution (Continued)

See Engine Compartment Overview 0 216 for the location of the engine oil fill cap.

Add enough oil to put the level somewhere in the proper operating range. Push the dipstick all the way back in when through.

#### Selecting the Right Engine Oil

Selecting the right engine oil depends on both the proper oil specification and viscosity grade.

See Recommended Fluids and Lubricants 0 313.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

##### Specification

Use full synthetic engine oils that meet the dexos1 specification.

Engine oils that have been approved by GM as meeting the dexos1 specification are marked with the dexos1 approved logo. See [www.gmdexos.com](http://www.gmdexos.com).

#### Caution

Failure to use the recommended engine oil or equivalent can result in engine damage not covered by the vehicle warranty.

##### Viscosity Grade

Use SAE 0W-20 viscosity grade engine oil for the LFV 1.5L L4 turbo engine.

Use SAE 5W-30 viscosity grade engine oil for the LTG 2.0L L4 turbo engine. Cold Temperature Operation: In an area of extreme cold, where the temperature falls below  $-29^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), an SAE W-30 oil may be used. An oil of this viscosity grade will provide easier cold starting for the engine at extremely low temperatures.

When selecting an oil of the appropriate viscosity grade, it is recommended to select an oil of the correct specification. See “Specification” earlier in this section.

#### Engine Oil Additives/Engine Oil Flushes

Do not add anything to the oil. The recommended oils meeting the dexos1 specification are all that is needed for good performance and engine protection.

Engine oil system flushes are not recommended and could cause engine damage not covered by the vehicle warranty.

#### What to Do with Used Oil

Used engine oil contains certain elements that can be unhealthy for your skin and could even cause cancer. Do not let used oil stay on your skin for very long. Clean your skin and nails with soap and water, or a good hand cleaner. Wash or properly dispose of clothing or rags containing used engine oil. See the manufacturer's warnings about the use and disposal of oil products.

Used oil can be a threat to the environment. If you change your own oil, be sure to drain all the oil from the filter before disposal. Never dispose of oil by putting it in the trash or pouring it on the ground, into sewers, or into streams or bodies of water. Recycle it by taking it to a place that collects used oil.

#### Engine Oil Life System

##### When to Change Engine Oil

This vehicle has a computer system that indicates when to change the engine oil and filter. This is based on a combination of factors which

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

##### Vehicle Care

When the system has calculated that oil life has been diminished, it indicates that an oil change is necessary. A CHANGE ENGINE OIL SOON message displays.

Change the oil as soon as possible within the next 1 000 km (600 mi).

It is possible that, if driving under the best conditions, the oil life system may indicate that an oil change is not necessary for up to a year. The engine oil and filter must be changed at least once a year and, at this time, the system must be reset. Your dealer has trained service people who will perform this work and reset the system. It is also important to check the oil regularly over the course of an oil drain interval and keep it at the proper level.

If the system is ever reset accidentally, the oil must be changed at 5 000 km (3,000 mi) since the last oil change.

Remember to reset the oil life system whenever the oil is changed.

##### How to Reset the Engine Oil Life System

Using the DIC controls on the right side of the steering wheel, display REMAINING OIL LIFE on the DIC. See Driver Information Center (DIC) (Base Level) 0 113 or Driver Information Center

(DIC) (Uplevel) 0 116. When remaining oil life is low, the CHANGE ENGINE OIL SOON message will appear on the display.

Press V on the DIC controls and hold down for a few seconds to clear the CHANGE ENGINE OIL SOON message and reset the oil life at 100%.

Be careful not to reset the oil life display accidentally at any time other than after the oil is

The system is reset when the CHANGE ENGINE OIL SOON message is off and the REMAINING OIL LIFE message is displayed.

If the CHANGE ENGINE OIL SOON message comes back on when the vehicle is started, the engine oil life system has not been reset. Repeat the procedure.

### Automatic Transmission Fluid

It is not necessary to check the transmission fluid level.

A transmission fluid leak is the only reason for fluid loss. If a leak occurs, take the vehicle to your dealer and have it repaired as soon as possible.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

### Vehicle Care

#### Caution

Use of the incorrect automatic transmission fluid may damage the vehicle, and the damage may not be covered by the vehicle warranty. Always use the correct automatic transmission fluid. See Recommended Fluids and Lubricants 0 313.

Change the fluid at the intervals listed in Maintenance Schedule 0 304, and be sure to use the fluid listed in Recommended Fluids and Lubricants 0 313.

### Engine Air Filter Life System

#### When to Change Engine Air Filter

If equipped, this feature provides an indication of when to change the engine air filter. It is based on driving conditions, which can cause

When the "Replace at Next Oil Change" message displays, the engine air filter should be replaced at the time of the next engine oil change. When the "Replace Engine Air Filter Now" message displays, the engine air filter should be replaced as soon as possible. Reset the engine air filter life system after the engine air filter is replaced. See your dealer for service and to reset the system.

#### How to Reset Engine Air Filter Life System

Reset the system whenever the engine air filter is replaced so that the system can calculate the next engine air filter change.

To reset:

Place the vehicle in P (Park).

Select Engine Air Filter Life on

Press p to move to the Reset/ Disable display area. Select Reset then press V. Then press Yes to confirm the reset.

100% Air Filter Life will be displayed when the Engine Air Filter Life System is successfully reset.

Engine Air Cleaner/Filter

The engine air cleaner/filter is in the engine compartment on the passenger side of the vehicle.

See Engine Compartment Overview 0 216.

When to Inspect the Engine Air Cleaner/Filter

For intervals on changing and inspecting the engine air filter. see Maintenance Schedule 0 304.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

If equipped with Engine Air Filter Life System. see Engine Air Filter Life System 0 223.

If driving in very dusty areas. follow the engine air filter inspecting and changing intervals. see Maintenance Schedule 0 304.

How to Inspect/Replace the Engine Air Cleaner/Filter

Do not start the engine or have the engine running with the engine air cleaner/filter housing open. Before removing the engine air cleaner/ filter. make sure that the engine air cleaner/filter housing and nearby components are free of dirt and debris. Do not clean the engine air cleaner/filter or components with water or compressed air.

To inspect or replace the engine air cleaner/filter:

1.5L L4 Turbo Engine

2.0L L4 Turbo Engine

Remove the air cleaner housing cover screws.

Raise the air cleaner housing cover and remove the air cleaner/filter from the air cleaner housing.

Clean the filter sealing surface and the housing.

Install the new engine air cleaner/filter.

Lower the air cleaner housing cover and secure with the screws.

If equipped. reset the engine air filter life system after replacing the engine air filter.

See Engine Air Filter Life System 0 223. { Warning

Operating the engine with the air cleaner/filter off can cause you or others to be burned. Use caution when working on the engine. Do not start the engine or drive the vehicle with the air cleaner/filter off. as flames may be present if the engine backfires.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### Caution

If the air cleaner/filter is off. dirt can easily get into the engine. which could damage it. Always have the air cleaner/filter in place when driving.

### Cooling System

The cooling system allows the engine to maintain the correct working temperature.

#### 1.5L L4 Turbo Engine

#### 2.0L L4 Turbo Engine

#### 1. Engine Cooling Fan (Out of View) 2. Coolant Surge Tank and Pressure Cap { Warning

An underhood electric fan can start up even when the engine is not running and can cause injury.

Keep hands. clothing. and tools away from any underhood electric fan.

#### { Warning

Do not touch heater or radiator hoses. or other engine parts.

They can be very hot and can burn you. Do not run the engine if there is a leak; all coolant could leak out. That could cause an engine fire and can burn you. Fix any leak before driving the vehicle.

### Engine Coolant

The cooling system in the vehicle is filled with DEX-COOL engine coolant mixture. See Recommended Fluids and Lubricants 0 313 and Maintenance Schedule 0 304.

The following explains the cooling system and how to check and add coolant when it is low. If there is a problem with engine overheating. see Engine Overheating 0 228.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### What to Use { Warning

Plain water. or other liquids such as alcohol. can boil before the proper coolant mixture will. With plain water or the wrong mixture. the engine could get too hot but there would not be an overheat warning. The engine could catch fire and you or others could be burned.

Use a 50/50 mixture of clean. drinkable water and DEX-COOL coolant. This mixture:

Gives freezing protection down to  $-37^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-34^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). outside temperature.

Gives boiling protection up to  $129^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $265^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). engine temperature.

Protects against rust and corrosion.

Will not damage aluminum parts.

Helps keep the proper engine temperature.

#### Caution

Do not use anything other than a mix of DEX-COOL coolant that meets GM Standard GMW3420 and clean, drinkable water. Anything else can cause damage to the engine cooling system and the vehicle, which would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

Never dispose of engine coolant by putting it in the trash, or by pouring it on the ground, or into sewers, streams or bodies of water. Have the coolant changed by an authorized service center familiar with legal requirements regarding used coolant disposal. This will help protect the environment and your health.

#### Checking Coolant

The vehicle must be on a level surface when checking the coolant level.

#### 1.5L L4 Turbo and 2.0L L4 Turbo Coolant Surge Tank

Check to see if coolant is visible in the coolant surge tank. If the coolant inside the coolant surge tank is boiling, do not do anything else until it cools down.

If coolant is visible but the coolant level is not 5-10 mm (0.2-0.4 in) above the mid-point of the coolant

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Be sure the cooling system is cool before this is done.

If no coolant is visible in the coolant surge tank, add coolant as follows:

#### How to Add Coolant to the Coolant Surge Tank { Warning

Spilling coolant on hot engine parts can burn you. Coolant contains ethylene glycol and it will burn if the engine parts are hot enough.

{ Warning

Plain water, or other liquids such as alcohol, can boil before the proper coolant mixture will. With plain water or the wrong mixture, the engine could get too hot but (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

{ Warning

Steam and scalding liquids from a hot cooling system are under pressure. Turning the pressure cap, even a little, can cause them to come out at high speed and you could be burned. Never turn the cap when the cooling system, including the pressure cap, is hot.

Wait for the cooling system and pressure cap to cool.

#### Caution

Failure to follow the specific coolant fill procedure could cause the engine to overheat and could cause system damage. If coolant is not visible in the surge tank, contact your dealer.

The coolant surge tank pressure cap can be removed when the cooling system, including the surge tank pressure cap and upper radiator hose, is no longer hot.

Turn the pressure cap slowly counterclockwise. If a hiss is heard, wait for that to stop.

A hiss means there is still some pressure left.

Keep turning the cap and remove it.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

##### 1.5L L4 Turbo and 2.0L L4 Turbo Coolant Surge Tank

Fill the coolant surge tank with the proper mixture to 5-10 mm (0.2-0.4 in) above the mid-point on the coolant surge tank.

With the coolant surge tank cap off, start the engine and let it run until the upper radiator hose starts getting hot. Watch out for the engine cooling fan.

By this time, the coolant level inside the coolant surge tank may be lower. If the level is lower, add more of the proper mixture to the coolant surge tank until the level reaches

5-10 mm (0.2-0.4 in) above the mid-point on the coolant surge tank.

Replace the cap tightly.

Check the level in the surge tank when the cooling system has cooled down. If the coolant is not at the proper level, repeat Steps 1–6 and reinstall the pressure cap. If the coolant still is not at the proper level when the system cools down again, see your dealer.

#### Caution

If the pressure cap is not tightly installed, coolant loss and engine damage may occur. Be sure the cap is properly and tightly secured.

#### Engine Overheating

The vehicle has an engine coolant temperature gauge on the instrument cluster to warn of engine overheating. See Engine Coolant Temperature Gauge 0 101.

If the decision is made not to lift the hood when this warning appears. get service help right away. Contact your dealer for additional information.

If the decision is made to lift the hood. make sure the vehicle is parked on a level surface.

Then check to see if the engine cooling fans are running. If the engine is overheating. both fans should be running. If they are not. do not continue to run the engine.

Have the vehicle serviced.

#### Caution

Do not run the engine if there is a leak in the engine cooling system.

This can cause a loss of all coolant and can damage the system and vehicle. Have any leaks fixed right away.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Keys. Doors. and Windows

Move the lever forward to the lock position.

Close the door.

Do the same for the other rear door.

To open a rear door when the safety lock is on:

Unlock the door by activating the inside handle. by pressing the power door lock switch. or by using the Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) transmitter.

Open the door from the outside.

When the safety lock is enabled. adults and older children will not be able to open the rear door from the inside. Cancel the safety locks to enable the doors to open from the inside.

To cancel the safety lock:

Unlock the door and open it from the outside.

Move the lever rearward to unlock. Do the same for the other door.

#### Doors

#### Trunk

#### { Warning

Exhaust gases can enter the vehicle if it is driven with the liftgate. hatch/trunk open. or with any objects that pass through the seal between the body and the hatch/trunk or liftgate. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide (CO) which cannot be seen or smelled. It can cause unconsciousness and even death.

If the vehicle must be driven with the liftgate or hatch/trunk open:

Close all of the windows.

Fully open the air outlets on or under the instrument panel.

Adjust the climate control system to a setting that brings in only outside air (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### If Steam Is Coming from the Engine Compartment { Warning

Steam and scalding liquids from a hot cooling system are under pressure. Turning the pressure cap, even a little, can cause them to come out at high speed and you could be burned. Never turn the cap when the cooling system, including the pressure cap, is hot.

Wait for the cooling system and pressure cap to cool.

### If No Steam Is Coming from the Engine Compartment

If an engine overheat warning is displayed but no steam can be seen or heard, the problem may not be too serious. Sometimes the engine can get a little too hot when the vehicle:

Climbs a long hill on a hot day.

Stops after high-speed driving.

Idles for long periods in traffic.

If the overheat warning is displayed with no sign of steam:

Turn the air conditioning off.

Turn the heater on to the highest temperature and to the highest fan speed. Open the windows as necessary.

When it is safe to do so, pull off the road, shift to P (Park) or N (Neutral), and let the engine idle.

If the engine coolant temperature gauge is no longer in the overheat zone, the vehicle can be driven.

Continue to drive the vehicle slowly for about 10 minutes. Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front.

If the warning does not come back on, continue to drive normally and have the cooling system checked for proper fill and function.

If the warning continues, pull over, stop, and park the vehicle right away.

If there is no sign of steam, idle the engine for three minutes while parked. If the warning is still displayed, turn off the engine until it cools down.

## Washer Fluid

### What to Use

When windshield washer fluid is needed, be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions before use. If operating the vehicle in an area where the temperature may fall below freezing, use a fluid that has sufficient protection against freezing.

#### Adding Washer Fluid

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Open the cap with the washer symbol on it. Add washer fluid until the tank is full. See Engine Compartment Overview 0 216 for reservoir location.

#### Caution

Do not use washer fluid that contains any type of water repellent coating. This can cause the wiper blades to chatter or skip.

Do not use engine coolant (antifreeze) in the windshield washer. It can damage the windshield washer system and paint.

Do not mix water with ready-to-use washer fluid.

Water can cause the solution to freeze and damage the washer fluid tank and other parts of the washer system. (Continued)

#### Caution (Continued)

When using concentrated washer fluid, follow the manufacturer instructions for adding water.

Fill the washer fluid tank only three-quarters full when it is very cold. This allows for fluid expansion if freezing occurs, which could damage the tank if it is completely full.

#### Brakes

Disc brake pads have built-in wear indicators that make a high-pitched warning sound when the brake pads are worn and new pads are needed.

The sound can come and go or can be heard all the time when the vehicle is moving, except when applying the brake pedal firmly.

#### { Warning

The brake wear warning sound means that soon the brakes will not work well. That could lead to a crash. When the brake wear warning sound is heard, have the vehicle serviced.

#### Caution

Continuing to drive with worn-out brake pads could result in costly brake repair.

Some driving conditions or climates can cause a brake squeal when the brakes are first applied or lightly applied. This does not mean something is wrong with the brakes.

Properly torqued wheel nuts are necessary to help prevent brake pulsation. When tires are rotated, inspect brake pads for wear and evenly tighten wheel nuts in the

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

Brake pads should be replaced as complete sets.

### Brake Pedal Travel

See your dealer if the brake pedal does not return to normal height, or if there is a rapid increase in pedal travel. This could be a sign that brake service may be required.

### Replacing Brake System Parts

Always replace brake system parts with new, approved replacement parts. If this is not done, the brakes may not work properly. The braking performance expected can change in many other ways if the wrong replacement brake parts are installed or if parts are improperly installed.

### Brake Fluid

The brake master cylinder reservoir is filled with GM approved DOT 3 brake fluid as indicated on the reservoir cap. See Engine Compartment Overview 0 216 for the location of the reservoir.

### Checking Brake Fluid

With the vehicle in P (Park) on a level surface, the brake fluid level should be between the minimum and maximum marks on the brake fluid reservoir.

There are only two reasons why the brake fluid level in the reservoir may go down:

Normal brake lining wear. When new linings are installed, the fluid level goes back up.

A fluid leak in the brake hydraulic system. Have the brake hydraulic system fixed.

With a leak, the brakes will not work well.

Always clean the brake fluid reservoir cap and the area around the cap before removing it.

Do not top off the brake fluid.

Adding fluid does not correct a leak.

If fluid is added when the linings are worn, there will be too much fluid when new brake linings are installed. Add or remove fluid, as necessary, only when work is done on the brake hydraulic system. { Warning

If too much brake fluid is added, it can spill on the engine and burn, if the engine is hot enough. You or others could be burned, and the vehicle could be damaged.

Add brake fluid only when work is done on the brake hydraulic system.

## Vehicle Care

When the brake fluid falls to a low level, the brake warning light comes on. See Brake System Warning Light 0 106.

Brake fluid absorbs water over time which degrades the effectiveness of the brake fluid. Replace brake fluid at the specified intervals to prevent increased stopping distance. See Maintenance Schedule 0 304.

### What to Add

Use only GM approved DOT 3 brake fluid from a clean, sealed container. See Recommended Fluids and Lubricants 0 313. { Warning

The wrong or contaminated brake fluid could result in damage to the brake system. This could result in the loss of braking leading to a possible injury. Always use the proper GM approved brake fluid.

### Caution

If brake fluid is spilled on the vehicle's painted surfaces, the paint finish can be damaged.

Immediately wash off any painted surface.

### Battery - North America

The original equipment battery is maintenance free. Do not remove the cap and do not add fluid.

The vehicle has a standard 12-volt battery under the hood. See Engine Compartment Overview 0 216.

Refer to the replacement number shown on the original battery label when a new 12-volt battery is needed.

### Stop/Start System

If equipped with the 1.5L L4 engine, the vehicle has a Stop/Start system to shut off the engine to help conserve fuel. See Stop/Start System 0 158.

Vehicles with a 1.5L engine have an Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM) 12-volt battery. Installation of a standard 12-volt battery will result in reduced 12-volt battery life.

When using a 12-volt battery charger on the 12-volt AGM battery, some chargers have an AGM battery setting on the charger.

If available, use the AGM setting on the charger, to limit charge voltage to 14.8 volts. { Warning

**WARNING:** Battery posts, terminals, and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Batteries also contain other chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer.

WASH HANDS AFTER HANDLING. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/passenger-vehicle](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/passenger-vehicle).

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

See California Proposition 65 Warning 0 213 and the back cover.

### Vehicle Storage { Warning

Batteries have acid that can burn you and gas that can explode.

You can be badly hurt if you are not careful. See Jump Starting North America 0 286 for tips on working around a battery without getting hurt.

Infrequent Usage: Remove the 12-volt battery black, negative (-) cable from the battery to keep the battery from running down.

Extended Storage: Remove the 12-volt battery black, negative (-) cable from the battery or use a battery trickle charger.

Remember to reconnect the battery when ready to drive the vehicle.

### Negative Battery Cable Disconnection { Warning

Before disconnecting the negative battery cable, turn off all features, turn the ignition off, and remove the key, if equipped, from the vehicle. If this is not done, you or others could be injured, and the vehicle could be damaged.

## Caution

If the battery is disconnected with the ignition on or the vehicle in Retained Accessory Power (RAP), the OnStar back-up battery will be permanently discharged and will need to be replaced.

Make sure the lamps, features, and accessories are turned off.

Turn the ignition off and remove the key, if equipped.

For vehicles equipped with the 2.0L engine:

Loosen the negative battery cable nut (1).

Remove the negative battery cable clamp (2) from the negative battery post.

Cover the negative battery cable clamp, and negative battery post with a non-conductive material to prevent any contact with the negative battery cable.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### Negative Battery Cable Reconnection

## Caution

When reconnecting the battery:

Use the original nut from the vehicle to secure the negative battery cable. Do not use a different nut.

If you need a replacement nut, see your dealer.

Tighten the nut with a hand tool. Do not use an impact wrench or power tools to tighten the nut.

The vehicle could be damaged if these guidelines are not followed.

## Caution

Do not use paints, lubricants, or corrosion inhibitors on the nut that secures the negative battery cable to the vehicle. This could damage the vehicle.

For vehicles equipped with the 2.0L engine:

Install the negative battery cable clamp to the negative battery post.

Tighten the negative battery cable nut.

Turn the ignition on.

## Starter Switch Check

### { Warning

When you are doing this inspection, the vehicle could move suddenly. If the vehicle moves, you or others could be injured.

Before starting this check, be sure there is enough room around the vehicle.

Apply both the parking brake and the regular brake.

Do not use the accelerator pedal, and be ready to turn off the engine immediately if it starts.

Try to start the engine in each gear. The vehicle should start only in P (Park) or N (Neutral).

If the vehicle starts in any other position, contact your dealer for service.

## Automatic Transmission Shift Lock Control Function Check

### { Warning

When you are doing this inspection, the vehicle could move suddenly. If the vehicle moves, you or others could be injured.

Before starting this check, be sure there is enough room around the vehicle. It should be parked on a level surface.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

Apply the parking brake. Be ready to apply the regular brake immediately if the vehicle begins to move.

With the engine off, turn the ignition on, but do not start the engine. Without applying the regular brake, try to move the shift lever out of P (Park) with normal effort. If the shift lever moves out of P (Park), contact your dealer for service.

#### Park Brake and P (Park) Mechanism Check

##### { Warning

When you are doing this check, the vehicle could begin to move.

You or others could be injured and property could be damaged.

Make sure there is room in front of the vehicle in case it begins to roll. Be ready to apply the regular brake at once should the vehicle begin to move.

Park on a fairly steep hill, with the vehicle facing downhill. Keeping your foot on the regular brake, set the parking brake.

To check the parking brake's holding ability: With the engine running and the transmission in N (Neutral), slowly remove foot pressure from the regular brake pedal. Do this until the vehicle is held by the parking brake only.

To check the P (Park) mechanism's holding ability: With the engine running, shift to P (Park). Then release the parking brake followed by the regular brake.

Contact your dealer if service is required.

#### Wiper Blade Replacement

Windshield wiper blades should be inspected for wear or cracking.

It is a good idea to clean the wiper blade assembly on a regular basis.

When worn, or when cleaning is ineffective, replace the wiper blade.

For proper windshield wiper blade length and type, see Maintenance Replacement Parts 0 314.

##### Caution

Allowing the wiper arm to touch the windshield when no wiper blade is installed could damage the windshield. Any damage that occurs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty. Do not allow the wiper arm to touch the windshield.

To replace the wiper blade:

Pull the wiper assembly away from the windshield.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Lift up on the latch in the middle of the wiper blade where the wiper arm attaches.

With the latch open, pull the wiper blade down toward the windshield far enough to release it from the J-hooked end of the wiper arm.

Remove the wiper blade.

Reverse Steps 1–3 for wiper blade replacement.

## Windshield Replacement

### Driver Assistance Systems

If the windshield needs to be replaced and the vehicle is equipped with a front camera sensor for the Driver Assistance Systems, a GM replacement windshield is recommended. The replacement windshield must be installed according to GM specifications for proper alignment. If it is not, these systems may not work properly, they may display messages, or they may not work at all. See your dealer for proper windshield replacement.

### Acoustic Windshield

The vehicle is equipped with an acoustic windshield. If the windshield needs to be replaced, be sure to get an acoustic windshield so you will continue to have the benefits an acoustic windshield can provide.

### Gas Strut(s)

This vehicle is equipped with gas strut(s) to provide assistance in lifting and holding open the hood/trunk/liftgate system in full open position. { Warning

If the gas struts that hold open the hood, trunk, and/or liftgate fail, you or others could be seriously injured. Take the vehicle to your dealer for service immediately.

Visually inspect the gas struts for signs of wear, cracks, or other damage periodically. Check to make sure the hood/trunk/liftgate is held open with enough force.

If struts are failing to hold the hood/trunk/liftgate, do not operate. Have the vehicle serviced.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### Caution

Do not apply tape or hang any objects from gas struts. Also do not push down or pull on gas struts. This may cause damage to the vehicle.

See Maintenance Schedule 0 304.

### Hood

### Trunk

## Liftgate

## Headlamp Aiming

### Front Headlamp Aiming

Headlamp aim has been preset and should need no further adjustment.

If the vehicle is damaged in a crash, the headlamp aim may be affected.

If adjustment to the headlamps is necessary, see your dealer.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### Bulb Replacement

For the proper type of replacement bulbs, or any bulb changing procedure not listed in this section, contact your dealer.

### Caution

Do not replace incandescent bulbs with aftermarket LED replacement bulbs. This can cause damage to the vehicle electrical system.

### Halogen Bulbs

#### { Warning

Halogen bulbs have pressurized gas inside and can burst if you drop or scratch the bulb. You or others could be injured. Be sure to read and follow the instructions on the bulb package.

### LED Lighting

This vehicle has several LED lamps.

For replacement of any LED lighting assembly, contact your dealer.

Headlamps, Front Turn Signal, Sidemarker, and Parking Lamps

Driver Side Shown, Passenger Side Similar

1. Sidemarker Lamp 2. Low-Beam Headlamp 3. High-Beam Headlamp

### Headlamps (LS/LT)

To replace one of the headlamp bulbs:

Open the hood. See Hood 0 214.

For the driver side bulb, remove the windshield washer bottle filler neck by firmly pulling it straight up and out of the bottle.

For the passenger side bulb, remove the engine air cleaner housing by gripping firmly and pulling straight up.

Remove the cover from the back of the headlamp assembly by turning it counterclockwise.

Press the retaining tab on the electrical connector to disconnect.

Remove the bulb from the lamp assembly by turning counterclockwise.

Replace the bulb and reverse Steps 1–6 to reinstall.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Keys, Doors, and Windows

Warning (Continued)

For more information about carbon monoxide, see Engine Exhaust 0 163.

Trunk Release

To open the trunk the vehicle must be off or the shift lever must be in P (Park).

Press X twice quickly on the RKE transmitter.

Press the touch pad on the rear of the trunk after unlocking all doors.

The trunk may be opened while the vehicle is locked by pressing the touch pad on the rear of the trunk while the RKE transmitter is within 1 m (3 ft) of the rear of the vehicle.

See Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System Operation 0 8.

Emergency Trunk Release Handle

Caution

Do not use the emergency trunk release handle as a tie-down or anchor point when securing items in the trunk as it could damage the handle.

There is a glow-in-the-dark emergency trunk release handle on the trunk lid. This handle glows

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

Headlamps (Premier)

See your dealer for replacement.

Front Turn Signal and Parking Lamps

See your dealer for replacement.

Taillamps, Turn Signal.

Stoplamps, and Back-Up Lamps (LS and LT)

Trunk Deck Inboard Taillamp and Back-Up Lamp

## 1. Back-Up Lamp 2. Taillamp

Open the trunk. See Trunk 0 22.

Remove the push pins and pull back the trunk deck trim.

Remove the bulb socket by turning counterclockwise and pulling straight out.

Remove the bulb from the socket.

Install the new bulb in the bulb socket.

Install the bulb socket by turning clockwise.

Install the trunk deck trim.

## Stoplamp/Taillamp and Turn Signal Lamp

### 1. Stop/Tail/Turn Signal Lamp 2. Sidemarker Lamp

#### Caution

Improper lamp assembly removal and installation can cause leaks and water intrusion which may cause damage to the taillamp. Do not remove the taillamp assembly to replace a bulb. Use the trunk opening to access the bulb.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

To replace any one of these bulbs:

Open the trunk. See Trunk 0 22.

Remove the push pins and pull the trunk trim away from the taillamp assembly.

Remove three hex-nuts from each stud.

Remove the lamp by pulling it straight back.

Remove the bulb socket from the taillamp assembly by turning it counterclockwise.

Remove the bulb from the socket by turning the bulb counterclockwise one-quarter turn and pulling it straight out.

Install a new bulb into the socket.

Install the bulb socket into the taillamp assembly by turning it clockwise.

Install the trunk trim, hex nuts, and push pins.

Taillamps. Turn Signal.

Stoplamps. and Back-Up Lamps (LT and Premier)

#### Caution

Improper lamp assembly removal and installation can cause leaks and water intrusion which may cause damage to the taillamp. Do not remove the taillamp assembly to replace a bulb. Use the trunk opening to access the bulb.

The stoplamp/taillamp and trunk deck inboard taillamp are LEDs. To replace, see your dealer.

#### Back-Up Lamp

Open the trunk. See Trunk 0 22.

Remove the push pins and pull back the trunk deck trim.

Remove the bulb socket by turning counterclockwise and pulling straight out.

Remove the bulb from the socket.

Install the new bulb in the bulb socket.

Install the bulb socket by turning clockwise.

Install the trunk deck trim.

#### License Plate Lamp

To replace one of these bulbs:

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Passenger Side Shown. Driver Side Similar

Push the release tab toward the lamp assembly.

Pull the lamp assembly down to remove.

Turn the bulb socket counterclockwise to remove it from the lamp assembly.

Pull the bulb straight out of the bulb socket.

Push the replacement bulb straight into the bulb socket and turn the bulb socket clockwise to install it into the lamp assembly.

Push the lamp assembly back into position until the release tab locks into place.

#### Electrical System

##### High Voltage Devices and Wiring

###### { Warning

Exposure to high voltage can cause shock, burns, and even death. The high voltage components in the vehicle can only be serviced by technicians with special training.

High voltage components are identified by labels. Do not remove, open, take apart, or modify these components.

High voltage cable or wiring has orange covering or labels. Do not probe, tamper with, cut, or modify high voltage cable or wiring.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### Electrical System Overload

The vehicle has fuses and circuit breakers to protect against an electrical system overload.

When the current electrical load is too heavy, the circuit breaker opens and closes, protecting the circuit until the current load returns to normal or the problem is fixed. This greatly reduces the chance of circuit overload and fire caused by electrical problems.

Fuses and circuit breakers protect power devices in the vehicle.

Replace a bad fuse with a new one of the identical size and rating.

If there is a problem on the road and a fuse needs to be replaced, the same amperage fuse can be borrowed. Choose some feature of the vehicle that is not needed and replace it as soon as possible.

### Headlamp Wiring

An electrical overload may cause the lamps to go on and off, or in some cases to remain off. Have the headlamp wiring checked right away.

### Windshield Wipers

If the wiper motor overheats due to heavy snow or ice, the windshield wipers will stop until the motor cools and will then restart.

Although the circuit is protected from electrical overload, overload due to heavy snow or ice may cause wiper linkage damage.

Always clear ice and heavy snow from the windshield before using the windshield wipers.

If the overload is caused by an electrical problem and not snow or ice, be sure to get it fixed.

### Fuses and Circuit Breakers

The wiring circuits in the vehicle are protected from short circuits by a combination of fuses and circuit

fuses and circuit breakers are marked with their ampere rating.

Do not exceed the specified amperage rating when replacing fuses and circuit breakers. Use of an oversized fuse or circuit breaker can result in a vehicle fire. You and others could be seriously injured or killed.

To check a fuse, look at the silver-colored band inside the fuse.

If the band is broken or melted, replace the fuse. Be sure to replace a bad fuse with a new one of the identical size and rating.

Fuses of the same amperage can be temporarily borrowed from another fuse location, if a fuse goes out. Replace the fuse as soon as possible.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

Engine Compartment Fuse Block

The engine compartment fuse block is on the driver side of the engine compartment.

There is a fuse puller in the engine compartment fuse block. It can be used to easily remove fuses from the fuse block.

Caution

Spilling liquid on any electrical component on the vehicle may damage it. Always keep the covers on any electrical component.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

The vehicle may not be equipped with all of the fuses, relays, and features shown.

Fuses Usage

Antilock brake system pump/Electric brake boost

Rear closure

Memory seat module

Electric brake boost/ Pedestrian friendly alert function – HEV

Automatic occupant sensing/Airbag – HEV

DC DC converter 1

Rear window defogger

Heated mirrors

Fuses Usage

Passive entry/Passive start

Front wiper

Passenger power seat

Antilock brake system valve

Driver power seat  
Sunroof  
Parking lamp  
Automatic headlamp leveling/Adaptive forward lighting  
Transmission control module/Ignition  
Instrument panel/ Body/Ignition  
Rear vision camera/ Ventilated seats  
Malfunction indicator lamp/Ignition  
Fuses Usage  
Canister vent solenoid/Evap leak check module  
Front heated seat  
Battery system manager/Accessory power module fan – HEV  
Body control module 6/Body control module 7  
Fuel module  
Steering column lock  
Heated steering wheel  
Headlamp leveling  
Engine control module/Ignition  
Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19  
Vehicle Care  
Fuses Usage  
Electric brake boost – HEV  
DC DC converter 2  
Starter motor  
High-beam headlamps Left/Right  
Cooling fan  
Air conditioning  
Fuses Usage  
Starter pinion  
Engine control module main



Engine control module sense

Horn

Washer pump

Transmission control module/Engine control module

Ignition coil

Powertrain on engine

Shunt

Shunt

Aeroshutter

Fuses Usage

Traction power inverter module/Motor generator unit pump – HEV/ Transmission oil pump – non HEV

Automatic headlamp leveling

Coolant pump

Relays Usage

Rear window defogger

Front wiper control

Run/Crank

Front wiper speed

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

Relays Usage

Starter motor

Powertrain

Air conditioning

Starter pinion

Instrument Panel Fuse Block

The instrument panel fuse block is on the driver side of the instrument panel. To access the fuses:

Pull out at the center of the right edge. and swing the cover out and to the left.

Remove the cover.

To reinstall the cover, line up the tabs on the left edge, and press the cover into place.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

The vehicle may not be equipped with all of the fuses, relays, and features shown.

### Fuses Usage

F1 Left power windows

F2 Right power windows

### Fuses Usage

F4 Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning blower

F5 Body control module 2 (without Stop/Start option)

F6 Left rear heated seat

F7 Right rear heated seat

### Fuses Usage

F8 Body control module 3

F9 Engine control module/Rear battery-HEV

F10 Body control module 2 (with Stop/Start option)

F15 Transmission control module (with Stop/ Start option)

F16 Amplifier

F17 Seat power lumbar

F20 Body control module 1 (without Stop/Start option)

F21 Body control module 4

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Keys, Doors, and Windows

After pulling the emergency trunk release handle, push the handle back into the bezel.

## Vehicle Security

This vehicle has theft-deterrent features; however, they do not make the vehicle impossible to steal.

### Vehicle Alarm System

This vehicle has an anti-theft alarm system.

The indicator light, on the instrument panel near the windshield, indicates the status of the system:

Off : Alarm system is disarmed.

On Solid : Vehicle is secured during the delay to arm the system.

Fast Flash : Vehicle is unsecured.

A door, the hood, or the trunk is open.

Slow Flash : Alarm system is armed.

Arming the Alarm System

Close the trunk and the hood.

Turn off the vehicle.

Lock the vehicle in one of three ways:

Use the RKE transmitter.

Use the Keyless Access system, if equipped.

With a door open, press the inside Q.

After 30 seconds the alarm system will arm, and the indicator light will begin to slowly flash indicating the alarm system is operating.

Pressing Q on the RKE transmitter a second time will

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

Fuses Usage

F23 Electric steering column lock

F24 Sensing and diagnostic module/ Automatic occupant sensing (Airbag)

F25 Data link connector

F27 AC DC inverter

F29 Body control module 8

F30 Overhead console

F31 Steering wheel controls

F33 Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

F34 Central gateway module

Fuses Usage

F36 Wireless charger/USB charger

F37 Front accessory power outlets/ Cigarette lighter – China only

F38 OnStar

F39 Display

F40 Obstacle detection

F41 Body control module 1 (with Stop/Start option)

F42 Radio

F44 Console accessory power outlet – rear

Relays Usage

K2 Retained accessory power

Relays Usage

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

Wheels and Tires

Tires

Every new GM vehicle has high-quality tires made by a leading tire manufacturer. See the warranty manual for information regarding the tire warranty and where to get service. For additional information refer to the tire manufacturer. { Warning

Poorly maintained and improperly used tires are dangerous.

Overloading the tires can cause overheating as a result of too much flexing. There could be a blowout and a serious crash. See Vehicle Load Limits 0 151. (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

Underinflated tires pose the same danger as overloaded tires. The resulting crash could cause serious injury.

Check all tires frequently to maintain the recommended pressure.

Tire pressure should be checked when the tires are cold.

Overinflated tires are more likely to be cut, punctured, or broken by a sudden impact — such as when hitting a pothole.

Keep tires at the recommended pressure.

Worn or old tires can cause a crash. If the tread is badly worn, replace them. (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

Replace any tires that have been damaged by impacts with potholes, curbs, etc.

Improperly repaired tires can cause a crash. Only the dealer or an authorized tire service center should repair, replace, dismount, and mount the tires.

Do not spin the tires in excess of 56 km/h (35 mph) on slippery surfaces such as snow, mud, ice, etc. Excessive spinning may cause the tires to explode.

See Tire Pressure for High-Speed Operation 0 259 for inflation pressure adjustment for high-speed driving.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### All-Season Tires

This vehicle may come with all-season tires. These tires are designed to provide good overall performance on most road surfaces and weather conditions. Original equipment tires designed to GM's specific tire performance criteria have a TPC specification code molded onto the sidewall. Original equipment all-season tires can be identified by the last two characters of this TPC code, which will be "MS."

Consider installing winter tires on the vehicle if frequent driving on snow or ice-covered roads is expected. All-season tires provide adequate performance for most winter driving conditions, but they may not offer the same level of traction or performance as winter tires on snow or ice-covered roads.

See Winter Tires 0 251.

### Winter Tires

This vehicle was not originally equipped with winter tires. Winter tires are designed for increased traction on snow and ice-covered roads. Consider installing winter tires on the vehicle if frequent driving on ice or snow covered roads is expected. See your dealer for details regarding winter tire availability and proper tire selection.

Also, see Buying New Tires 0 266.

With winter tires, there may be decreased dry road traction, increased road noise, and shorter tread life. After changing to winter tires, be alert for changes in vehicle handling and braking.

If using winter tires:

Use tires of the same brand and tread type on all four wheel positions.

Use only radial ply tires of the same size, load range, and speed rating as the original equipment tires.

Winter tires with the same speed rating as the original equipment tires may not be available for H, V, W, Y, and ZR speed rated tires. If winter tires with a lower speed rating are chosen, never exceed the tire's maximum speed capability.

## Low-Profile Tires

If the vehicle has 245/45R18 or 245/40R19 size tires, they are classified as low-profile tires.

### Caution

Low-profile tires are more susceptible to damage from road hazards or curb impact than standard profile tires. Tire and/or wheel assembly damage can occur when coming into contact with road hazards like potholes, or sharp edged objects, or when sliding into a curb. The warranty does not cover this type of damage. Keep tires set to the correct inflation pressure and (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### Caution (Continued)

### Summer Tires

This vehicle may come with high performance summer tires. These tires have a special tread and compound that are optimized for maximum dry and wet road performance. This special tread and compound will have decreased performance in cold climates, and on ice and snow. It is recommended that winter tires be installed on the vehicle if frequent driving at temperatures below approximately 5 °C (40 °F) or on ice or snow covered roads is expected. See Winter Tires 0 251.

### Caution

High performance summer tires have rubber compounds that lose flexibility and may develop surface cracks in the tread area at temperatures below -7 °C (20 °F). Always store high performance summer tires indoors and at temperatures above -7 °C (20 °F) when not in use. If the tires have been subjected to -7 °C (20 °F) or less, let them warm up in a heated space to at least 5 °C (40 °F) for 24 hours or more before being installed or driving a vehicle on which they are installed. Do not apply heat or blow heated air directly on the tires. Always inspect tires before use. See Tire Inspection 0 264.

### Tire Sidewall Labeling

Useful information about a tire is molded into its sidewall. The examples show a typical passenger vehicle tire and a compact spare tire sidewall.

#### Passenger (P-Metric) Tire Example

(1) Tire Size : The tire size is a combination of letters and numbers used to define a particular tire's width, height, aspect ratio, construction type, and service description. See the "Tire Size" illustration later in this section.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

(2) TPC Spec (Tire Performance Criteria Specification) : Original equipment tires designed to GM's specific tire performance criteria have a TPC specification code molded onto the sidewall.

GM's TPC specifications meet or exceed all federal safety guidelines.

(3) DOT (Department of Transportation) : The Department of Transportation (DOT) code indicates that the tire is in compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

DOT Tire Date of Manufacture : The last four digits of the TIN indicate the tire manufactured date. The first two digits represent the week (01– 52) and the last two digits, the year. For example, the third

(4) Tire Identification Number (TIN) : The letters and numbers following the DOT (Department of Transportation) code are the Tire Identification Number (TIN).

The TIN shows the manufacturer and plant code, tire size, and date the tire was manufactured. The TIN is molded onto both sides of the tire, although only one side may have the date of manufacture.

(5) Tire Ply Material : The type of cord and number of plies in the sidewall and under the tread.

(6) Uniform Tire Quality Grading (UTQG) : Tire manufacturers are required to grade tires based on three performance factors: treadwear, traction, and temperature

(7) Maximum Cold Inflation Load Limit : Maximum load that can be carried and the maximum pressure needed to support that load.

#### Compact Spare Tire Example

(1) Tire Ply Material : The type of cord and number of plies in the sidewall and under the tread.

(2) Temporary Use Only : The compact spare tire or temporary use tire should not be driven at  
Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

(3) Tire Identification Number (TIN) : The letters and numbers following the DOT (Department of Transportation) code are the Tire Identification Number (TIN).

The TIN shows the manufacturer and plant code, tire size, and date the tire was manufactured. The TIN is molded onto both sides of the tire, although only one side may have the date of manufacture.

(4) Maximum Cold Inflation Load Limit : Maximum load that can be carried and the maximum pressure needed to support that load.

(5) Tire Inflation : The temporary use tire or compact spare tire should be inflated to 420 kPa (60 psi). For more information on tire pressure and inflation see Tire Pressure 0 257.

(6) Tire Size : A combination of letters and numbers define a tire's width, height, aspect ratio, construction type, and service description. The letter "T" as the first character in the tire size means the tire is for temporary use only.

(7) TPC Spec (Tire Performance Criteria Specification) : Original equipment tires designed to GM's specific tire performance criteria have a TPC specification code molded onto the sidewall.

GM's TPC specifications meet or exceed all federal safety guidelines.

## Tire Designations

### Tire Size

The example shows a typical passenger vehicle tire size.

(1) Passenger (P-Metric) Tire : The United States version of a metric tire sizing system. The letter "P" as the first character in the tire size means a passenger vehicle tire engineered to standards set by the U.S. Tire and Rim Association.

(2) Tire Width : The three-digit number indicates the tire section width in millimeters from sidewall to sidewall.

(3) Aspect Ratio : A two-digit number that indicates the tire height-to-width measurements.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

### Vehicle Care

For example, if the tire size aspect ratio is 60, as shown in item (3) of the illustration, it would mean that the tire's sidewall is 60 percent as high as it is wide.

(4) Construction Code : A letter code is used to indicate the type of ply construction in the tire.

The letter "R" means radial ply construction; the letter "D" means diagonal or bias ply construction.

(5) Rim Diameter : Diameter of the wheel in inches.

(6) Service Description : These characters represent the load index and speed rating of the tire.

The load index represents the load carrying capacity a tire is certified to carry. The speed rating is the maximum speed a tire is certified to carry a load.

### Tire Terminology and Definitions

**Air Pressure** : The amount of air inside the tire pressing outward on each square inch of the tire. Air pressure is expressed in kPa (kilopascal) or psi (pounds per square inch).

**Accessory Weight** : The combined weight of optional accessories. Some examples of optional accessories are automatic transmission, power windows, power seats, and air conditioning.

**Aspect Ratio** : The relationship of a tire's height to its width.

**Belt** : A rubber coated layer of cords between the plies and the tread. Cords may be made from steel or other reinforcing materials.

**Bead** : The tire bead contains steel wires wrapped by steel cords that hold the tire onto the rim.

**Bias Ply Tire** : A pneumatic tire in which the plies are laid at alternate angles less than 90 degrees to the centerline of the tread.

**Cold Tire Pressure** : The amount of air pressure in a tire. measured in kPa (kilopascal) or psi (pounds per square inch) before a tire has built up heat from driving. See Tire Pressure 0 257.

**Curb Weight** : The weight of a motor vehicle with standard and optional equipment including the maximum capacity of fuel. oil. and coolant. but without passengers and cargo.

**DOT Markings** : A code molded into the sidewall of a tire signifying that the tire is in compliance with the U.S.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

Department of Transportation (DOT) Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. The DOT code includes the Tire Identification Number (TIN). an alphanumeric designator which can also identify the tire manufacturer. production plant. brand. and date of production.

**GVWR** : Gross Vehicle Weight Rating. See Vehicle Load Limits 0 151.

**GAWR FRT** : Gross Axle Weight Rating for the front axle. See Vehicle Load Limits 0 151.

**GAWR RR** : Gross Axle Weight Rating for the rear axle. See Vehicle Load Limits 0 151.

**Intended Outboard Sidewall** : The side of an asymmetrical tire that must always face outward when mounted on a vehicle.

**Kilopascal (kPa)** : The metric unit for air pressure.

**Light Truck (LT-Metric) Tire** : A tire used on light duty trucks and some multipurpose passenger vehicles.

**Load Index** : An assigned number ranging from 1 to 279 that corresponds to the load carrying capacity of a tire.

**Maximum Inflation Pressure** : The maximum air pressure to which a cold tire can be inflated.

The maximum air pressure is molded onto the sidewall.

**Maximum Load Rating** : The load rating for a tire at the maximum permissible inflation pressure for that tire.

**Maximum Loaded Vehicle Weight** : The sum of curb weight. accessory weight. vehicle capacity weight. and production options weight.

**Normal Occupant Weight** : The number of occupants a vehicle is designed to seat multiplied by 68 kg (150 lb). See Vehicle Load Limits 0 151.

**Occupant Distribution** : Designated seating positions.

**Outward Facing Sidewall** : The side of an asymmetrical tire that has a particular side that faces outward when mounted on a vehicle. The side of the tire that contains a whitewall, bears white lettering, or bears manufacturer, brand, and/or model name molding that is higher or deeper than the same moldings on the other sidewall of the tire.

**Passenger (P-Metric) Tire** : A tire used on passenger cars and some light duty trucks and multipurpose vehicles.

**Recommended Inflation Pressure** : Vehicle manufacturer's recommended

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

**Vehicle Care**

**Radial Ply Tire** : A pneumatic tire in which the ply cords that extend to the beads are laid at 90 degrees to the centerline of the tread.

**Rim** : A metal support for a tire and upon which the tire beads are seated.

**Sidewall** : The portion of a tire between the tread and the bead.

**Speed Rating** : An alphanumeric code assigned to a tire indicating the maximum speed at which a tire can operate.

**Traction** : The friction between the tire and the road surface.

The amount of grip provided.

**Tread** : The portion of a tire that comes into contact with the road.

**Treadwear Indicators** : Narrow bands, sometimes called wear bars, that show across the tread of a tire when only 1.6 mm (1/ 16 in) of tread remains. See When It Is Time for New Tires 0 266.

**UTQGS (Uniform Tire Quality Grading Standards)** : A tire information system that provides consumers with ratings for a tire's traction, temperature, and treadwear. Ratings are determined by tire manufacturers using government testing procedures.

The ratings are molded into the sidewall of the tire. See Uniform Tire Quality Grading 0 268.

**Vehicle Capacity Weight** : The number of designated seating positions multiplied by 68 kg (150 lb) plus the rated cargo load. See Vehicle Load Limits 0 151.

**Vehicle Maximum Load on the Tire** : Load on an individual tire due to curb weight, accessory weight, occupant weight, and cargo weight.

**Vehicle Placard** : A label permanently attached to a vehicle showing the vehicle capacity weight and the original equipment tire size and recommended inflation pressure.

See "Tire and Loading Information Label" under Vehicle Load Limits 0 151.

**Tire Pressure**

Tires need the correct amount of air pressure to operate effectively.

## Vehicle Care

### { Warning

Neither tire underinflation nor overinflation is good.

Underinflated tires, or tires that do not have enough air, can result in:

Tire overloading and overheating which could lead to a blowout.

Premature or irregular wear.

Poor handling.

Reduced fuel economy.

Overinflated tires, or tires that have too much air, can result in:

Unusual wear.

Poor handling.

Rough ride.

Needless damage from road hazards.

The Tire and Loading Information label on the vehicle indicates the original equipment tires and the correct cold tire inflation pressures. The recommended pressure is the minimum air pressure needed to support the vehicle's maximum load carrying capacity. See Vehicle Load Limits 0 151.

How the vehicle is loaded affects vehicle handling and ride comfort. Never load the vehicle with more weight than it was designed to carry.

### When to Check

Check the pressure of the tires once a month or more. Do not forget the compact spare, if the vehicle has one. The cold compact spare tire pressure should be at 420 kPa (60 psi).

See Compact Spare Tire 0 285.

### How to Check

Use a good quality pocket-type gauge to check tire pressure.

Proper tire inflation cannot be determined by looking at the tire.

Check the tire inflation pressure when the tires are cold, meaning the vehicle has not been driven for at least three hours or no more than 1.6 km (1 mi).

Remove the valve cap from the tire valve stem. Press the tire gauge firmly onto the valve to get a pressure measurement.

If the cold tire inflation pressure matches the recommended pressure on the Tire and Loading Information label, no further adjustment is necessary.

If the inflation pressure is low, add air until the recommended pressure is reached. If the inflation pressure is high, press on the metal stem in the center of the tire valve to release air.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Keys, Doors, and Windows

The vehicle alarm system will not arm if the doors are locked with the key.

If the driver door is opened without first unlocking with the RKE transmitter, the horn will chirp and the lights will flash to indicate pre-alarm. If the vehicle is not started, or the door is not unlocked by pressing K on the RKE transmitter during the 10-second pre-alarm, the alarm will be activated.

If a door, the hood, or the trunk is opened without first disarming the system, the turn signals will flash and the horn will sound for about 30 seconds. The alarm system will then re-arm to monitor for the next unauthorized event.

## Disarming the Alarm System

Do one of the following to disarm the alarm system or turn off the alarm if it has been activated:

Press K on the RKE transmitter.

Unlock the vehicle using the Keyless Access system, if equipped.

Start the vehicle.

To avoid setting off the alarm by accident:

Lock the vehicle after all occupants have left the vehicle and all doors are closed.

Always unlock a door with the RKE transmitter or use the Keyless Access system, if equipped.

Unlocking the driver door with the key will not disarm the system or turn off the alarm.

## How to Detect a Tamper Condition

If K is pressed on the RKE transmitter and the horn chirps and the lights flash three times, an alarm occurred previously while the alarm system was armed.

If the alarm has been activated, a message will appear on the Driver Information Center (DIC).

## Immobilizer

See Radio Frequency Statement 0 329.

## Immobilizer Operation

This vehicle has a passive theft-deterrent system.

The system does not have to be manually armed or disarmed.

The vehicle is automatically immobilized when the transmitter leaves the vehicle.

The immobilization system is disarmed when the ignition button is pushed in and a valid transmitter is in the vehicle.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

Recheck the tire pressure with the tire gauge.

Put the valve caps back on the valve stems to keep out dirt and moisture and prevent leaks. Use only valve caps designed for the vehicle by GM. TPMS sensors could be damaged and would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

### Tire Pressure for High-Speed Operation

{ Warning

Driving at high speeds, 160 km/h (100 mph) or higher, puts additional strain on tires.

Sustained high-speed driving causes excessive heat buildup and can cause sudden tire failure.

This could cause a crash, and you or others could be killed.

Some high-speed rated tires require inflation pressure (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

Vehicles with 245/40R19 size tires require inflation pressure adjustment when driving the vehicle at speeds of 160 km/h (100 mph) or higher.

Set the cold tire inflation pressure to 20 kPa (3 psi) above the recommended cold tire pressure shown on the Tire and Loading Information label.

Return the tires to the recommended cold tire inflation pressure when high-speed driving has ended. See Vehicle Load Limits 0 151 and Tire Pressure 0 257.

### Tire Pressure Monitor System

The Tire Pressure Monitor System (TPMS) uses radio and sensor technology to check tire pressure levels. The TPMS sensors monitor the air pressure in your tires and transmit tire pressure readings to a receiver located in the vehicle.

Each tire, including the spare (if provided), should be checked monthly when cold and inflated to the inflation pressure recommended by the vehicle manufacturer on the vehicle placard or tire inflation pressure label. (If your vehicle has tires of a different size than the size indicated on the vehicle placard or tire inflation pressure label, you should determine the proper tire inflation pressure for those tires.)

As an added safety feature, your vehicle has been equipped with a tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) that illuminates a low tire pressure telltale when one or more of your tires is significantly under-inflated.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

Accordingly, when the low tire pressure telltale illuminates, you should stop and check your tires as soon as possible, and inflate them to the proper pressure. Driving on a significantly under-inflated tire causes the tire to overheat and can lead to tire failure. Under-inflation also reduces fuel efficiency and tire tread life, and may affect the vehicle's handling and stopping ability.

Please note that the TPMS is not a substitute for proper tire maintenance, and it is the driver's responsibility to maintain correct tire pressure, even if under-inflation has not reached the level to trigger illumination of the TPMS low tire pressure telltale.

Your vehicle has also been equipped with a TPMS malfunction indicator to indicate when the system is not operating properly.

The TPMS malfunction indicator is combined with the low tire pressure telltale. When the system detects a malfunction, the telltale will flash for approximately one minute and then

When the malfunction indicator is illuminated, the system may not be able to detect or signal low tire pressure as intended. TPMS malfunctions may occur for a variety of reasons, including the installation of replacement or alternate tires or wheels on the vehicle that prevent the TPMS from functioning properly.

Always check the TPMS malfunction telltale after replacing one or more tires or wheels on your vehicle to ensure that the replacement or alternate tires and wheels allow the TPMS to continue to function properly.

See Tire Pressure Monitor Operation 0 260.

See Radio Frequency Statement 0 329.

## Tire Pressure Monitor Operation

This vehicle may have a Tire Pressure Monitor System (TPMS).

The TPMS is designed to warn the driver when a low tire pressure condition exists. TPMS sensors are mounted onto each tire and wheel assembly, excluding the spare tire and wheel assembly. The TPMS sensors monitor the air pressure in the tires and transmit the tire pressure readings to a receiver located in the vehicle.

When a low tire pressure condition is detected, the TPMS illuminates the low tire pressure warning light located on the instrument cluster.

If the warning light comes on, stop as soon as possible and inflate the tires to the recommended pressure

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

A message to check the pressure in a specific tire displays in the Driver Information Center (DIC). The low tire pressure warning light and the DIC warning message come on at each ignition cycle until the tires are inflated to the correct inflation pressure. Using the DIC, tire pressure levels can be viewed. For additional information and details about the DIC operation and displays see Driver Information Center (DIC) (Base Level) 0 113 or Driver Information Center (DIC) (Uplevel) 0 116.

The low tire pressure warning light may come on in cool weather when the vehicle is first started, and then turn off as the vehicle is driven. This could be an early indicator that the air pressure is getting low and needs to be inflated to the proper pressure.

A Tire and Loading Information label, attached to your vehicle, shows the size of the original

The TPMS can warn about a low tire pressure condition but it does not replace normal tire maintenance. See Tire Inspection 0 264, Tire Rotation 0 265 and Tires 0 250.

## Caution

Tire sealant materials are not all the same. A non-approved tire sealant could damage the TPMS sensors. TPMS sensor damage caused by using an incorrect tire sealant is not covered by the vehicle warranty. Always use only the GM approved tire sealant available through your dealer or included in the vehicle.

Factory-installed Tire Inflator Kits use a GM-approved liquid tire sealant. Using non-approved tire sealants could damage the TPMS sensors. See Tire Sealant and Compressor Kit 0 273 for information regarding the inflator kit materials and instructions.

## TPMS Malfunction Light and Message

The TPMS will not function properly if one or more of the TPMS sensors are missing or inoperable. When the system detects a malfunction, the low tire pressure warning light flashes for about one minute and then stays on for the remainder of the ignition cycle. A DIC warning message also displays. The malfunction light and DIC warning message come on at each ignition cycle until the problem is corrected.

Some of the conditions that can cause these to come on are:

One of the road tires has been replaced with the spare tire. The spare tire does not have a TPMS sensor. The malfunction

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

If the TPMS is not functioning properly it cannot detect or signal a low tire pressure condition. See your dealer for service if the TPMS malfunction light and DIC message come on and stay on.

### Tire Fill Alert (If Equipped)

This feature provides visual and audible alerts outside the vehicle to help when inflating an underinflated tire to the recommended cold tire pressure.

When the low tire pressure warning light comes on:

Park the vehicle in a safe, level place.

Set the parking brake firmly.

Place the vehicle in P (Park).

Add air to the tire that is underinflated. The turn signal lamp will flash.

When the recommended pressure is reached, the horn sounds once and the turn signal lamp will stop flashing and briefly turn solid.

Repeat these steps for all underinflated tires that have illuminated the low tire pressure warning light. { Warning

Overinflating a tire could cause the tire to rupture and you or others could be injured. Do not exceed the maximum pressure listed on the tire sidewall. See Tire Sidewall Labeling 0 252 and Vehicle Load Limits 0 151.

If the tire is overinflated by more than 35 kPa (5 psi), the horn will sound multiple times and the turn signal lamp will continue to flash for several seconds after filling stops.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

To release and correct the pressure, while the turn signal lamp is still flashing, briefly press the center of the valve stem. When the recommended pressure is reached, the horn sounds once.

If the turn signal lamp does not flash within 15 seconds after starting to inflate the tire, the tire fill alert has not been activated or is not working.

If the hazard warning flashers are on, the tire fill alert visual feedback will not work properly.

The TPMS will not activate the tire fill alert properly under the following conditions:

There is interference from an external device or transmitter.

The air pressure from the inflation device is not sufficient to inflate the tire.

There is a malfunction in the TPMS.

There is a malfunction in the horn or turn signal lamps.

The identification code of the TPMS sensor is not registered to the system.

The battery of the TPMS sensor is low.

If the tire fill alert does not operate due to TPMS interference, move the vehicle about 1 m (3 ft) back or forward and try again. If the tire fill alert feature is not working, use a tire pressure gauge.

#### TPMS Sensor Matching Process

Each TPMS sensor has a unique identification code. The identification code needs to be matched to a new tire/wheel position after rotating the vehicle's tires or replacing one or more of the TPMS sensors. The TPMS sensor matching process should also be performed after replacing a spare tire with a road tire containing the TPMS sensor.

The malfunction light and the DIC message should go off at the next ignition cycle. The sensors are matched to the tire/wheel positions, using a TPMS relearn tool, in the

There are two minutes to match the first tire/wheel position, and five minutes overall to match all four tire/wheel positions. If it takes longer, the matching process stops and must be restarted.

The TPMS sensor matching process is:

Set the parking brake.

Place the vehicle in Service Mode. See Ignition Positions 0 155.

If equipped, make sure the Tire Pressure info page option is turned on. The info pages on the DIC can be turned on and off through the Options menu.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

See Driver Information Center (DIC) (Base Level) 0 113 or Driver Information Center (DIC) (Uplevel) 0 116.

Use the DIC controls on the right side of the steering wheel to scroll to the Tire Pressure screen under the DIC info page.

Press and hold V in the center of the DIC controls.

A message requesting acceptance of the process may display.

The horn sounds twice to signal the receiver is in relearn mode and the TIRE LEARNING ACTIVE message displays on the DIC display.

Start with the driver side front tire.

Place the relearn tool against the tire sidewall, near the valve stem. Then press the button to activate the TPMS sensor.

A horn chirp confirms that the

Proceed to the passenger side front tire. and repeat the procedure in Step 7.

Proceed to the passenger side rear tire. and repeat the procedure in Step 7.

Proceed to the driver side rear tire. and repeat the procedure in Step 7. The horn sounds two times to indicate the sensor identification code has been matched to the driver side rear tire. and the TPMS sensor matching process is no longer active. The TIRE LEARNING ACTIVE message on the DIC display goes off.

Turn the vehicle off.

Set all four tires to the recommended air pressure level as indicated on the Tire and Loading Information label.

### Tire Inspection

We recommend that the tires. including the spare tire. if the vehicle has one. be inspected for signs of wear or damage at least once a month.

Replace the tire if:

The indicators at three or more places around the tire can be seen.

There is cord or fabric showing through the tire's rubber.

The tread or sidewall is cracked. cut. or snagged deep enough to show cord or fabric.

The tire has a bump. bulge. or split.

The tire has a puncture. cut. or other damage that cannot be repaired well because of the size or location of the damage.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

### Vehicle Care

#### Tire Rotation

Tires should be rotated every 12 000 km (7. 00 mi). See Maintenance Schedule 0 304.

Tires are rotated to achieve a more uniform wear for all tires.

The first rotation is the most important.

Anytime unusual wear is noticed. rotate the tires as soon as possible. check for proper tire inflation pressure. and check for damaged tires or wheels. If the unusual wear continues after the rotation. check the wheel alignment. See When It Is Time for New Tires 0 266 and Wheel Replacement 0 270.

Use this rotation pattern when rotating the tires.

Do not include the compact spare tire in the tire rotation.

Adjust the front and rear tires to the recommended inflation pressure on the Tire and Loading Information label after the tires have been rotated. See Tire Pressure 0 257 and Vehicle Load Limits 0 151.

Reset the Tire Pressure Monitor System. See Tire Pressure Monitor Operation 0 260.

Check that all wheel nuts are properly tightened. See “Wheel Nut Torque” under Capacities and Specifications 0 317. and “Removing the Flat Tire and Installing the Spare Tire” under Tire Changing 0 280. { Warning

Rust or dirt on a wheel. or on the parts to which it is fastened. can make wheel nuts become loose after time.

The wheel could come off and cause a crash. When changing a wheel. remove any rust or dirt from places where the wheel attaches to the vehicle. In an emergency. a cloth or a paper towel can be used; however. use a scraper or wire brush later to remove all rust or dirt.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Lightly coat the inner diameter of the wheel hub opening with wheel bearing grease after a wheel change or tire rotation to prevent corrosion or rust buildup. Do not get grease on the wheel mounting surface or on the wheel nuts or bolts.

#### When It Is Time for New Tires

Factors such as maintenance. temperatures. driving speeds. vehicle loading. and road conditions affect the wear rate of the tires.

Treadwear indicators are one way to tell when it is time for new tires.

Treadwear indicators appear when the tires have only 1.6 mm (1/16 in) or less of tread remaining. See Tire Inspection 0 264 and Tire Rotation 0 265.

The rubber in tires ages over time.

This also applies to the spare tire. if the vehicle has one. even if it is never used. Multiple factors including temperatures. loading conditions. and inflation pressure maintenance affect how fast aging takes place. GM recommends that tires. including the spare if equipped. be replaced after six years. regardless of tread wear. To identify the age of a tire. use the tire manufacture date which is the last four digits of the DOT Tire Identification Number (TIN) which is molded into one side of the tire sidewall. The first two digits represent the week (01–52) and the last two digits. the year. For example. the third week of the year 2010 would have a four-digit DOT date of 0310.

#### Vehicle Storage

Tires age when stored normally mounted on a parked vehicle. Park a vehicle that will be stored for at least a month in a cool, dry, clean area away from direct sunlight to slow aging. This area should be free of grease, gasoline, or other substances that can deteriorate rubber.

Parking for an extended period can cause flat spots on the tires that may result in vibrations while driving. When storing a vehicle for at least a month, remove the tires or raise the vehicle to reduce the weight from the tires.

### Buying New Tires

GM has developed and matched specific tires for the vehicle. The original equipment tires installed were designed to meet General Motors Tire Performance Criteria Specification (TPC Spec) system rating. When replacement tires are needed.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

### Vehicle Care

GM strongly recommends buying tires with the same TPC Spec rating.

GM's exclusive TPC Spec system considers over a dozen critical specifications that impact the overall performance of the vehicle, including brake system performance, ride and handling, traction control, and tire pressure monitoring performance. GM's TPC Spec number is molded onto the tire's sidewall near the tire size. If the tires have an all-season tread design, the TPC Spec number will be followed by MS for mud and snow. See Tire Sidewall Labeling 0 252.

GM recommends replacing worn tires in complete sets of four.

Uniform tread depth on all tires will help to maintain the performance of the vehicle.

Braking and handling performance may be adversely

Winter tires with the same speed rating as the original equipment tires may not be available for H, V, W, Y and ZR speed rated tires. Never exceed the winter tires' maximum speed capability when using winter tires with a lower speed rating. { Warning

Tires could explode during improper service. Attempting to mount or dismount a tire could cause injury or death. (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

Only your dealer or authorized tire service center should mount or dismount the tires.

{ Warning

Mixing tires of different sizes, tread patterns, or types on the same axle may cause loss of control of the vehicle, resulting in a crash or other vehicle damage. Use the same size, load range, and type of tires as the original tires.

{ Warning

Using bias-ply tires on the vehicle may cause the wheel rim flanges to develop cracks after many miles of driving. (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### Warning (Continued)

A tire and/or wheel could fail suddenly and cause a crash.

Use only radial-ply tires with the wheels on the vehicle.

If the vehicle tires must be replaced with a tire that does not have a TPC Spec number, make sure they are the same size, load range, speed rating, and construction (radial) as the original tires.

Vehicles that have a tire pressure monitoring system could give an inaccurate low-pressure warning if non-TPC Spec rated tires are installed.

See Tire Pressure Monitor System 0 259.

The Tire and Loading Information label indicates the original equipment tires on the vehicle. See Vehicle Load Limits 0 151.

### Different Size Tires and Wheels

If wheels or tires are installed that are a different size than the original equipment wheels and tires, vehicle performance, including its braking, ride and handling characteristics, stability, and resistance to rollover may be affected. If the vehicle has electronic systems such as antilock brakes, rollover airbags, traction control, electronic stability control, or All-Wheel Drive, the performance of these systems can also be affected. { Warning

If different sized wheels are used, there may not be an acceptable level of performance and safety if tires not recommended for those wheels are selected. This increases the chance of a crash and serious injury. Only use GM specific wheel and tire systems (Continued)

### Warning (Continued)

See Buying New Tires 0 266 and Accessories and Modifications 0 213.

### Uniform Tire Quality Grading

The following information relates to the system developed by the United States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which grades tires by treadwear, traction, and temperature performance. This applies only to vehicles sold in the United States. The grades are molded on the sidewalls of most passenger car tires. The Uniform Tire Quality Grading (UTQG) system does not apply to deep tread, winter tires.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Keys, Doors, and Windows

The security light on the instrument cluster comes on when there is a problem with arming or disarming the theft-deterrent system.

The system has one or more transmitters matched to an immobilizer control unit in the vehicle. Only a correctly matched transmitter will start the vehicle.

If the transmitter is ever damaged, you may not be able to start your vehicle.

When trying to start the vehicle, the security light comes on briefly when the ignition is turned on.

If the vehicle does not start and the security light stays on, there is a problem with the system. Turn the vehicle off and try again.

If the RKE transmitter appears to be undamaged, try another transmitter, or place the transmitter in the transmitter pocket. See "Starting the Vehicle with a Low Transmitter Battery" under Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System Operation 0 8.

If the vehicle does not start with the other transmitter or when the transmitter is in the transmitter pocket, the vehicle needs service.

See your dealer who can service the theft-deterrent system and have a new transmitter programmed to the vehicle.

Do not leave the transmitter or device that disarms or deactivates the theft-deterrent system in the vehicle.

## Exterior Mirrors

### Convex Mirrors

#### { Warning

A convex mirror can make things, like other vehicles, look farther away than they really are. If you cut too sharply into the right lane, you could hit a vehicle on the right. Check the inside mirror or glance over your shoulder before changing lanes.

The passenger side mirror is convex shaped. A convex mirror's surface is curved so more can be seen from the driver seat.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

While the tires available on General Motors passenger cars and light trucks may vary with respect to these grades, they must also conform to federal safety requirements and additional General Motors Tire Performance Criteria (TPC) standards.

Quality grades can be found where applicable on the tire sidewall between tread shoulder and maximum section width. For example:

Treadwear 200 Traction AA Temperature A All Passenger Car Tires Must Conform to Federal Safety Requirements In Addition To These Grades.

#### Treadwear

The treadwear grade is a comparative rating based on the wear rate of the tire when tested under controlled conditions on a specified government test course. For example, a tire graded 150 would wear one and one-half (1½) times as well on the government course as a tire graded 100. The relative performance of tires depends upon the actual conditions of their use, however, and may depart significantly from the norm due to variations in driving habits, service practices and differences in road characteristics and climate.

#### Traction

The traction grades, from highest to lowest, are AA, A, B, and C. Those grades represent the tire's ability to stop on wet pavement as measured under controlled conditions on

#### Temperature

The temperature grades are A (the highest), B, and C, representing the tire's resistance to the generation of heat and its ability to dissipate heat when tested under controlled conditions on a specified indoor laboratory test wheel. Sustained high temperature can cause the material of the tire to degenerate and reduce tire life, and excessive temperature can lead to sudden tire failure. The grade C corresponds to a level of

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

##### Wheel Alignment and Tire Balance

The tires and wheels were aligned and balanced at the factory to provide the longest tire life and best overall performance. Adjustments to wheel alignment and tire balancing are not necessary on a regular basis. Consider an alignment check if there is unusual tire wear or the

##### Wheel Replacement

Replace any wheel that is bent, cracked, or badly rusted or corroded. If wheel nuts keep coming loose, the wheel, wheel bolts, and wheel nuts should be replaced.

If the wheel leaks air, replace it.

Some aluminum wheels can be repaired. See your dealer if any of these conditions exist.

Your dealer will know the kind of wheel that is needed.

Each new wheel should have the same load-carrying capacity, diameter, width, offset, and be mounted the same way as the one it replaces.

Replace wheels, wheel bolts, wheel nuts, or Tire Pressure Monitor System (TPMS) sensors with new GM original equipment parts. { Warning

Using the wrong replacement wheels, wheel bolts, or wheel nuts can be dangerous. It could affect the braking and handling of the vehicle. Tires can lose air, and cause loss of control, causing a crash. Always use the correct wheel, wheel bolts, and wheel nuts for replacement.

#### Caution

The wrong wheel can also cause problems with bearing life, brake cooling, speedometer or odometer calibration, headlamp aim, bumper height, vehicle ground clearance, and tire or tire chain clearance to the body and chassis.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

##### Used Replacement Wheels { Warning

Replacing a wheel with a used one is dangerous. How it has been used or how far it has been driven may be unknown. It could fail suddenly and cause a crash.

When replacing wheels, use a new GM original equipment wheel.

#### Tire Chains

##### { Warning

If the vehicle has 245/45R18 or 245/40R19 size tires, do not use tire chains. There is not enough clearance. Tire chains used on a vehicle without the proper amount of clearance can cause damage to the brakes, suspension, or other vehicle parts. The area damaged by the tire chains could (Continued)

##### Warning (Continued)

#### Caution

If the vehicle is equipped with a tire size other than 245/45R18 or 245/40R19, use tire chains only where legal and only when necessary. Use low profile chains that add no more than 12 mm thickness to the tire tread and (Continued)

##### Caution (Continued)

#### If a Tire Goes Flat

It is unusual for a tire to blow out while driving, especially if the tires are maintained properly. See Tires 0 250. If air goes out of a tire, it is much more likely to leak out slowly.

But if there is ever a blowout, here are a few tips about what to expect and what to do:

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

If a front tire fails, the flat tire creates a drag that pulls the vehicle toward that side. Take your foot off the accelerator pedal and grip the steering wheel firmly. Steer to maintain lane position, and then gently brake to a stop, well off the road, if possible.

A rear blowout, particularly on a curve, acts much like a skid and may require the same correction as used in a skid. Stop pressing the accelerator pedal and steer to straighten the vehicle. It may be very bumpy and noisy. Gently brake to a stop, well off the road, if possible. { Warning

Driving on a flat tire will cause permanent damage to the tire.

Re-inflating a tire after it has been driven on while severely underinflated or flat may cause a blowout and a serious crash.

Never attempt to re-inflate a tire (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

{ Warning

Lifting a vehicle and getting under it to do maintenance or repairs is dangerous without the appropriate safety equipment and training. If a jack is provided with the vehicle, it is designed only for changing a flat tire. If it is used for anything else, you or others could be badly injured or killed if the vehicle slips off the jack. If a jack is provided with the vehicle, only use it for changing a flat tire.

If a tire goes flat, avoid further tire and wheel damage by driving slowly to a level place, well off the road, if possible. Turn on the hazard warning flashers. See Hazard Warning Flashers 0 128. { Warning

Changing a tire can be dangerous. The vehicle can slip off the jack and roll over or fall causing injury or death. Find a level place to change the tire. To help prevent the vehicle from moving:

1. Set the parking brake firmly.
2. Put an automatic transmission in P (Park) or a manual transmission in 1 (First) or R (Reverse).
3. Turn off the engine and do not restart while the vehicle is raised.
4. Do not allow passengers to remain in the vehicle. (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

Warning (Continued)

5. Place wheel blocks, if equipped, on both sides of the tire at the opposite corner of the tire being changed.

This vehicle may come with a jack and spare tire or a tire sealant and compressor kit. To use the jacking equipment to change a spare tire safely, follow the instructions below.

Then see Tire Changing 0 280. To use the tire sealant and compressor kit, see Tire Sealant and Compressor Kit 0 273.

When the vehicle has a flat tire (2), use the following example as a guide to assist you in the placement of wheel blocks (1), if equipped.

1. Wheel Block (If Equipped) 2. Flat Tire

The following information explains how to repair or change a tire.

Tire Sealant and Compressor Kit

{ Warning

Idling a vehicle in an enclosed area with poor ventilation is dangerous. Engine exhaust may enter the vehicle. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide (CO) which cannot be seen or smelled.

It can cause unconsciousness (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

{ Warning

Overinflating a tire could cause the tire to rupture and you or others could be injured. Be sure to read and follow the tire sealant and compressor kit instructions and inflate the tire to its recommended pressure. Do not exceed the recommended pressure.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

{ Warning

Storing the tire sealant and compressor kit or other equipment in the passenger compartment of the vehicle could cause injury. In a sudden stop or collision, loose equipment could strike someone. Store the tire sealant and compressor kit in its original location.

If this vehicle has a tire sealant and compressor kit, there may not be a spare tire or tire changing equipment, and on some vehicles there may not be a place to store a tire.

The tire sealant and compressor can be used to temporarily seal punctures up to 6 mm (0.25 in) in the tread area of the tire. It can also be used to inflate an underinflated tire.

If the tire has been separated from the wheel, has damaged sidewalls, or has a large puncture, the tire is too severely damaged for the tire

Read and follow all of the tire sealant and compressor kit instructions.

The kit includes:

1. Sealant Canister Inlet Valve 2. Sealant/Air Hose 3. Base of Sealant Canister 4. Tire Sealant Canister 5. On/Off Button 6. Slot on Top of Compressor 7. Pressure Deflation Button 8. Pressure Gauge

## 9. Power Plug 10. Air Only Hose

### Tire Sealant

Read and follow the safe handling instructions on the label adhered to the tire sealant canister (4).

Check the tire sealant expiration date on the tire sealant canister.

The tire sealant canister (4) should be replaced before its expiration date. Replacement tire sealant canisters are available at your local dealer.

There is only enough sealant to seal one tire. After usage, the tire sealant canister must be replaced.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

### Vehicle Care

#### Using the Tire Sealant and Compressor Kit to Temporarily Seal and Inflate a Punctured Tire

When using the tire sealant and compressor kit during cold temperatures, warm the kit in a heated environment for five minutes.

This will help to inflate the tire faster.

If a tire goes flat, avoid further tire and wheel damage by driving slowly to a level place. Turn on the hazard warning flashers. See Hazard Warning Flashers 0 128.

See If a Tire Goes Flat 0 271 for other important safety warnings.

Do not remove any objects that have penetrated the tire.

Remove the tire sealant canister (4) and compressor from its storage location. See Storing the Tire Sealant and Compressor Kit 0 279.

Remove the air only hose (10) and the power plug (9) from the bottom of the compressor.

Place the compressor on the ground near the flat tire.

Attach the air only hose (10) to the sealant canister inlet valve (1) by turning it clockwise until tight.

Slide the base of the tire sealant canister (3) into the slot on the top of the compressor (6) to hold it upright.

Make sure the tire valve stem is positioned close to the ground so the hose will reach it.

Remove the valve stem cap from the flat tire by turning it counterclockwise.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

### Vehicle Care

Attach the sealant/air hose (2) to the tire valve stem by turning it clockwise until tight.

Plug the power plug (9) into the accessory power outlet in the vehicle. Unplug all items from other accessory power outlets.

See Power Outlets 0 91.

If the vehicle has an accessory power outlet, do not use the cigarette lighter.

If the vehicle only has a cigarette lighter, use the cigarette lighter.

Do not pinch the power plug cord in the door or window.

Start the vehicle. The vehicle must be running while using the air compressor.

Press the on/off button (5) to turn the tire sealant and compressor kit on.

The compressor will inject sealant and air into the tire.

The pressure gauge (8) will initially show a high pressure while the compressor pushes the sealant into the tire. Once the sealant is completely dispersed into the tire, the pressure will quickly drop and start to rise again as the tire inflates with air only.

Inflate the tire to the recommended inflation pressure using the pressure gauge (8). The recommended inflation pressure can be found on the Tire and Loading Information label. See Tire Pressure 0 257.

The pressure gauge (8) may read higher than the actual tire pressure while the compressor

#### Caution

If the recommended pressure cannot be reached after approximately 25 minutes, the vehicle should not be driven farther. The tire is too severely damaged and the tire sealant and compressor kit cannot inflate the tire. Remove the power plug from the accessory power outlet and unscrew the inflating hose from the tire valve. See Roadside Assistance Program 0 323.

Press the on/off button (5) to turn the tire sealant and compressor kit off.

The tire is not sealed and will continue to leak air until the vehicle is driven and the sealant is distributed in the tire.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Therefore, Steps 13–21 must be done immediately after Step 12.

Be careful while handling the tire sealant and compressor kit as it could be warm after usage.

Unplug the power plug (9) from the accessory power outlet in the vehicle.

Turn the sealant/air hose (2) counterclockwise to remove it from the tire valve stem.

Replace the tire valve stem cap.

Remove the tire sealant canister (4) from the slot on top of the compressor (6).

Turn the air only hose (10) counterclockwise to remove it from the tire sealant canister inlet valve (1).

Turn the sealant/air hose (2) clockwise onto the sealant canister inlet valve (1) to prevent sealant leakage.

Return the air only hose (10) and power plug (9) back to their original storage location.

If the flat tire was able to inflate to the recommended inflation pressure, remove the maximum speed label from the sealant canister and place it in a highly visible location.

Do not exceed the speed on this label until the damaged tire is repaired or replaced.

Return the equipment to its original storage location in the vehicle.

Immediately drive the vehicle 8 km (5 mi) to distribute the sealant in the tire.

Stop at a safe location and check the tire pressure. Refer to Steps 1–10 under “Using the Tire Sealant and Compressor Kit without Sealant to Inflate a Tire (Not Punctured).”

If the tire pressure has fallen more than 68 kPa (10 psi) below the recommended inflation pressure, stop driving the vehicle. The tire is too severely damaged and the tire sealant cannot seal the tire.

See Roadside Assistance Program 0 323.

If the tire pressure has not dropped more than 68 kPa (10 psi) from the recommended inflation pressure, inflate the tire to the recommended inflation pressure.

Wipe off any sealant from the wheel, tire, or vehicle.

Dispose of the used tire sealant canister (4) at a local dealer or in accordance with local state codes and practices.

Replace it with a new canister available from your dealer.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

After temporarily sealing a tire using the tire sealant and compressor kit, take the vehicle to an authorized dealer within 161 km (100 mi) of driving to have the tire repaired or replaced.

Using the Tire Sealant and Compressor Kit without Sealant to Inflate a Tire (Not Punctured)

The kit includes:

1. Sealant Canister Inlet Valve
2. Sealant/Air Hose
3. Base of Sealant Canister
4. Tire Sealant Canister
5. On/Off Button
6. Slot on Top of Compressor
7. Pressure Deflation Button
8. Pressure Gauge
9. Power Plug
10. Air Only Hose

If a tire goes flat, avoid further tire and wheel damage by driving slowly to a level place. Turn on the hazard warning flashers. See Hazard Warning Flashers 0 128.

See If a Tire Goes Flat 0 271 for other important safety warnings.

Remove the compressor from its storage location. See Storing the Tire Sealant and Compressor Kit 0 279.

Remove the air only hose (10) and the power plug (9) from the bottom of the compressor.

Place the compressor on the ground near the flat tire.

Make sure the tire valve stem is positioned close to the ground so the hose will reach it.

Remove the valve stem cap from the flat tire by turning it counterclockwise.

Attach the air only hose (10) to the tire valve stem by turning it clockwise until tight.

Plug the power plug (9) into the accessory power outlet in the vehicle. Unplug all items from other accessory power outlets.

See Power Outlets 0 91.

If the vehicle has an accessory power outlet, do not use the cigarette lighter.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Keys, Doors, and Windows

Power Mirrors

To adjust the mirrors:

Press } or | to select the driver or passenger side mirror.

The indicator light will illuminate.

Press the arrows on the control pad to move the mirror in the desired direction.

Adjust each outside mirror so that a little of the vehicle and the area behind it can be seen.

Press } or | again to deselect the mirror.

Memory Mirrors

The vehicle may have memory mirrors. See Memory Seats 0 38.

Side Blind Zone Alert (SBZA)

The vehicle may have SBZA. See Side Blind Zone Alert (SBZA) 0 193.

Lane Change Alert (LCA)

The vehicle may have LCA. See Lane Change Alert (LCA) 0 194.

Turn Signal Indicator

The vehicle may have a turn signal indicator on the mirror housings.

The indicator will flash when a turn signal or the hazard warning flashers are used.

### Folding Mirrors

#### Manual Folding Mirrors

The mirrors can be folded inward toward the vehicle to prevent damage when going through an automatic car wash. Push the mirror outward to return it to the original position.

#### Heated Mirrors

If equipped with heated mirrors: K : The rear window defogger also heats the outside mirrors.

See Dual Automatic Climate Control System 0 137.

#### Reverse Tilt Mirrors

If equipped with memory seats, the passenger and/or driver mirror tilts to a preselected position when the vehicle is in R (Reverse). This allows the curb to be seen when parallel parking.

The mirror(s) return to the original position when:

The vehicle is shifted out of R (Reverse), or remains in R (Reverse) for about 30 seconds.

The ignition is turned off.

The vehicle is driven in R (Reverse) above a set speed.

To turn this feature on or off, see Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

### Vehicle Care

If the vehicle only has a cigarette lighter, use the cigarette lighter.

Do not pinch the power plug cord in the door or window.

Start the vehicle. The vehicle must be running while using the air compressor.

Press the on/off button (5) to turn the tire sealant and compressor kit on.

The compressor will inflate the tire with air only.

Inflate the tire to the recommended inflation pressure using the pressure gauge (8). The recommended inflation pressure can be found on the Tire and Loading Information label. See Tire Pressure 0 257.

The pressure gauge (8) may read higher than the actual tire pressure while the compressor is on. Turn the compressor off to get an accurate pressure

### Caution

If the recommended pressure cannot be reached after approximately 25 minutes, the vehicle should not be driven farther. The tire is too severely damaged and the tire sealant and compressor kit cannot inflate the tire. Remove the power plug from the accessory power outlet and unscrew the inflating hose from the tire valve. See Roadside Assistance Program 0 323.

Press the on/off button (5) to turn the tire sealant and compressor kit off.

Be careful while handling the compressor as it could be warm after usage.

Unplug the power plug (9) from the accessory power outlet in the vehicle.

Turn the air only hose (10) counterclockwise to remove it from the tire valve stem.

Replace the tire valve stem cap.

Return the air only hose (10) and power plug (9) back to their original storage location.

Return the equipment to its original storage location in the vehicle.

The tire sealant and compressor kit has accessory adapters located in a compartment on the bottom of its housing that can be used to inflate air mattresses, balls, etc.

#### Storing the Tire Sealant and Compressor Kit

To access the tire sealant and compressor kit:

Open the trunk. See Trunk 0 22.

Lift the cover.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Turn the wing nut counterclockwise to remove the tire sealant and compressor kit bag.

Remove the tire sealant and compressor kit from the bag.

To store the tire sealant and compressor kit, reverse the steps.

#### Tire Changing

##### Removing the Spare Tire and Tools

1. Jack 2. Wrench 3. Tow Hook (If Equipped) 4. Extension Bolt 5. Insulator Pad

To access the spare tire and tools:

Open the trunk.

Remove the spare tire cover.

Turn the retainer nut counterclockwise and remove the spare tire. Place the spare tire next to the tire being changed.

The jack and tools are stored below the spare tire. Remove them from their container and place them near the tire being changed.

#### Removing the Flat Tire and Installing the Spare Tire

Take off the wheel cover or center cap, if the vehicle has one, to reach the wheel bolts.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Do a safety check before proceeding. See If a Tire Goes Flat 0 271.

Turn the wheel wrench counterclockwise to loosen and remove the wheel nut caps.

Do not try to remove plastic caps from the cover or center cap.

Pull the cover or center cap away from the wheel. Store the wheel cover in the cargo area until you have the flat tire repaired or replaced.

Turn the wheel wrench counterclockwise to loosen all the wheel nuts, but do not remove them yet.

Place the jack near the flat tire.

Put the compact spare tire near you. { Warning

Getting under a vehicle when it is lifted on a jack is dangerous.

If the vehicle slips off the jack, you could be badly injured or killed. Never get under a vehicle when it is supported only by a jack.

{ Warning

Raising the vehicle with the jack improperly positioned can damage the vehicle and even make the vehicle fall. To help avoid personal injury and vehicle (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

{ Warning

Lifting a vehicle and getting under it to do maintenance or repairs is dangerous without the appropriate safety equipment and training. If a jack is provided with the vehicle, it is designed only for changing a flat tire. If it is used for anything else, you or others could be badly injured or killed if the vehicle slips off the jack. If a jack is provided with the vehicle, only use it for changing a flat tire.

Attach the wrench to the jack by fitting the hex end of the wrench over the hex head of the jack.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Place the jack under the vehicle.

Caution

Make sure that the jack lift head is in the correct position or you may damage your vehicle. The repairs would not be covered by your warranty.

Position the jack lift head at the jack location nearest the flat tire. The location is indicated

The notches in the jack must align with the notch in the rocker pinch weld. The jack lift head lifts on the inward side of the pinch weld flange.

The jack must not be used in any other position.

Raise the vehicle by turning the jack handle clockwise. Raise the vehicle far enough off the ground so there is enough room for the road tire to clear the ground.

Remove all of the wheel nuts.

Remove the flat tire. { Warning

Rust or dirt on a wheel, or on the parts to which it is fastened, can make wheel nuts become loose after time.

The wheel could come off and cause a crash. When changing a wheel, remove any rust or dirt from places where the wheel attaches to the (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

Warning (Continued)

Remove any rust or dirt from the wheel bolts, mounting surfaces, and spare wheel.

Place the compact spare tire on the wheel-mounting surface.

{ Warning

Never use oil or grease on bolts or nuts because the nuts might come loose. The vehicle's wheel could fall off, causing a crash.

Reinstall the wheel nuts.

Tighten each nut by hand until the wheel is held against the hub.

Lower the vehicle by turning the jack handle counterclockwise. { Warning

Wheel nuts that are improperly or incorrectly tightened can cause the wheels to become loose or come off. The wheel nuts should be tightened with a torque wrench to the proper torque specification after replacing. Follow the torque specification supplied by the aftermarket manufacturer when (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

Caution

Improperly tightened wheel nuts can lead to brake pulsation and rotor damage. To avoid expensive brake repairs, evenly tighten the wheel nuts in the proper sequence and to the proper torque specification. See Capacities and Specifications 0 317 for the wheel nut torque specification.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Tighten the wheel nuts firmly in a crisscross sequence, as shown.

Lower the jack all the way and remove the jack from under the vehicle.

Tighten the wheel nuts firmly with the wheel wrench.

When reinstalling the wheel cover or center cap on the full-size tire, tighten all five plastic caps hand snug, then tighten them with the wheel wrench an additional one-quarter turn.

#### Caution

Wheel covers will not fit on the vehicle's compact spare. If you try to put a wheel cover on the compact spare, the cover or the spare could be damaged.

#### Storing a Flat or Spare Tire and Tools { Warning

Storing a jack, a tire, or other equipment in the passenger compartment of the vehicle could cause injury. In a sudden stop or collision, loose equipment could strike someone. Store all these in the proper place.

#### Storing a Flat or Spare Tire and Tools with a Screw in Fastener

Remove the extension bolt from the foam holder.

Screw the extension bolt onto the end of the spare tire stow bolt by hand.

Replace the foam, jack, and tools in their original storage location.

Remove the insulator pad and place it over the foam holder to protect the wheel of the flat tire from the jack.

Place the tire facing down over the extension bolt.

Turn the retainer nut clockwise to secure the tire.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Place the floor cover on the wheel.

The compact spare is for temporary use only. Replace the compact spare tire with a full-size tire as soon as you can.

#### Compact Spare Tire

### { Warning

Driving with more than one compact spare tire at a time could result in loss of braking and handling. This could lead to a crash and you or others could be injured. Use only one compact spare tire at a time.

If this vehicle has a compact spare tire, it was fully inflated when new; however, it can lose air over time.

Check the inflation pressure regularly. It should be 420 kPa (60 psi).

Stop as soon as possible and check that the spare tire is correctly inflated after being installed on the

When using a compact spare tire, the AWD (if equipped), ABS, and Traction Control systems may engage until the spare tire is recognized by the vehicle, especially on slippery roads. Adjust driving to reduce possible wheel slip.

### Caution

When the compact spare is installed, do not take the vehicle through an automatic car wash with guide rails. The compact spare can get caught on the rails which can damage the tire, wheel, and other parts of the vehicle.

Do not use the compact spare on other vehicles.

Do not mix the compact spare tire or wheel with other wheels or tires.

They will not fit. Keep the spare tire and its wheel together.

### Caution

Tire chains will not fit the compact spare. Using them can damage the vehicle and the chains. Do not use tire chains on the compact spare.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

### Vehicle Care

#### Jump Starting

##### Jump Starting - North America

For more information about the vehicle 12-volt battery, see Battery North America 0 232.

If the battery has run down, you may want to use another vehicle and some jumper cables to start your vehicle. Be sure to use the following steps to do it safely. { Warning

**WARNING:** Battery posts, terminals, and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Batteries also contain other chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer.

WASH HANDS AFTER (Continued)

## Warning (Continued)

HANDLING. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/passenger-vehicle](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/passenger-vehicle).

See California Proposition 65 Warning 0 213 and the back cover. { Warning

Batteries can hurt you. They can be dangerous because:

They contain acid that can burn you.

They contain gas that can explode or ignite.

They contain enough electricity to burn you.

If you do not follow these steps exactly, some or all of these things can hurt you.

## Caution

Ignoring these steps could result in costly damage to the vehicle that would not be covered by the vehicle warranty. Trying to start the vehicle by pushing or pulling it will not work, and it could damage the vehicle.

1.5L L4 Engine Shown. 2.0L L4 Engine Similar

### 1. Discharged Battery Remote Positive Terminal

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### 2. Discharged Battery Remote Negative Terminal 3. Good Battery Remote Negative Terminal 4. Good Battery Remote Positive Terminal

The vehicle has a remote positive (+) terminal under a trim cover. It is under the cover of the engine compartment fuse block on the driver side of the engine compartment. See Engine Compartment Overview 0 216. You should always use this remote positive (+) terminal.

The jump start negative ground terminal for the discharged battery is on the shock tower on the driver side of the engine compartment.

Check the other vehicle.

It must have a 12-volt battery with a negative ground system.

## Caution

If the other vehicle does not have a 12-volt system with a negative ground, both vehicles can be damaged. Only use a vehicle that has a 12-volt system with a negative ground for jump starting.

Position the two vehicles so that they are not touching.

Set the parking brake firmly on both vehicles. Put an automatic transmission in P (Park) or a manual transmission in Neutral before setting the parking brake.

## Caution

If any accessories are left on or plugged in during the jump starting procedure. they could be damaged. The repairs would not be covered by the vehicle (Continued)

Caution (Continued)

Turn the ignition off and switch off all lights and accessories in both vehicles. except the hazard warning flashers if needed. { Warning

An electric fan can start up even when the engine is not running and can injure you. Keep hands. clothing. and tools away from any underhood electric fan.

{ Warning

Using a match near a battery can cause battery gas to explode.

People have been hurt doing this. (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

Warning (Continued)

Battery fluid contains acid that can burn you. Do not get it on you. If you accidentally get it in your eyes or on your skin. flush the place with water and get medical help immediately.

{ Warning

Fans or other moving engine parts can injure you badly. Keep your hands away from moving parts once the engine is running.

Connect the red positive (+) cable to the positive (+) or remote positive (+) terminal of the discharged battery.

Connect the other end of the positive (+) cable to the positive (+) terminal of the

Connect one end of the black negative (-) cable to the negative (-) terminal of the good battery.

Connect the other end of the negative (-) cable to the negative (-) ground terminal for the discharged battery.

Start the vehicle with the good battery and run the engine at idle speed for at least four minutes.

Try to start the vehicle that had the dead battery. If it will not start after a few tries. it probably needs service.

Caution

If the jumper cables are connected or removed in the wrong order. electrical shorting may occur and damage the (Continued)

Caution (Continued)

Jumper Cable Removal

Reverse the sequence exactly when removing the jumper cables.

After starting the disabled vehicle and removing the jumper cables, allow it to idle for several minutes.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Keys, Doors, and Windows

Interior Mirrors

Interior Rearview Mirrors

Adjust the rearview mirror for a clear view of the area behind the vehicle.

Do not spray glass cleaner directly on the mirror. Use a soft towel dampened with water.

Manual Rearview Mirror

If equipped, push the tab forward for daytime use and pull it rearward for nighttime use to avoid glare of the headlamps from behind.

Automatic Dimming Rearview Mirror

If equipped, automatic dimming reduces the glare of headlamps from behind. The dimming feature comes on when the vehicle is started.

Windows

{ Warning

Never leave a child, a helpless adult, or a pet alone in a vehicle, especially with the windows closed in warm or hot weather.

They can be overcome by the extreme heat and suffer permanent injuries or even death from heat stroke.

The vehicle aerodynamics are designed to improve fuel economy performance. This may result in a pulsing sound when either rear window is down and the front windows are up. To reduce the sound, open either a front window or the sunroof, if equipped.

Power Windows

{ Warning

Children could be seriously injured or killed if caught in the path of a closing window. Never leave the Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) transmitter in a vehicle with children. When there are children in the rear seat, use the window lockout switch to prevent operation of the windows. See Keys 0 7.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

## Towing the Vehicle

### Caution

Incorrectly towing a disabled vehicle may cause damage. The damage would not be covered by the vehicle warranty. Do not lash or hook to suspension components. Use the proper straps around the tires to secure the vehicle. Do not drag a locked wheel/tire. Use tire skates or dollies under any locked wheel/ tire while loading the vehicle. Do not use a sling type lift to tow the vehicle. This could damage the vehicle.

### Caution

If the vehicle cannot be shifted into Neutral (N), do not use the tow eye to tow the vehicle.

Vehicle damage may occur.

GM recommends a flatbed tow truck to transport a disabled vehicle. Use ramps to help reduce approach angles, if necessary. A towed vehicle should have its drive wheels off the ground. Contact Roadside Assistance or a professional towing service if the disabled vehicle must be towed.

### Front Attachment Points

The vehicle is equipped with specific attachment points to be used by the towing provider. These holes may be used to pull the vehicle from a flat road surface onto the flatbed tow truck.

### Recreational Vehicle Towing

Recreational vehicle towing means towing the vehicle behind another vehicle – such as behind a motor home. The two most common types of recreational vehicle towing are known as dinghy towing and dolly towing. Dinghy towing is towing the vehicle with all four wheels on the ground. Dolly towing is towing the vehicle with two wheels on the ground and two wheels up on a device known as a dolly.

Here are some important things to consider before recreational vehicle towing:

Before towing the vehicle, become familiar with the local laws that apply to recreational vehicle towing. These laws may vary by region.

What is the towing capacity of the towing vehicle? Be sure to read the tow vehicle manufacturer's recommendations.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

### Vehicle Care

How far will the vehicle be towed? Some vehicles have restrictions on how far and how long they can tow.

Does the vehicle have the proper towing equipment? See your dealer or trailering professional for additional advice and equipment recommendations.

Is the vehicle ready to be towed? Just as preparing the vehicle for a long trip. make sure the vehicle is prepared to be towed.

#### Dinghy Towing (2.0L Engine Only)

To tow the vehicle from the front with all four wheels on the ground:

Position the vehicle to be towed and secure it to the towing vehicle.

Start the vehicle.

Shift the transmission to N (Neutral).

Turn the vehicle off. Leave the transmission in N (Neutral).

Disconnect the negative (-) battery cable at the battery.

See “Negative Battery Cable Disconnection” under Battery North America 0 232.

Vehicles being dinghy towed should be run at the beginning of each day and at each fuel stop for about five minutes. This will ensure proper lubrication of transmission components.

#### Caution

If 105 km/h (65 mph) is exceeded while towing the vehicle. it could be damaged. Never exceed 105 km/h (65 mph) while towing the vehicle.

#### Caution

Use of a shield mounted in front of the vehicle grille could restrict airflow and cause damage to the transmission. The repairs would (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

#### Caution (Continued)

#### Caution

Do not tow a vehicle with the front drive wheels on the ground if one of the front tires is a compact spare tire. Towing with two different tire sizes on the front of the vehicle can cause severe damage to the transmission.

#### Dinghy Towing (All Except 2.0L Engine)

#### Caution

If the vehicle is towed with all four wheels on the ground. the drive unit could be damaged. Repairs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty. Do not tow the vehicle with all four wheels on the ground.

This vehicle is not designed to be towed with all four wheels on the ground.

#### Dolly Towing

Tow the vehicle with the two rear wheels on the ground and the front wheels on a dolly.

To tow the vehicle with two wheels on the ground and a dolly:

Put the front wheels on a dolly.

Put the shift lever in P (Park).

Secure the vehicle to the dolly.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

## Vehicle Care

### Caution

Towing the vehicle from the rear could damage it. Also, repairs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty. Never have the vehicle towed from the rear.

### Appearance Care

#### Exterior Care

#### Locks

Locks are lubricated at the factory.

Use a de-icing agent only when absolutely necessary, and have the locks greased after using. See Recommended Fluids and Lubricants 0 313.

#### Washing the Vehicle

To preserve the vehicle's finish, wash it often and out of direct sunlight.

### Caution

Do not use petroleum-based, acidic, or abrasive cleaning agents as they can damage the vehicle's paint, metal, or plastic parts. If damage occurs, it would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

Approved cleaning products can be obtained from (Continued)

### Caution (Continued)

### Caution

Avoid using high-pressure washes closer than 30 cm (12 in) to the surface of the vehicle. Use of power washers exceeding 8 274 kPa (1. 00 psi) can result in damage or removal of paint and decals.

### Caution

Do not power wash any component under the hood that has this e symbol.

(Continued)

## Vehicle Care

### Caution (Continued)

This could cause damage that would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

If using an automatic car wash, follow the car wash instructions. The windshield wiper and rear window wiper, if equipped, must be off.

Remove any accessories that may be damaged or interfere with the car wash equipment.

Rinse the vehicle well, before washing and after, to remove all cleaning agents completely. If they are allowed to dry on the surface, they could stain.

Dry the finish with a soft, clean chamois or an all-cotton towel to avoid surface scratches and water spotting.

### Finish Care

Application of aftermarket clearcoat sealant/wax materials is not recommended. If painted surfaces are damaged, see your dealer to

Occasional hand waxing or mild polishing should be done to remove residue from the paint finish. See your dealer for approved cleaning products.

Do not apply waxes or polishes to uncoated plastic, vinyl, rubber, decals, simulated wood, or flat paint as damage can occur.

### Caution

Machine compounding or aggressive polishing on a basecoat/clearcoat paint finish may damage it. Use only non-abrasive waxes and polishes that are made for a basecoat/ clearcoat paint finish on the vehicle.

To keep the paint finish looking new, keep the vehicle garaged or covered whenever possible.

## Protecting Exterior Bright Metal Moldings

### Caution

Failure to clean and protect the bright metal moldings can result in a hazy white finish or pitting.

This damage would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

## Vehicle Care

The bright metal moldings on the vehicle are aluminum, chrome, or stainless steel. To prevent damage always follow these cleaning instructions:

Be sure the molding is cool to the touch before applying any cleaning solution.

Use only approved cleaning solutions for aluminum, chrome, or stainless steel. Some cleaners are highly acidic or contain alkaline substances and can damage the moldings.

Always dilute a concentrated cleaner according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Do not use cleaners that are not intended for automotive use.

Use a nonabrasive wax on the vehicle after washing to protect and extend the molding finish.

Cleaning Exterior Lamps/ Lenses, Emblems, Decals, and Stripes

Use only lukewarm or cold water, a soft cloth, and a car washing soap to clean exterior lamps, lenses, emblems, decals, and stripes.

Follow instructions under "Washing the Vehicle" previously in this section.

Lamp covers are made of plastic, and some have a UV protective coating. Do not clean or wipe them while they are dry.

Do not use any of the following on lamp covers:

Abrasive or caustic agents.

Washer fluids and other cleaning agents in higher concentrations than suggested by the manufacturer.

Solvents, alcohols, fuels, or other harsh cleaners.

Ice scrapers or other hard items.

Aftermarket appearance caps or covers while the lamps are illuminated, due to excessive heat generated.

Caution

Failure to clean lamps properly can cause damage to the lamp cover that would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

Caution

Using wax on low gloss black finish stripes can increase the gloss level and create a non-uniform finish. Clean low gloss stripes with soap and water only.

Air Intakes

Clear debris from the air intakes, between the hood and windshield when washing the vehicle.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

Vehicle Care

Shutter System

The vehicle may have a shutter system designed to help increase fuel economy. Keep the shutter system clean for proper operation.

#### Windshield and Wiper Blades

Clean the outside of the windshield with glass cleaner.

Clean rubber blades using a lint-free cloth or paper towel soaked with windshield washer fluid or a mild detergent. Wash the windshield thoroughly when cleaning the blades. Bugs, road grime, sap, and

Replace the wiper blades if they are worn or damaged. Damage can be caused by extreme dusty conditions, sand, salt, heat, sun, snow, and ice.

#### Weatherstrips

Apply weatherstrip lubricant on weatherstrips to make them last longer, seal better, and not stick or squeak. Lubricate weatherstrips at least once a year. Hot, dry climates may require more frequent application. Black marks from rubber material on painted surfaces can be removed by rubbing with a clean cloth. See Recommended Fluids and Lubricants 0 313.

#### Tires

Use a stiff brush with tire cleaner to clean the tires.

#### Caution

Using petroleum-based tire dressing products on the vehicle may damage the paint finish and/ or tires. When applying a tire dressing, always wipe off any overspray from all painted surfaces on the vehicle.

#### Wheels and Wheel Trim

Use a soft, clean cloth with mild soap and water to clean the wheels.

After rinsing thoroughly with clean water, dry with a soft, clean towel.

A wax may then be applied.

#### Caution

Chrome wheels and chrome wheel trim may be damaged if the vehicle is not washed after driving on roads that have been sprayed with magnesium chloride or calcium chloride. These are used on roads for conditions such as (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

Caution (Continued)

Caution



To avoid surface damage on wheels and wheel trim, do not use strong soaps, chemicals, abrasive polishes, cleaners, or brushes. Use only GM approved cleaners. Do not drive the vehicle through an automatic car wash that uses silicon carbide tire/wheel cleaning brushes.

Damage could occur and the repairs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

#### Brake System

Visually inspect brake lines and hoses for proper hook-up, binding, leaks, cracks, chafing, etc. Inspect disc brake pads for wear and rotors

#### Steering, Suspension, and Chassis Components

Visually inspect steering, suspension, and chassis components for damaged, loose, or missing parts or signs of wear at least once a year.

Inspect power steering for proper attachment, connections, binding, leaks, cracks, chafing, etc.

Visually check constant velocity joint boots and axle seals for leaks.

#### Body Component Lubrication

Lubricate all key lock cylinders, hood hinges, decklid hinges, steel fuel door hinge, unless the components are plastic. Applying silicone grease on weatherstrips with a clean cloth will make them last longer, seal better, and not stick or squeak.

#### Underbody Maintenance

At least twice a year, spring and fall, use plain water to flush any corrosive materials from the underbody. Take care to thoroughly clean any areas where mud and other debris can collect.

Do not directly power wash the transfer case and/or front/rear axle output seals. High pressure water can overcome the seals and contaminate the fluid. Contaminated fluid will decrease the life of the transfer case and/or axles and should be replaced.

#### Sheet Metal Damage

If the vehicle is damaged and requires sheet metal repair or replacement, make sure the body repair shop applies anti-corrosion material to parts repaired or replaced to restore corrosion protection.

Original manufacturer replacement parts will provide the corrosion protection while maintaining the vehicle warranty.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/21/19

#### Vehicle Care

#### Finish Damage

Quickly repair minor chips and scratches with touch-up materials available from your dealer to avoid corrosion. Larger areas of finish damage can be corrected in your dealer's body and paint shop.

#### Chemical Paint Spotting

Airborne pollutants can fall upon and attack painted vehicle surfaces causing blotchy, ring-shaped discolorations, and small, irregular dark spots etched into the paint surface. See "Finish Care" previously in this section.

#### Interior Care

To prevent dirt particle abrasions, regularly clean the vehicle's interior.

Immediately remove any soils.

Newspapers or dark garments can transfer color to the vehicle's interior.

Use a soft bristle brush to remove dust from knobs and crevices on the instrument cluster. Using a mild soap solution, immediately remove

Use cleaners specifically designed for the surfaces being cleaned to prevent permanent damage. Apply all cleaners directly to the cleaning cloth. Do not spray cleaners on any switches or controls. Remove cleaners quickly.

Before using cleaners, read and follow all safety instructions on the label. While cleaning the interior, open the doors and windows to get proper ventilation.

To prevent damage, do not clean the interior using the following cleaners or techniques:

Never use a razor or any other sharp object to remove soil from any interior surface.

Never use a brush with stiff bristles.

Never rub any surface aggressively or with too much pressure.

Do not use laundry detergents or dishwashing soaps with degreasers. For liquid cleaners, use approximately 20 drops per 3.8 L (1 gal) of water.

A concentrated soap solution will create streaks and attract dirt.

Do not use solutions that contain strong or caustic soap.

Do not heavily saturate the upholstery when cleaning.

Do not use solvents or cleaners containing solvents.

#### Interior Glass

To clean, use a terry cloth fabric dampened with water. Wipe droplets left behind with a clean dry cloth.

If necessary, use a commercial glass cleaner after cleaning with plain water.

## Vehicle Care

### Caution

To prevent scratching, never use abrasive cleaners on automotive glass. Abrasive cleaners or aggressive cleaning may damage the rear window defogger.

Cleaning the windshield with water during the first three to six months of ownership will reduce tendency to fog.

### Speaker Covers

Vacuum around a speaker cover gently, so that the speaker will not be damaged. Clean spots with water and mild soap.

### Coated Moldings

Coated moldings should be cleaned.

When lightly soiled, wipe with a sponge or soft, lint-free cloth dampened with water.

When heavily soiled, use warm soapy water.

### Fabric/Carpet/Suede

Start by vacuuming the surface using a soft brush attachment. If a rotating vacuum brush attachment is being used, only use it on the floor carpet. Before cleaning, gently remove as much of the soil as possible:

Gently blot liquids with a paper towel. Continue blotting until no more soil can be removed.

For solid soils, remove as much as possible prior to vacuuming.

To clean:

Saturate a clean, lint-free colorfast cloth with water.

Microfiber cloth is recommended to prevent lint transfer to the fabric or carpet.

Remove excess moisture by gently wringing until water does not drip from the cleaning cloth.

Start on the outside edge of the soil and gently rub toward the center. Fold the cleaning cloth

Continue gently rubbing the soiled area until there is no longer any color transfer from the soil to the cleaning cloth.

If the soil is not completely removed, use a mild soap solution followed only by plain water.

If the soil is not completely removed, it may be necessary to use a commercial upholstery cleaner or spot lifter. Test a small hidden area for colorfastness before using a commercial upholstery cleaner or spot lifter. If ring formation occurs, clean the entire fabric or carpet.

After cleaning, use a paper towel to blot excess moisture.

## Keys, Doors, and Windows

The power windows work when the vehicle is on, in ACC/ACCESSORY, or when Retained Accessory Power (RAP) is active. See Retained Accessory Power (RAP) 0 160.

Using the window switch, press to open or pull to close the window.

The windows may be temporarily disabled if they are used repeatedly within a short time.

### Window Lockout

This feature stops the rear door passenger window switches from working.

Press 2 to engage the rear window lockout feature. The indicator light is on when engaged.

Press 2 again to disengage.

### Window Express Movement

All windows can be opened without holding the window switch. Press the switch down fully and quickly release to express-open the window.

If equipped, pull the window switch up fully and quickly release to express-close the window.

Briefly press or pull the window switch in the same direction to stop that window's express movement.

### Window Automatic Reversal System

The express-close feature will reverse window movement if it comes in contact with an object.

Extreme cold or ice could cause the window to auto-reverse. The window will operate normally after the object or condition is removed.

### Automatic Reversal System Override { Warning

If automatic reversal system override is active, the window will not reverse automatically. You or others could be injured and the window could be damaged.

Before using automatic reversal (Continued)

## Vehicle Care

### Cleaning High Gloss Surfaces and Vehicle Information and Radio Displays

Use a microfiber cloth on high gloss surfaces or vehicle displays. First, use a soft bristle brush to remove dirt that can scratch the surface.

Then gently clean by rubbing with a microfiber cloth. Never use window cleaners or solvents. Periodically hand wash the microfiber cloth separately, using mild soap. Do not use bleach or fabric softener. Rinse thoroughly and air dry before next use.

#### Caution

Do not attach a device with a suction cup to the display. This may cause damage and would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

Instrument Panel. Leather.

Vinyl. Other Plastic Surfaces.

Low Gloss Paint Surfaces. and Natural Open Pore Wood Surfaces

Use a soft microfiber cloth dampened with water to remove dust and loose dirt. For a more thorough cleaning, use a soft microfiber cloth dampened with a mild soap solution.

#### Caution

Soaking or saturating leather, especially perforated leather, as well as other interior surfaces, may cause permanent damage.

Wipe excess moisture from these surfaces after cleaning and allow them to dry naturally. Never use heat, steam, or spot removers. Do not use cleaners that contain silicone or wax-based products.

Cleaners containing these solvents can permanently change (Continued)

#### Caution (Continued)

Do not use cleaners that increase gloss, especially on the instrument panel. Reflected glare can decrease visibility through the windshield under certain conditions.

#### Caution

Use of air fresheners may cause permanent damage to plastics and painted surfaces. If an air freshener comes in contact with any plastic or painted surface in the vehicle, blot immediately and clean with a soft cloth dampened with a mild soap solution.

Damage caused by air fresheners would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Keys, Doors, and Windows

#### Warning (Continued)

When the engine is on, override the automatic reversal system by pulling and holding the window switch if conditions prevent it from closing.

Programming the Power Windows

Programming may be necessary if the vehicle's battery has been disconnected or discharged. If the window is unable to express-up, program each express-close window:

Close all doors.

Turn the ignition on or to ACC/ ACCESSORY.

Partially open the window to be programmed. Then close it and continue to pull the switch briefly after the window has fully closed.

Open the window and continue to press the switch briefly after the window has fully opened.

#### Sun Visors

Pull the sun visor down to block glare. Detach the sun visor from the center mount to pivot to the side window, or to extend along the rod, if available.

The vehicle may have mirror lamps.

The lamps turn on and off when the cover is opened and closed.

#### Roof

##### Sunroof

If equipped, the ignition must be on or in ACC/ACCESSORY, or Retained Accessory Power (RAP) must be active to operate the sunroof. See Ignition Positions 0 155 and Retained Accessory Power (RAP) 0 160.

##### 1. Sunroof Switch 2. Sunshade Switch

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Keys, Doors, and Windows

##### Sunroof Express Operation

Press and release D (1) to vent.

Press and release again to express-open. Press D (1) at any time to stop movement. Press and release g (1) to express-close.

Press g (1) at any time to stop movement.

##### Sunroof Manual Operation

The sunroof can change to manual mode by holding D (1) while opening. The sunroof will now open as long as D (1) is held. Press and release again to change back to express operation.

##### Power Sunshade Express Operation

Press and release C (2) to express-open the power sunshade.

Press C (2) at any time to stop movement. Press and release Q (2) to express-close the power sunshade. Press Q (2) at any time to stop movement.

## Power Sunshade Manual Operation

The power sunshade can change to manual mode by holding C (2) while opening. The power sunshade will now open as long as C (2) is held. Press and release again to change back to express operation.

The sunroof cannot be opened or closed if the vehicle has an electrical failure.

## Automatic Reversal System

The sunroof has an automatic reversal system that is only active when the sunroof is operated in express-close mode.

If an object is in the path while express closing, the reversal system will detect an object, stop, and open the sunroof again.

If frost or other conditions prevent closing, override the feature by closing the sunroof in manual mode.

To stop movement, release the switch.

Dirt and debris may collect on the sunroof seal or in the track. This could cause an issue with sunroof operation or noise. It could also plug the water drainage system.

Periodically open the sunroof and remove any obstacles or loose debris. Wipe the sunroof seal and roof sealing area using a clean cloth, mild soap, and water. Do not remove grease from the sunroof.

If water is seen dripping into the water drainage system, this is normal.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Head Restraints

{ Warning

With head restraints that are not installed and adjusted properly, there is a greater chance that occupants will suffer a neck/ spinal injury in a crash. Do not drive until the head restraints for all occupants are installed and adjusted properly.

Adjust the head restraint so that the top of the restraint is at the same height as the top of the occupant's head. This position reduces the chance of a neck injury in a crash.

### Front Seat

The vehicle's front seats have adjustable head restraints in the outboard seating positions.

To raise or lower the head restraint, press the button located on the side of the head restraint and pull up or push the head restraint down and release the button.

Pull and push on the head restraint after the button is released to make sure that it is locked in place.

The front seat outboard head restraints are not removable.

#### Rear Seat

The vehicle's rear seats have adjustable head restraints in the outboard seating positions.

The height of the head restraint can be adjusted. Pull the head restraint up to raise it. Try to move the head restraint to make sure that it is locked in place.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Seats and Restraints

To lower the head restraint, press the button, located on the top of the seatback, and push the head restraint down. Try to move the head restraint after the button is released to make sure that it is locked in place.

The rear seat outboard head restraints are not intended to be removed. If removal is required see your dealer for assistance with removal. In the event of an emergency, the following can be used as removal and installation instructions. Store the removed head restraints in a secure place.

Reinstall the head restraints before the seating position is occupied.

#### Head Restraint Removal and Reinstallation

To remove the head restraint:

Partially fold the seatback forward. See Rear Seats 0 42 for additional information.

Press both buttons on the head restraint posts at the same time, and pull up on the head restraint.

Store the head restraint in a secure place. { Warning

With head restraints that are not installed and adjusted properly, there is a greater chance that occupants will suffer a neck/ spinal injury in a crash. Do not (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

To reinstall the head restraint:

Insert the head restraint posts into the holes in the top of the seatback. The notches on the posts must face the driver side of the vehicle.

Push the head restraint down.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Seats and Restraints

If necessary, press the height adjustment release button to further lower the head restraint.

See Rear Seats 0 42.

Try to move the head restraint to make sure that it is locked in place.

## Front Seats

### Seat Adjustment

#### { Warning

You can lose control of the vehicle if you try to adjust a driver seat while the vehicle is moving.

Adjust the driver seat only when the vehicle is not moving.

To adjust a manual seat:

Pull the handle at the front of the seat.

Slide the seat to the desired position and release the handle.

Try to move the seat back and forth to be sure it is locked in place.

### Manual Seat Height Adjuster

Move the lever on the outboard side of the seat up or down to manually adjust the seat height.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Power Seat Adjustment

#### { Warning

The power seats will work with the ignition off. Children could operate the power seats and be injured. Never leave children alone in the vehicle.

To adjust a power seat, if equipped:

Move the seat forward or rearward by sliding the control forward or rearward.

Raise or lower the front part of the seat cushion by moving the front of the control up or down.

Raise or lower the entire seat by moving the entire control up or down.

Raise or lower the rear part of the seat cushion by moving the back of the control up or down.

To adjust the seatback, see Reclining Seatbacks 0 36.

### Lumbar Adjustment

If equipped, press and hold the front or rear of the control to increase or decrease lumbar support.

### Reclining Seatbacks

#### { Warning

Sitting in a reclined position when the vehicle is in motion can be dangerous. Even when buckled up, the seat belts cannot do their job.

The shoulder belt will not be against your body. Instead, it will be in front of you. In a crash, you could go into it, receiving neck or other injuries.

The lap belt could go up over your abdomen. The belt forces would be there, not at your pelvic bones. This could cause serious internal injuries. (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Warning (Continued)

For proper protection when the vehicle is in motion, have the seatback upright. Then sit well back in the seat and wear the seat belt properly.

Do not have a seatback reclined if the vehicle is moving.

### Manual Reclining Seatbacks { Warning

If either seatback is not locked, it could move forward in a sudden stop or crash. That could cause injury to the person sitting there.

Always push and pull on the seatbacks to be sure they are locked.

To recline a manual seatback:

Lift the lever.

Move the seatback to the desired position, and then release the lever to lock the seatback in place.

Push and pull on the seatback to make sure it is locked.

To return the seatback to the upright position:

Lift the lever fully without applying pressure to the seatback, and the seatback will return to the upright position.

Push and pull on the seatback to make sure it is locked.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Power Reclining Seatbacks

To adjust a power seatback, if available:

Tilt the top of the control rearward to recline.

Tilt the top of the control forward to raise.

## Memory Seats

If equipped, memory seats allow two drivers to save and recall their unique seat positions for driving the vehicle, and a shared exit position for getting out of the vehicle. Other feature positions may also be saved, such as power mirrors and power steering wheel, if equipped.

Memory positions are linked to RKE transmitter 1 or 2 for automatic memory recalls.

Before saving, adjust all available memory feature positions. Turn the vehicle on and then press and release SET; a beep will sound.

Then immediately press and hold 1.

2, or B (Exit) until two beeps sound. To manually recall these positions, press and hold 1, 2, or B until the saved position is reached.

Follow the instructions under "Saving Memory Positions."

The vehicle identifies the current driver's RKE transmitter number (1–8). See Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System Operation 0 8. Only RKE transmitters 1 and 2 can be used for automatic memory recalls.

A Driver Information Center (DIC) welcome message indicating the transmitter number may display for the first few ignition cycles following a transmitter change. For Seat Entry Memory to work properly, save the positions to the memory button (1 or 2) matching the RKE transmitter number displayed in the DIC welcome message. Carry the linked RKE transmitter when entering the vehicle.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Vehicle Personalization Settings

To have the Seat Entry Memory movement begin when the vehicle is started, select the Settings menu, then Vehicle, then Seating Position, and then Seat Entry Memory. Select On or Off. See "Seat Entry Memory" later in this section.

To begin Seat Exit Memory movement when the vehicle is turned off and the driver door is opened, or when the vehicle is turned off with the driver door already opened, select the Settings menu, then Vehicle, then Seating Position, and then Seat Exit Memory. Select On or Off. See "Seat Exit Memory" later in this section.

See Vehicle Personalization 0 120 for additional setting information.

### Identifying Driver Number

To identify the driver number:

Move your RKE transmitter away from the vehicle.

Start the vehicle with another key or RKE transmitter. The DIC should display the driver number for the other RKE transmitter. Turn the vehicle off and remove the key or RKE transmitter from the vehicle.

Start the vehicle with the initial key or RKE transmitter. The DIC should display the driver number of your RKE transmitter.

### Saving Memory Positions

Read these instructions completely before saving memory positions.

To save preferred driving positions 1 and 2:

Turn the vehicle on or to ACC/ ACCESSORY.

A DIC welcome message may indicate driver number 1 or 2.

Adjust all available memory features to the desired driving position.

Press and release SET; a beep will sound.

Immediately press and hold the 1 or 2 memory button matching the above DIC welcome message until two beeps sound.

If too much time passes between releasing SET and pressing 1. the memory position will not be saved and two beeps will not sound.

Repeat Steps 3 and 4.

1 or 2 corresponds to the driver number. See "Identifying Driver Number" previously in this section.

Repeat Steps 1–4 for a second driver using 1 or 2.

To save the position for B and Seat Exit Memory features. repeat Steps 1–4 using B. This saves the position for getting out of the vehicle.

Save preferred memory feature positions to both 1 and 2 if you are the only driver.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Seats and Restraints

#### Manually Recalling Memory Positions

Press and hold 1. 2. or B to recall the previously saved memory positions if you are driver 1 or 2 identified in the DIC welcome message.

To stop Manual Memory recall movement. release 1. 2. or B or press any of the following controls:

Power seat

Memory SET

Power mirror. with the driver or passenger side mirror selected

Power steering wheel. if equipped

### Seat Entry Memory

The vehicle identifies the number of the current driver's RKE transmitter (1–8). See Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) System Operation 0 8. If the RKE transmitter is 1 or 2. and Seat Entry Memory is enabled in vehicle personalization. the positions saved to the same memory button number 1 or 2 are automatically recalled

To turn Seat Entry Memory on or off. see "Vehicle Personalization Settings" previously in this section and Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

The shift lever must be in P (Park) to start Seat Entry Memory. Seat Entry Memory recall will complete if the vehicle is shifted out of P (Park) prior to reaching the saved memory position.

To stop Seat Entry Memory recall movement. turn the vehicle off or press any of the following controls:

Power seat

Memory SET. 1. 2. or B

Power mirror. with the driver or passenger side mirror selected

Power steering wheel. if equipped

If the saved memory seat position does not automatically recall or recalls to the wrong positions. the driver's RKE transmitter number (1 or 2) may not match the memory button number that positions were saved to. Try storing the position to the other memory button or try the other RKE transmitter.

### Seat Exit Memory

Seat Exit Memory is not linked to an RKE transmitter. The position saved to B is used for all drivers. To turn Seat Exit Memory on or off. see "Vehicle Personalization Settings" previously in this section and Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

If turned on. the position saved to B is automatically recalled when one of the following occurs:

The vehicle is turned off and the driver door is opened within a short time.

The vehicle is turned off with the driver door open.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Seats and Restraints

To stop Seat Exit Memory movement. press any of the following memory controls:

Power seat

Memory SET. 1. 2. or B



Power mirror. with the driver or passenger side mirror selected

Power steering wheel. if equipped

### Obstructions

If something has blocked the driver seat and/or power steering wheel while recalling a memory position. the recall may stop. Remove the obstruction and try the recall again.

If the memory position still does not recall. see your dealer.

### Heated and Ventilated Front Seats

#### { Warning

If temperature change or pain to the skin cannot be felt. the seat heater may cause burns. To reduce the risk of burns. use care when using the seat heater. especially for long periods of time. Do not place anything on the seat that insulates against heat. such as a blanket. cushion. cover. or similar item. This may cause the seat heater to overheat. An overheated seat heater may cause a burn or may damage the seat.

If available. the buttons are on the climate control panel. To operate. the engine must be running.

Press L or M to heat the driver or passenger seat cushion and seatback. Indicator lights on the button show the current setting.

Press the button once for the highest setting. With each press of the button. the heated seat will change to the next lower setting. and then to the off setting. The lights indicate three for the highest setting and one for the lowest.

The passenger seat may take longer to heat up.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Seats and Restraints

Press { or C to ventilate the driver or passenger seat. Indicator lights on the button show the current setting.

Press the button once for the highest setting. With each press of the button. the ventilated seat will change to the next lower setting. and then to the off setting. The lights indicate three for the highest setting and one for the lowest.

### Auto Heated Seats

When the vehicle is on. this feature will automatically activate the heated seats at the level required by the vehicle's interior temperature.

The active high. medium. low. or off heated seat level will be indicated by the manual heated seat buttons on the center stack. Use the manual heated seat buttons on the center stack to turn auto heated seats off.

If the passenger seat is unoccupied, the auto heated seats feature will not activate that seat. The auto heated seats feature can be programmed to always be enabled when the vehicle is on.

See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

#### Remote Start Auto Heated and Ventilated Seats

During a remote start, the heated or ventilated seats, if equipped, can be turned on automatically. When it is cold outside, the heated seats turn on, and when it is hot outside the ventilated seats turn on. The heated or ventilated seats may be canceled when the ignition is turned on. Press the button to use the heated or ventilated seats after the vehicle is started.

The heated or ventilated seat indicator lights on the button may not turn on during a remote start.

The heated seat temperature performance of an unoccupied seat may be reduced. This is normal.

The heated or ventilated seats will not turn on during a remote start unless they are enabled in the vehicle personalization menu. See Remote Vehicle Start 0 16 and Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

#### Rear Seats

##### Rear Seat Reminder

If equipped, the message REAR SEAT REMINDER LOOK IN REAR SEAT displays under certain conditions indicating there may be an item or passenger in the rear seat. Check before exiting the vehicle.

This feature will activate when a second row door is opened while the vehicle is on or up to 10 minutes before the vehicle is turned on.

There will be an alert when the vehicle is turned off. The alert does not directly detect objects in the rear seat; instead, under certain conditions, it detects when a rear door is opened and closed, indicating that there may be something in the rear seat.

The feature is active only once each time the vehicle is turned on and off, and will require reactivation by opening and closing the second row doors. There may be an alert even when there is nothing in the rear seat; for example, if a child entered

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Seats and Restraints

The feature can be turned on or off.

See Vehicle Personalization 0 120.

#### Folding the Seatback

Either side of the seatback can be folded down for more cargo space.

Fold a seatback only when the vehicle is not moving.

#### Caution

Folding a rear seat with the seat belts still fastened may cause damage to the seat or the seat belts. Always unbuckle the seat belts and return them to their normal stowed position before folding a rear seat.

The release levers for folding the rear seatbacks are located in the trunk. To fold the seatback down:

Lower the rear seat head restraints completely. See Head Restraints 0 33.

Lift the rear seat armrest and place it in the folded position, if necessary. See Rear Seat Armrest 0 45.

Disconnect the rear seat belt mini-latch, using a key in the slot on the mini-buckle.

Let the belt retract.

Open the trunk and pull the seatback release lever to fold the rear seat.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

Fold the seatback forward.

Repeat the steps for the other seatback, if desired.

### Raising the Seatback { Warning

If either seatback is not locked, it could move forward in a sudden stop or crash. That could cause injury to the person sitting there.

Always push and pull on the seatbacks to be sure they are locked.

### { Warning

A seat belt that is improperly routed, not properly attached, or twisted will not provide the protection needed in a crash. The person wearing the belt could be seriously injured. After raising the rear seatback, always check to be sure that the seat belts are properly routed and attached, and are not twisted.

To raise a seatback:

Lift the seatback up and push it rearward to lock it in place.

Make sure the seat belt is not twisted or caught in the seatback.

The center rear seat belt may lock when you raise the seatback. If this happens, let the belt go back all the way and start again.

Push and pull the top of the seatback to be sure it is locked into position.

Reconnect the rear seat belt mini-latch to the mini-buckle.

Do not let it twist.

Pull on the seat belt to be sure the mini-latch is secure.

Repeat Steps 1 and 2 for the other seatback. if necessary.

When the seat is not in use. it should be kept in the upright. locked position.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Rear Seat Armrest

If equipped. the rear seat has an armrest in the center of the seatback. Lower the armrest to access the two cupholders.

To fold. lift the armrest up and push it rearward until it is flush with the seatback.

### Heated Rear Seats

{ Warning

If temperature change or pain to the skin cannot be felt. the seat heater may cause burns. See the Warning under Heated and Ventilated Front Seats 0 41.

Press L to heat the left outboard or right outboard seat cushion.

### Seat Belts

This section describes how to use seat belts properly. and some things not to do. { Warning

Do not let anyone ride where a seat belt cannot be worn properly.

In a crash. if you or your passenger(s) are not wearing seat belts. injuries can be much worse than if you are wearing seat belts. You can be seriously injured or killed by hitting things inside the vehicle harder or by being ejected from the vehicle. In addition. anyone who is not buckled up can strike other passengers in the vehicle.

It is extremely dangerous to ride in a cargo area. inside or outside of a vehicle. In a collision. passengers riding in these areas are more likely to be seriously injured or killed. Do not allow  
(Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Warning (Continued)

Always wear a seat belt. and check that all passenger(s) are restrained properly too.

This vehicle has indicators as a reminder to buckle the seat belts.

See Seat Belt Reminders 0 102.

### Buckle to Drive Feature

If equipped, this feature prevents the vehicle from shifting out of P (Park) when Teen Driver is active and the driver seat belt is not buckled. See “Teen Driver” in the infotainment manual. If the engine is running, the driver seat belt is not buckled, and the brake pedal is pressed with the vehicle in P (Park), a message displays in the Driver Information Center (DIC). Buckle the driver seat belt to shift out of P (Park). Shifting from P (Park) will be prevented once for each ignition

On some models, Buckle to Drive may also prevent shifting out of P (Park) if a front passenger is unbuckled under similar conditions.

A message displays in the DIC.

Buckle the front passenger seat belt to shift out of P (Park). This feature may not allow the vehicle to shift out of P (Park) if an object, such as a briefcase, handbag, grocery bag, laptop, or other electronic device, is on the front passenger seat. If this happens, remove the object from the seat or buckle the seat belt to shift out of P (Park).

If the driver or present front passenger remains unbuckled, the DIC message will turn off after several seconds and the vehicle can be shifted out of P (Park). See “Seat Belts” and “Child Restraints” in the Index for information about the importance of proper restraint use.

If the driver seat belt, and/or the front passenger seat belt on some vehicles, is unbuckled when driving.

This feature may not function properly if the airbag readiness light is on. See Airbag Readiness Light 0 102.

### Why Seat Belts Work

When riding in a vehicle, you travel as fast as the vehicle does. If the vehicle stops suddenly, you keep going until something stops you.

It could be the windshield, the instrument panel, or the seat belts!

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Seats and Restraints

When you wear a seat belt, you and the vehicle slow down together.

There is more time to stop because you stop over a longer distance and, when worn properly, your strongest bones take the forces from the seat belts. That is why wearing seat belts makes such good sense.

### Questions and Answers About Seat Belts

Q: Will I be trapped in the vehicle after a crash if I am wearing a seat belt?

A: You could be — whether you are wearing a seat belt or not. Your chance of being conscious during and after a crash, so you can unbuckle and get out, is much greater if you are belted.

Q: If my vehicle has airbags, why should I have to wear seat belts?

A: Airbags are supplemental systems only. They work with seat belts — not instead of them.

Whether or not an airbag is

How to Wear Seat Belts Properly

Follow these rules for everyone's protection.

There are additional things to know about seat belts and children, including smaller children and infants. If a child will be riding in the vehicle, see Older Children 0 66 or Infants and Young Children 0 67.

Review and follow the rules for children in addition to the following rules.

It is very important for all occupants to buckle up. Statistics show that unbelted people are hurt more often in crashes than those who are wearing seat belts.

There are important things to know about wearing a seat belt properly.

Sit up straight and always keep your feet on the floor in front of you (if possible).

Always use the correct buckle for your seating position.

Wear the lap part of the belt low and snug on the hips, just touching the thighs. In a crash, this applies force to the strong pelvic bones and you would be less likely to slide under the lap belt. If you slid under it, the belt would apply force on your abdomen. This could cause serious or even fatal injuries.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Seats and Restraints

Wear the shoulder belt over the shoulder and across the chest.

These parts of the body are best able to take belt restraining forces. The shoulder belt locks if there is a sudden stop or crash. { Warning

You can be seriously injured, or even killed, by not wearing your seat belt properly.

Never allow the lap or shoulder belt to become loose or twisted.

Never wear the shoulder belt under both arms or behind your back.

Always use the correct buckle for your seating position.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Seats and Restraints

Never route the lap or shoulder belt over an armrest. { Warning

The seat belt can be pinched if it is routed under plastic trim on the seat, such as trim around the rear seatback folding handle or side airbag. In a crash, pinched seat belts might not be able to provide adequate protection. Never allow seat belts to be routed under plastic trim pieces.

### Lap-Shoulder Belt

All seating positions in the vehicle have a lap-shoulder belt.

If you are using a rear seating position with a detachable seat belt and the seat belt is not attached, see Rear Seats 0 42 for instructions on reconnecting the seat belt to the mini-buckle.

The following instructions explain how to wear a lap-shoulder belt properly.

Adjust the seat, if the seat is adjustable, so you can sit up straight. To see how, see “Seats” in the Index.

Pick up the latch plate and pull the belt across you. Do not let it get twisted.

The lap-shoulder belt may lock if you pull the belt across you very quickly. If this happens, let the belt go back slightly to unlock it. Then pull the belt across you more slowly.

If the shoulder portion of a passenger belt is pulled out all the way, the child restraint locking feature may be engaged. See Child Restraint Systems 0 70. If this occurs, let the belt go back all the way and start again. If the locking

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Seats and Restraints

Engaging the child restraint locking feature in the front outboard seating position may affect the passenger sensing system. See Passenger Sensing System 0 59.

Push the latch plate into the buckle until it clicks.

If the latch plate will not go fully into the buckle, check if the correct buckle is being used.

Pull up on the latch plate to make sure it is secure. If the belt is not long enough, see Seat Belt Extender 0 52.

Position the release button on the buckle so that the seat belt could be quickly unbuckled if necessary.

To make the lap part tight, pull up on the shoulder belt.

To unlatch the belt, push the button on the buckle. The belt should return to its stowed position.

Always stow the seat belt slowly.

If the seat belt webbing returns quickly to the stowed position, the retractor may lock and cannot be pulled out. If this happens, pull the seat belt straight out firmly to unlock the webbing, and then release it.

If the webbing is still locked in the retractor, see your dealer.

Before a door is closed, be sure the seat belt is out of the way. If a door is slammed against a seat belt, damage can occur to both the seat belt and the vehicle.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Seat Belt Pretensioners

This vehicle has seat belt pretensioners for the front outboard occupants. Although the seat belt pretensioners cannot be seen, they are part of the seat belt assembly.

They can help tighten the seat belts during the early stages of a moderate to severe frontal, near frontal, or rear crash if the threshold conditions for pretensioner activation are met. Seat belt pretensioners can also help tighten the seat belts in a side crash or a rollover event.

Pretensioners work only once. If the pretensioners activate in a crash, the pretensioners and probably other parts of the vehicle's seat belt system will need to be replaced.

See Replacing Seat Belt System Parts after a Crash 0 53.

Do not sit on the outboard seat belt while entering or exiting the vehicle or at any time while sitting in the seat. Sitting on the seat belt can damage the webbing and hardware.

### Rear Seat Belt Comfort Guides

Rear seat belt comfort guides may provide added seat belt comfort for older children who have outgrown booster seats and for some adults.

When installed on a shoulder belt, the comfort guide positions the shoulder belt away from the neck and head.

Comfort guides are available through your dealer for the rear outboard seating positions.

Instructions are included with the guides.

### Seat Belt Use During Pregnancy

Seat belts work for everyone, including pregnant women. Like all occupants, they are more likely to be seriously injured if they do not wear seat belts.

A pregnant woman should wear a lap-shoulder belt, and the lap portion should be worn as low as possible, below the rounding, throughout the pregnancy.

The best way to protect the fetus is to protect the mother. When a seat belt is worn properly, it is more likely that the fetus will not be hurt in a crash. For pregnant women, as for anyone, the key to making seat belts effective is wearing them properly.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

## Seat Belt Extender

If the vehicle's seat belt will fasten around you, you should use it.

But if a seat belt is not long enough, your dealer will order you an extender. When you go in to order it, take the heaviest coat you will wear, so the extender will be long enough for you. To help avoid personal injury, do not let someone else use it, and use it only for the seat it is made to fit. The extender has been designed for adults. Never use it for securing child restraints. For more information on the proper use and fit of seat belt extenders see the instruction sheet that comes with the extender.

## Safety System Check

Periodically check the seat belt reminder, seat belts, buckles, latch plates, retractors, shoulder belt height adjusters (if equipped), and seat belt anchorages to make sure they are all in working order. Look for any other loose or damaged seat belt system parts that might keep a

Make sure the seat belt reminder light is working. See Seat Belt Reminders 0 102.

Keep seat belts clean and dry. See Seat Belt Care 0 52.

## Seat Belt Care

Keep belts clean and dry.

Seat belts should be properly cared for and maintained.

Seat belt hardware should be kept dry and free of dust or debris. As necessary, exterior hard surfaces and seat belt webbing may be lightly cleaned with mild soap and water.

Ensure there is not excessive dust or debris in the mechanism. If dust or debris exists in the system please see the dealer. Parts may need to be replaced to ensure proper functionality of the system. { Warning

Do not bleach or dye seat belt webbing. It may severely weaken the webbing. In a crash, they might not be able to provide adequate protection. Clean and rinse seat belt webbing only with mild soap and lukewarm water.

Allow the webbing to dry.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Replacing Seat Belt System Parts after a Crash

{ Warning

A crash can damage the seat belt system in the vehicle. A damaged seat belt system may not properly protect the person using it, resulting in serious injury or even death in a crash. To help

make sure the seat belt systems are working properly after a crash. have them inspected and any necessary replacements made as soon as possible.

After a minor crash, replacement of seat belts may not be necessary.

But the seat belt assemblies that were used during any crash may have been stressed or damaged.

See your dealer to have the seat belt assemblies inspected or replaced.

New parts and repairs may be necessary even if the seat belt system was not being used at the time of the crash.

Have the seat belt pretensioners checked if the vehicle has been in a crash, or if the airbag readiness light stays on after you start the vehicle or while you are driving. See Airbag Readiness Light 0 102.

### Airbag System

The vehicle has the following airbags:

A frontal airbag for the driver

A frontal airbag for the front outboard passenger

A knee airbag for the driver

A knee airbag for the front outboard passenger

A seat-mounted side impact airbag for the driver

A seat-mounted side impact airbag for the front outboard passenger

Seat-mounted side impact airbags for the second row outboard passengers

A roof-rail airbag for the driver and the passenger seated directly behind the driver

A roof-rail airbag for the front outboard passenger and the passenger seated directly behind the front outboard passenger

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Seats and Restraints

All vehicle airbags have the word AIRBAG on the trim or on a label near the deployment opening.

For frontal airbags, the word AIRBAG is on the center of the steering wheel for the driver and on the instrument panel for the front outboard passenger.

For knee airbags, the word AIRBAG is on the lower part of the instrument panel.

For seat-mounted side impact airbags, the word AIRBAG is on the side of the seatback or side of the seat closest to the door.

For roof-rail airbags, the word AIRBAG is on the ceiling or trim.

Airbags are designed to supplement the protection provided by seat belts. Even though today's airbags are also designed to help reduce the risk of injury from the force of an inflating bag, all airbags must inflate very quickly to do their job.

Here are the most important things to know about the airbag system:

{ Warning

You can be severely injured or killed in a crash if you are not wearing your seat belt, even with airbags. Airbags are designed to work with seat belts, not replace them. Also, airbags are not designed to inflate in every crash.

In some crashes seat belts are the only restraint. See *When Should an Airbag Inflate?* 0 56.

Wearing your seat belt during a crash helps reduce your chance of hitting things inside the vehicle or being ejected from it. Airbags are "supplemental restraints" to the seat belts. Everyone in the vehicle should wear a seat belt properly, whether or not there is an airbag for that person.

{ Warning

Because airbags inflate with great force and faster than the blink of an eye, anyone who is up against, or very close to, any airbag when it inflates can be seriously injured or killed. Do not sit unnecessarily close to any airbag, as you would be if sitting on the edge of the seat or leaning forward. Seat belts help keep you in position before and during a crash. Always wear a seat belt, even with airbags. The driver should sit as far back as possible while still maintaining control of the vehicle. The seat belts and the front outboard passenger airbags are most effective when you are sitting well back and upright in the seat with both feet on the floor. (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Seats and Restraints

Warning (Continued)

Occupants should not lean on or sleep against the door or side windows in seating positions with seat-mounted side impact airbags and/or roof-rail airbags.

{ Warning

Children who are up against, or very close to, any airbag when it inflates can be seriously injured or killed. Always secure children properly in the vehicle. To read how, see *Older Children* 0 66 or *Infants and Young Children* 0 67.

There is an airbag readiness light on the instrument cluster, which shows the airbag symbol. The system checks the airbag electrical system for malfunctions. The light tells you if there is an electrical problem. See *Airbag Readiness Light* 0 102.

Where Are the Airbags?

The driver frontal airbag is in the center of the steering wheel.

The front outboard passenger frontal airbag is in the passenger side instrument panel.

The driver knee airbag is below the steering column. The front outboard passenger knee airbag is below the glove box.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

Driver Side Shown. Passenger Side Similar

The seat-mounted side impact airbags for the driver and front outboard passenger are in the side of the seatbacks closest to the door.

The roof-rail airbags for the driver, front outboard passenger, and second row outboard passengers are in the ceiling above the side windows.

Rear Seat Driver Side Shown.

Passenger Side Similar

On vehicles with second row seat-mounted side impact airbags, they are in the sides of the rear seatback closest to the door. { Warning

If something is between an occupant and an airbag, the airbag might not inflate properly or it might force the object into that person causing severe injury or even death. The path of an (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

Do not use seat accessories that block the inflation path of a seat-mounted side impact airbag.

Never secure anything to the roof of a vehicle with roof-rail airbags by routing a rope or tie-down through any door or window opening. If you do, the path of an inflating roof-rail airbag will be blocked.

When Should an Airbag Inflate?

This vehicle is equipped with airbags. See Airbag System 0 53.

Airbags are designed to inflate if the impact exceeds the specific airbag

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

Frontal airbags are designed to inflate in moderate to severe frontal or near frontal crashes to help reduce the potential for severe injuries, mainly to the driver's or front outboard passenger's head and chest.

Whether the frontal airbags will or should inflate is not based primarily on how fast the vehicle is traveling.

It depends on what is hit, the direction of the impact, and how quickly the vehicle slows down.

Frontal airbags may inflate at different crash speeds depending on whether the vehicle hits an object straight on or at an angle, and

Frontal airbags are not intended to inflate during vehicle rollovers, rear impacts, or in many side impacts.

In addition, the vehicle has advanced technology frontal airbags. Advanced technology frontal airbags adjust the restraint according to crash severity.

Knee airbags are designed to inflate in moderate to severe frontal or near frontal impacts. Knee airbags are not designed to inflate during vehicle rollovers, in rear impacts, or in many side impacts.

Seat-mounted side impact airbags are designed to inflate in moderate to severe side crashes depending on the location of the impact.

Seat-mounted side impact airbags are not designed to inflate in frontal impacts, near frontal impacts, rollovers, or rear impacts.

A seat-mounted side impact airbag is designed to inflate on the side of the vehicle that is struck.

Roof-rail airbags are designed to inflate in moderate to severe side crashes depending on the location of the impact. In addition, these roof-rail airbags are designed to inflate during a rollover or in a severe frontal impact. Roof-rail airbags are not designed to inflate in rear impacts. Both roof-rail airbags will inflate when either side of the vehicle is struck or if the sensing system predicts that the vehicle is about to roll over on its side, or in a severe frontal impact.

In any particular crash, no one can say whether an airbag should have inflated simply because of the vehicle damage or repair costs.

#### What Makes an Airbag Inflate?

In a deployment event, the sensing system sends an electrical signal triggering a release of gas from the inflator. Gas from the inflator fills the airbag causing the bag to break out of the cover. The inflator, the airbag, and related hardware are all part of the airbag module.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Seats and Restraints

For airbag locations, see Where Are the Airbags? 0 55.

#### How Does an Airbag Restrain?

In moderate to severe frontal or near frontal collisions, even belted occupants can contact the steering wheel or the instrument panel. In moderate to severe side collisions, even belted occupants can contact the inside of the vehicle.

Airbags supplement the protection provided by seat belts by distributing the force of the impact more evenly over the occupant's body.

Rollover capable roof-rail airbags are designed to help contain the head and chest of occupants in the outboard seating positions in the first and second rows. The rollover capable roof-rail airbags are designed to help reduce the risk of full or partial ejection in rollover events. Although no system can prevent all such ejections.

But airbags would not help in many types of collisions, primarily because the occupant's motion is not toward those airbags. See *When Should an Airbag Inflate?* 0 56.

Airbags should never be regarded as anything more than a supplement to seat belts.

**What Will You See after an Airbag Inflates?**

After frontal, knee, and seat-mounted side impact airbags inflate, they quickly deflate, so quickly that some people may not even realize the airbags inflated.

Roof-rail airbags may still be at least partially inflated for some time after they inflate. Some components of the airbag module may be hot for several minutes. For location of the airbags, see *Where Are the Airbags?* 0 55.

The parts of the airbag that come into contact with you may be warm, but not too hot to touch. There may be some smoke and dust coming from the vents in the deflated

When an airbag inflates, there may be dust in the air. This dust could cause breathing problems for people with a history of asthma or other breathing trouble.

To avoid this, everyone in the vehicle should get out as soon as it is safe to do so. If you have breathing problems but cannot get out of the vehicle after an airbag inflates, then get fresh air by opening a window or a door.

If you experience breathing problems following an airbag deployment, you should seek medical attention.

The vehicle has a feature that may automatically unlock the doors, turn on the interior lamps and hazard warning flashers, and shut off the

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

**Seats and Restraints**

A crash severe enough to inflate the airbags may have also damaged important functions in the vehicle, such as the fuel system, brake and steering systems, etc. Even if the vehicle appears to be drivable after a moderate crash, there may be concealed damage that could make it difficult to safely operate the vehicle. (Continued)

**Warning (Continued)**

Use caution if you should attempt to restart the engine after a crash has occurred.

In many crashes severe enough to inflate the airbag, windshields are broken by vehicle deformation.

Additional windshield breakage may also occur from the front outboard passenger airbag.

Airbags are designed to inflate only once. After an airbag inflates, you will need some new parts for the airbag system.

If you do not get them, the airbag system will not be there to help protect you in another crash. A new system will include airbag modules and possibly other parts. The service manual for the vehicle covers the need to replace other parts.

The vehicle has a crash sensing and diagnostic module which records information after a  
Passenger Sensing System

The vehicle has a passenger sensing system for the front outboard passenger position. The passenger airbag status indicator will light on the overhead console when the vehicle is started.

United States and Canada

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Seats and Restraints

Mexico

The words ON and OFF, or the symbols for on and off, will be visible during the system check.

When the system check is complete, either the word ON or OFF, or the symbol for on or off, will be visible. See Passenger Airbag Status Indicator 0 103.

The passenger sensing system turns off the front outboard passenger frontal airbag and knee airbag under certain conditions. No other airbag is affected by the passenger sensing system.

The passenger sensing system works with sensors that are part of the front outboard passenger seat and seat belt. The sensors are designed to detect the presence of a properly seated occupant and determine if the front outboard

According to accident statistics, children are safer when properly secured in a rear seat in the correct child restraint for their weight and size.

Whenever possible, children age 12 and under should be secured in a rear seating position.

Never put a rear-facing child seat in the front. This is because the risk to the rear-facing child is so great, if the airbag inflates. { Warning

A child in a rear-facing child restraint can be seriously injured or killed if the passenger frontal airbag inflates. This is because the back of the rear-facing child restraint would be very close to the inflating airbag. A child in a forward-facing child restraint can be seriously injured or killed if the

(Continued)

## Warning (Continued)

Even if the passenger sensing system has turned off the front outboard passenger airbag(s), no system is fail-safe. No one can guarantee that an airbag will not deploy under some unusual circumstance, even though the airbag(s) are off.

Never put a rear-facing child restraint in the front seat, even if the airbag is off. If securing a forward-facing child restraint in the front outboard passenger seat, always move the seat as far back as it will go. It is better to secure child restraints in the rear seat. Consider using another vehicle to transport the child when a rear seat is not available.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

The passenger sensing system is designed to turn off the front outboard passenger frontal airbag and knee airbag if:

The front outboard passenger seat is unoccupied.

The system determines that an infant is present in a child restraint.

A front outboard passenger takes his/her weight off of the seat for a period of time.

There is a critical problem with the airbag system or the passenger sensing system.

When the passenger sensing system has turned off the front outboard passenger frontal airbag and knee airbag, the OFF indicator will light and stay lit as a reminder that the airbags are off. See Passenger Airbag Status Indicator 0 103.

The passenger sensing system is designed to turn on the front outboard passenger frontal airbag and knee airbag anytime the system

For some children, including children in child restraints and for very small adults, the passenger sensing system may or may not turn off the front outboard passenger frontal airbag and knee airbag, depending upon the person's seating posture and body build.

Everyone in the vehicle who has outgrown child restraints should wear a seat belt properly — whether or not there is an airbag for that person. { Warning

If the airbag readiness light ever comes on and stays on, it means that something may be wrong with the airbag system. To help (Continued)

## Warning (Continued)

### If the On Indicator Is Lit for a Child Restraint

The passenger sensing system is designed to turn off the front outboard passenger frontal airbag and knee airbag if the system determines that an infant is present in a child restraint. If a child restraint has been installed and the ON indicator is lit:

Turn the vehicle off.

Remove the child restraint from the vehicle.

Remove any additional items from the seat such as blankets, cushions, seat covers, seat heaters, or seat massagers.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Seats and Restraints

Reinstall the child restraint following the directions provided by the child restraint manufacturer and refer to Securing Child Restraints (With the Seat Belt in the Front Seat) 0 82 or Securing Child Restraints (With the Seat Belt in the Rear Seat) 0 80.

Make sure the seat belt retractor is locked by pulling the shoulder belt all the way out of the retractor when installing the child restraint, even if the child restraint is equipped with a seat belt lock-off. When the retractor lock is set, the belt can be tightened but not pulled out of the retractor.

If, after reinstalling the child restraint and restarting the vehicle, the ON indicator is still lit, turn the vehicle off. Then slightly recline the vehicle seatback and adjust the seat cushion, if adjustable, to make

Also make sure the child restraint is not trapped under the vehicle head restraint.

If this happens, adjust the head restraint. See Head Restraints 0 33.

Restart the vehicle.

The passenger sensing system may or may not turn off the airbags for a child in a child restraint depending upon the child's size. It is better to secure the child restraint in a rear seat. Never put a rear-facing child restraint in the front seat, even if the ON indicator is not lit.

### If the Off Indicator Is Lit for an Adult-Sized Occupant

If a person of adult size is sitting in the front outboard passenger seat, but the OFF indicator is lit, it could be because that person is not sitting properly in the seat or that the child restraint locking feature is engaged.

Use the following steps to allow the system to detect that person and enable the front outboard passenger frontal airbag and knee airbag:

Turn the vehicle off.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Seats and Restraints

Remove any additional material from the seat, such as blankets, cushions, seat covers, seat heaters, or seat massagers.

Place the seatback in the fully upright position.

Have the person sit upright in the seat, centered on the seat cushion, with legs comfortably extended.

If the shoulder portion of the belt is pulled out all the way, the child restraint locking feature will be engaged. This may unintentionally cause the passenger sensing system to turn the airbag off for some adult-sized occupants. If this happens, unbuckle the belt, let the belt go back all the way, and then buckle the belt again without pulling the belt out all the way.

Restart the vehicle and have the person remain in this position for two to three minutes after the ON indicator is lit. { Warning

If the front outboard passenger airbag is turned off for an adult-sized occupant, the airbag will not be able to inflate and help protect that person in a crash, resulting in an increased risk of serious injury or even death. An adult-sized occupant should not ride in the front outboard passenger seat, if the passenger airbag OFF indicator is lit.

#### Additional Factors Affecting System Operation

Seat belts help keep the passenger in position on the seat during vehicle maneuvers and braking, which helps the passenger sensing system maintain the passenger airbag status. See “Seat Belts” and

“Child Restraints” in the Index for additional information about the importance of proper restraint use.

A thick layer of additional material, such as a blanket or cushion, or aftermarket equipment such as seat covers, seat heaters, and seat massagers can affect how well the passenger sensing system operates. We recommend that you not use seat covers or other aftermarket equipment except when approved by GM for your specific vehicle. See Adding Equipment to the Airbag-Equipped Vehicle 0 64 for more information about modifications that can affect how the system operates.

The ON indicator may be lit if an object, such as a briefcase, handbag, grocery bag, laptop, or other electronic device is put on an unoccupied seat. If this is not desired remove the object from the seat.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Seats and Restraints

{ Warning

Stowing articles under the passenger seat or between the passenger seat cushion and seatback may interfere with the proper operation of the passenger sensing system.

#### Servicing the Airbag-Equipped Vehicle

Airbags affect how the vehicle should be serviced. There are parts of the airbag system in several places around the vehicle. Your dealer and the service manual have information about servicing the vehicle and the airbag system. To purchase a service manual, see Publication Ordering Information 0 329.

#### { Warning

For up to 10 seconds after the vehicle is turned off and the 12- volt battery is disconnected, an airbag can still inflate during improper service. You can be injured if you are close to an airbag when it inflates. Avoid yellow connectors. They are probably part of the airbag system. Be sure to follow proper service procedures, and make sure the person performing work for you is qualified to do so.

#### Adding Equipment to the Airbag-Equipped Vehicle

Adding accessories that change the vehicle's frame, bumper system, height, front end, or side sheet metal may keep the airbag system from working properly.

The operation of the airbag system can also be affected by changing, including improperly repairing or replacing, any parts of the following:

Airbag system, including airbag modules, front or side impact sensors, sensing and diagnostic module, or airbag wiring

Front seats, including stitching, seams or zippers

Seat belts

Steering wheel, instrument panel, overhead console, ceiling trim, or pillar garnish trim

Inner door seals, including speakers

Your dealer and the service manual have information about the location of the airbag modules and sensors, sensing and diagnostic module, and airbag wiring along with the proper replacement procedures.

In addition, the vehicle has a passenger sensing system for the front outboard passenger position, which includes sensors that are part of the passenger seat. The passenger sensing system may not operate properly if the original seat trim is replaced with non-GM covers, upholstery, or trim; or with

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Seats and Restraints

GM covers, upholstery, or trim designed for a different vehicle. Any object, such as an aftermarket seat heater or a comfort-enhancing pad or device, installed under or on top of the seat fabric, could also interfere with the operation of the passenger sensing system. This could either prevent proper

deployment of the passenger airbag(s) or prevent the passenger sensing system from properly turning off the passenger airbag(s).

See Passenger Sensing System 0 59.

If the vehicle has rollover roof-rail airbags. see Different Size Tires and Wheels 0 268 for additional important information.

If the vehicle must be modified because you have a disability and have questions about whether the modifications will affect the vehicle's airbag system. or if you have questions about whether the airbag system will be affected if the vehicle is modified for any other reason. call Customer Assistance. See Customer Assistance Offices 0 322.

### Airbag System Check

The airbag system does not need regularly scheduled maintenance or replacement. Make sure the airbag readiness light is working. See Airbag Readiness Light 0 102.

### Caution

If an airbag covering is damaged. opened. or broken. the airbag may not work properly. Do not open or break the airbag coverings. If there are any opened or broken airbag coverings. have the airbag covering and/or airbag module replaced. For the location of the airbags. see Where Are the Airbags? 0 55. See your dealer for service.

### Replacing Airbag System Parts after a Crash

#### { Warning

A crash can damage the airbag systems in the vehicle.

A damaged airbag system may not properly protect you and your passenger(s) in a crash. resulting in serious injury or even death. To help make sure the airbag systems are working properly after a crash. have them inspected and any necessary replacements made as soon as possible.

If an airbag inflates. you will need to replace airbag system parts. See your dealer for service.

If the airbag readiness light stays on after the vehicle is started or comes on when you are driving. the airbag system may not work properly. Have the vehicle serviced right away. See Airbag Readiness Light 0 102.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Seats and Restraints

#### Child Restraints

#### Older Children

Older children who have outgrown booster seats should wear the vehicle's seat belts.

The manufacturer instructions that come with the booster seat state the weight and height limitations for that booster. Use a booster seat with a lap-shoulder belt until the child passes the fit test below:

Sit all the way back on the seat.

Do the knees bend at the seat edge? If yes. continue. If no. return to the booster seat.

Buckle the lap-shoulder belt.

Does the shoulder belt rest on the shoulder? If yes. continue.

If no. try using the rear seat belt comfort guide. if available. See "Rear Seat Belt Comfort Guides" under Lap-Shoulder Belt 0 49.

If a comfort guide is not available. or if the shoulder belt still does not rest on the shoulder. then return to the booster seat.

Does the lap belt fit low and snug on the hips. touching the thighs? If yes. continue. If no. return to the booster seat.

Can proper seat belt fit be maintained for the length of the trip? If yes. continue. If no. return to the booster seat.

Q: What is the proper way to wear seat belts?

A: An older child should wear a lap-shoulder belt and get the additional restraint a shoulder belt can provide. The shoulder belt should not cross the face or neck. The lap belt should fit snugly below the hips. just touching the top of the thighs.

This applies belt force to the child's pelvic bones in a crash.

It should never be worn over the abdomen. which could cause severe or even fatal internal injuries in a crash.

Also see "Rear Seat Belt Comfort Guides" under Lap-Shoulder Belt 0 49.

According to accident statistics. children are safer when properly restrained in a rear seating position.

In a crash. children who are not buckled up can strike other people who are buckled up. or can be thrown out of the vehicle. Older children need to use seat belts properly.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Seats and Restraints

{ Warning

Never allow more than one child to wear the same seat belt. The seat belt cannot properly spread the impact forces. In a crash. they can be crushed together and seriously injured. A seat belt must be used by only one person at a time.

### { Warning

Never allow a child to wear the seat belt with the shoulder belt behind their back. A child can be seriously injured by not wearing the lap-shoulder belt properly. In a crash, the child would not be restrained by the shoulder belt.

The child could move too far forward increasing the chance of head and neck injury. The child might also slide under the lap belt. The belt force would then be applied right on the abdomen.

That could cause serious or fatal injuries. The shoulder belt should go over the shoulder and across the chest.

### Infants and Young Children

Everyone in a vehicle needs protection! This includes infants and all other children. Neither the distance traveled nor the age and size of the traveler changes the need, for everyone, to use safety restraints. In fact, the law in every state in the United States and in every Canadian province says children up to some age must be restrained while in a vehicle.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Seats and Restraints

#### { Warning

Children can be seriously injured or strangled if a shoulder belt is wrapped around their neck. The shoulder belt can tighten but cannot be loosened if it is locked.

The shoulder belt locks when it is pulled all the way out of the retractor. It unlocks when the shoulder belt is allowed to go all the way back into the retractor, but it cannot do this if it is wrapped around a child's neck.

If the shoulder belt is locked and tightened around a child's neck, the only way to loosen the belt is to cut it.

Never leave children unattended in a vehicle and never allow children to play with the seat belts.

Every time infants and young children ride in vehicles, they should have the protection provided by

Children who are not restrained properly can strike other people, or can be thrown out of the vehicle. { Warning

Never hold an infant or a child while riding in a vehicle. Due to crash forces, an infant or a child will become so heavy it is not possible to hold it during a crash.

For example, in a crash at only 40 km/h (25 mph), a 5.5 kg (12 lb) infant will suddenly become a 110 kg (240 lb) force on a person's arms. An infant or child should be secured in an appropriate child restraint.

#### { Warning

Children who are up against, or very close to, any airbag when it inflates can be seriously injured or killed. Never put a rear-facing child restraint in the front outboard seat. Secure a rear-facing child restraint in a rear seat. It is also better to secure a forward-facing child restraint in a rear seat. If you must secure a forward-facing child restraint in the front outboard seat, always move the front passenger seat as far back as it will go.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

Child restraints are devices used to restrain, seat, or position children in the vehicle and are sometimes called child seats or car seats.

There are three basic types of child restraints:

Forward-facing child restraints

Rear-facing child restraints

Belt-positioning booster seats

The proper child restraint for your child depends on their size, weight, and age, and also on whether the child restraint is compatible with the vehicle in which it will be used.

For each type of child restraint, there are many different models available. When purchasing a child restraint, be sure it is designed to be used in a motor vehicle. If it is, the child restraint will have a label saying that it meets federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The instruction manual that is provided with the child restraint states the weight and height limitations for that particular child restraint. In addition, there are many kinds of child restraints available for children with special needs. { Warning

To reduce the risk of neck and head injury in a crash, infants and toddlers should be secured in a rear-facing child restraint until age two, or until they reach the maximum height and weight limits of their child restraint.

{ Warning

A young child's hip bones are still so small that the vehicle seat belt may not remain low on the hip bones, as it should. Instead, it may settle up around the child's abdomen. In a crash, the belt would apply force on a body area that is unprotected by any bony structure. This alone could cause serious or fatal injuries. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injuries during a crash, young children should always be secured in an appropriate child restraint.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Child Restraint Systems

## Rear-Facing Infant Restraint

A rear-facing child restraint provides restraint with the seating surface against the back of the infant.

The harness system holds the infant in place and, in a crash, acts to keep the infant positioned in the restraint.

## Forward-Facing Child Restraint

A forward-facing child restraint provides restraint for the child's body with the harness.

## Booster Seats

A belt-positioning booster seat is used for children who have outgrown their forward-facing child restraint. Boosters are designed to improve the fit of the vehicle's seat belt system until the child is large enough for the vehicle seat belts to fit properly without a booster seat.

See the seat belt fit test in Older Children 0 66.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Securing an Add-On Child Restraint in the Vehicle { Warning

A child can be seriously injured or killed in a crash if the child restraint is not properly secured in the vehicle. Secure the child restraint properly in the vehicle using the vehicle seat belt or LATCH system, following the instructions that came with that child restraint and the instructions in this manual.

To help reduce the chance of injury, the child restraint must be secured in the vehicle. Child restraints must be secured in vehicle seats by lap belts or the lap belt portion of a lap-shoulder belt, or by the LATCH system. See Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH System) 0 72 for more information.

Children can be endangered in a crash if the child restraint is not properly secured in the vehicle.

When securing an add-on child restraint, refer to the following:

Instruction labels provided on the child restraint

Instruction manual provided with the child restraint

This vehicle owner's manual

The child restraint instructions are important, so if they are not available, obtain a replacement copy from the manufacturer.

Keep in mind that an unsecured child restraint can move around in a collision or sudden stop and injure people in the vehicle. Be sure to properly secure any child restraint in the vehicle — even when no child is in it.

In some areas Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs) are available to inspect and demonstrate how to correctly use and install child restraints. In the U.S. refer to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) website to locate the nearest child safety seat

#### Securing the Child Within the Child Restraint { Warning

A child can be seriously injured or killed in a crash if the child is not properly secured in the child restraint. Secure the child properly following the instructions that came with that child restraint.

#### Where to Put the Restraint

According to accident statistics, children and infants are safer when properly restrained in an appropriate child restraint secured in a rear seating position.

Whenever possible, children aged 12 and under should be secured in a rear seating position.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Seats and Restraints

Never put a rear-facing child restraint in the front. This is because the risk to the rear-facing child is so great if the airbag deploys. { Warning

A child in a rear-facing child restraint can be seriously injured or killed if the front passenger airbag inflates. This is because the back of the rear-facing child restraint would be very close to the inflating airbag. A child in a forward-facing child restraint can be seriously injured or killed if the front passenger airbag inflates and the passenger seat is in a forward position.

Even if the passenger sensing system has turned off the front passenger frontal airbag, no system is fail-safe. No one can guarantee that an airbag will not deploy under some unusual circumstance, even though it is turned off. (Continued)

#### Warning (Continued)

Secure rear-facing child restraints in a rear seat, even if the airbag is off. If you secure a forward-facing child restraint in the front seat, always move the front passenger seat as far back as it will go. It is better to secure the child restraint in a rear seat.

See Passenger Sensing System 0 59 for additional information.

When securing a child restraint with the seat belts in a rear seat position, study the instructions that came with the child restraint to make sure it is compatible with this vehicle.

Child restraints and booster seats vary considerably in size, and some may fit in certain seating positions better than others.

Depending on where you place the child restraint and the size of the child restraint, you may not be able to access adjacent seat belts or LATCH anchors for additional

Wherever a child restraint is installed, be sure to follow the instructions that came with the child restraint and secure the child restraint properly.

Keep in mind that an unsecured child restraint can move around in a collision or sudden stop and injure people in the vehicle. Be sure to properly secure any child restraint in the vehicle — even when no child is in it.

#### Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH System)

The LATCH system secures a child restraint during driving or in a crash.

LATCH attachments on the child restraint are used to attach the child restraint to the anchors in the Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Seats and Restraints

In order to use the LATCH system in your vehicle, you need a child restraint that has LATCH attachments. LATCH-compatible rear-facing and forward-facing child seats can be properly installed using either the LATCH anchors or the vehicle's seat belts. Do not use both the seat belts and the LATCH anchorage system to secure a rear-facing or forward-facing child seat.

Booster seats use the vehicle's seat belts to secure the child and the booster seat. If the manufacturer recommends that the booster seat be secured with the LATCH system, this can be done as long as the booster seat can be positioned properly and there is no interference with the proper positioning of the lap-shoulder belt on the child.

Make sure to follow the instructions that came with the child restraint, and also the instructions in this manual.

When installing a child restraint with a top tether, you must also use either the lower anchors or the seat belts to properly secure the child restraint. A child restraint must never be installed using only the top tether.

For a forward-facing 5-pt harness child restraint where the combined weight of the child and restraint are up to 29.5 kg (65 lb), use either the lower LATCH anchorages with the top tether anchorage, or the seat belt with the top tether anchorage.

Where the combined weight of the child and restraint are greater than 29.5 kg (65 lb), use the seat belt with the top tether anchorage only.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Seats and Restraints

##### Recommended Methods for Attaching Child Restraints

Restraint Type Combined Weight of the Child + Child Restraint

Use Only Approved Attachment Methods Shown with an X

LATCH – Lower Anchors Only    Seat Belt Only    LATCH – Lower Anchors and Top Tether Anchor

Seat Belt and Top Tether Anchor

Rear-Facing Child Restraint Up to 29.5 kg (65 lb)

Rear-Facing Child Restraint Greater than 29.5 kg (65 lb)

Forward-Facing Child Restraint Up to 29.5 kg (65 lb)

Forward-Facing Child Restraint Greater than 29.5 kg (65 lb)

See Securing Child Restraints (With the Seat Belt in the Front Seat) 0 82 or Securing Child Restraints (With the Seat Belt in the Rear Seat) 0 80.

Child restraints built after March 2014 will be labeled with the specific child weight up to which the LATCH system can be used to install the restraint.

The following explains how to attach a child restraint with these attachments in the vehicle.

Not all vehicle seating positions have lower anchors. In this case, the seat belt must be used (with top tether where available) to secure

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Seats and Restraints

Lower Anchors

Lower anchors (1) are metal bars built into the vehicle. There are two lower anchors for each LATCH seating position that will accommodate a child restraint with lower attachments (2).

Top Tether Anchor

A top tether (3. ) is used to secure the top of the child restraint to the vehicle. A top tether anchor is built into the vehicle. The top tether attachment hook (2) on the child restraint connects to the top tether anchor in the vehicle in order to reduce the forward movement and rotation of the child restraint during driving or in a crash.

The child restraint may have a single tether (3) or a dual tether (4).

Either will have a single attachment hook (2) to secure the top tether to the anchor.

Some child restraints that have a top tether are designed for use with or without the top tether being attached. Others require the top tether always to be attached. In Canada, the law requires that forward-facing child restraints have a top tether, and that the tether be attached. Be sure to read and follow the instructions for the child restraint.

Lower Anchor and Top Tether Anchor Locations

Rear Seat I : Seating positions with top tether anchors.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

H : Seating positions with two lower anchors.

To assist in locating the lower anchors, each seating position with lower anchors has two labels near the crease between the seatback and the seat cushion.

To assist in locating the top tether anchors, the top tether anchor symbol is on the cover.

The outboard lower anchors are behind the vertical openings in the seat trim.

The top tether anchors are under the covers, behind the rear seat, on the filler panel. Be sure to use an anchor located directly behind the seating position where the child restraint will be placed.

Do not secure a child restraint in a position without a top tether anchor if a national or local law requires that the top tether be attached, or if the instructions that come with the child restraint say that the top tether must be attached.

According to accident statistics, children and infants are safer when properly restrained in a child restraint system or infant restraint system secured in a rear seating position. See Where to Put the Restraint 0 71 for additional information.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Securing a Child Restraint Designed for the LATCH System { Warning

A child could be seriously injured or killed in a crash if the child restraint is not properly attached to the vehicle using either the LATCH anchors or the vehicle seat belt. Follow the instructions that came with the child restraint and the instructions in this manual.

{ Warning

To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injuries during a crash, do not attach more than one child restraint to a single anchor.

Attaching more than one child restraint to a single anchor could cause the anchor or attachment (Continued)

Warning (Continued)

{ Warning

Children can be seriously injured or strangled if a shoulder belt is wrapped around their neck. The shoulder belt can tighten but cannot be loosened if it is locked.

The shoulder belt locks when it is pulled all the way out of the retractor. It unlocks when the shoulder belt is allowed to go all the way back into the retractor, but it cannot do this if it is wrapped around a child's neck.

If the shoulder belt is locked and tightened around a child's neck, the only way to loosen the belt is to cut it. (Continued)

#### Warning (Continued)

Buckle any unused seat belts behind the child restraint so children cannot reach them. Pull the shoulder belt all the way out of the retractor to set the lock, and tighten the belt behind the child restraint after the child restraint has been installed.

#### Caution

Do not let the LATCH attachments rub against the vehicle's seat belts. This may damage these parts. If necessary, move buckled seat belts to avoid rubbing the LATCH attachments.

Do not fold the rear seatback when the seat is occupied. Do not fold the empty rear seat with a seat belt buckled. This could damage the seat belt or the seat. (Continued)

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Seats and Restraints

#### Caution (Continued)

Unbuckle and return the seat belt to its stowed position, before folding the seat.

If you need to secure more than one child restraint in the rear seat, see *Where to Put the Restraint* 0 71.

Attach and tighten the lower attachments to the lower anchors. If the child restraint does not have lower attachments or the desired seating position does not have lower anchors, secure the child restraint with the top tether and the seat belt. Refer to the child restraint manufacturer instructions and the instructions in this manual.

#### 1.1.

Find the lower anchors for the desired seating position.

#### 1.2.

Put the child restraint on the seat.

#### 1.3.

Attach and tighten the lower attachments on the child restraint to the lower anchors.

If the child restraint manufacturer recommends that the top tether be attached, attach and tighten the top tether to the top tether anchor, if equipped. Refer to the child restraint instructions and the following steps:

#### 2.1.

Find the top tether anchor.

Open the cover to expose the anchor.

2.2.

Route, attach, and tighten the top tether according to the child restraint instructions and the following instructions:

If the position you are using does not have a headrest or head restraint and you are using a single tether, route the tether over the seatback.

If the position you are using does not have a headrest or head restraint

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Seats and Restraints

If the position you are using has an adjustable headrest or head restraint and you are using a single tether, route the tether under the headrest or head restraint and in between the headrest or head restraint posts.

If the position you are using has an adjustable headrest or head restraint and you are using a dual tether route the tether around the headrest or head restraint.

Before placing a child in the child restraint, make sure it is securely held in place. To check, grasp the child restraint at the LATCH path and attempt to move it side to side and back and forth. There should be no more than 2.5 cm (1 in) of movement for proper installation.

#### Replacing LATCH System Parts After a Crash

{ Warning

A crash can damage the LATCH system in the vehicle. A damaged LATCH system may not properly secure the child restraint, resulting in serious injury or even death in a crash. To help make sure the LATCH system is working properly after a crash, see your dealer to have the system inspected and any necessary replacements made as soon as possible.

If the vehicle has the LATCH system and it was being used during a crash, new LATCH system parts may be needed.

New parts and repairs may be necessary even if the LATCH system was not being used at the time of the crash.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

#### Seats and Restraints

##### Securing Child Restraints (With the Seat Belt in the Rear Seat)

When securing a child restraint in a rear seating position, study the instructions that came with the child restraint to make sure it is compatible with this vehicle.

If the child restraint has the LATCH system, see Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH System) 0 72 for how and where to install the child restraint using LATCH. If a child restraint is secured in the vehicle using a seat belt and it uses a top tether, see Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH System) 0 72 for top tether anchor locations.

Do not secure a child seat in a position without a top tether anchor if a national or local law requires that the top tether be anchored, or if the instructions that come with the child restraint say that the top tether must be anchored.

In Canada, the law requires that forward-facing child restraints have a top tether, and that the tether be attached.

If the child restraint or vehicle seat position does not have the LATCH system, you will be using the seat belt to secure the child restraint. Be sure to follow the instructions that came with the child restraint.

If more than one child restraint needs to be installed in the rear seat, be sure to read Where to Put the Restraint 0 71.

Put the child restraint on the seat.

Pick up the latch plate, and run the lap and shoulder portions of the vehicle seat belt through or around the child restraint.

The child restraint instructions will show you how.

Push the latch plate into the buckle until it clicks. If the latch plate will not go fully into the buckle, check if the correct buckle is being used.

Position the release button on the buckle, away from the child restraint, so that the seat belt could be quickly unbuckled if necessary.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

Pull the shoulder belt all the way out of the retractor to set the lock. When the retractor lock is set, the belt can be tightened but not pulled out of the retractor.

To tighten the belt, push down on the child restraint, pull the shoulder portion of the belt to tighten the lap portion of the belt, and feed the shoulder belt back into the retractor. When installing a forward-facing child restraint, it may be helpful to use your knee to push down on the child restraint as you tighten the belt.

Try to pull the belt out of the retractor to make sure the retractor is locked. If the retractor is not locked, repeat Steps 4 and 5.

If the child restraint has a top tether, follow the child restraint manufacturer's instructions regarding the use of the top tether. See Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH System) 0 72.

Before placing a child in the child restraint, make sure it is securely held in place. To check, grasp the child restraint at the seat belt path and attempt to move it side to side and back and forth. When the child restraint is properly installed, there should be no more than 2.5 cm (1 in) of movement.

To remove the child restraint, unbuckle the vehicle seat belt and let it return to the stowed position.

If the top tether is attached to a top tether anchor, disconnect it.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Seats and Restraints

### Securing Child Restraints (With the Seat Belt in the Front Seat)

This vehicle has airbags. A rear seat is a safer place to secure a forward-facing child restraint. See [Where to Put the Restraint 0 71](#).

In addition, the vehicle has a passenger sensing system which is designed to turn off the front outboard passenger frontal airbag and knee airbag under certain conditions. See [Passenger Sensing System 0 59](#) and [Passenger Airbag Status Indicator 0 103](#) for more information, including important safety information.

Never put a rear-facing child seat in the front. This is because the risk to the rear-facing child is so great if the airbag deploys.

#### { Warning

A child in a rear-facing child restraint can be seriously injured or killed if the front outboard passenger frontal airbag inflates.

This is because the back of the rear-facing child restraint would be very close to the inflating airbag. A child in a forward-facing child restraint can be seriously injured or killed if the front outboard passenger frontal airbag inflates and the passenger seat is in a forward position.

Even if the passenger sensing system has turned off the front outboard passenger airbag(s), no system is fail-safe. No one can guarantee that an airbag will not deploy under some unusual circumstance, even though the airbag(s) are off.

Secure rear-facing child restraints in a rear seat, even if the airbag(s) are off. If you secure a  
(Continued)

#### Warning (Continued)

See [Passenger Sensing System 0 59](#) for additional information.

If the child restraint uses a top tether, see [Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children \(LATCH System\) 0 72](#) for top tether anchor locations.

Do not secure a child seat in a position without a top tether anchor if a national or local law requires that the top tether be anchored. or if the instructions that come with the child restraint say that the top tether must be anchored.

In Canada. the law requires that forward-facing child restraints have a top tether. and that the tether be attached.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Seats and Restraints

When using the lap-shoulder belt to secure the child restraint in this position. follow the instructions that came with the child restraint and the following instructions:

Move the seat as far back as it will go before securing the forward-facing child restraint.

Move the seat upward or the seatback to an upright position. if needed. to get a tight installation of the child restraint.

When the passenger sensing system has turned off the front outboard passenger frontal airbag and knee airbag. the OFF indicator on the passenger airbag status indicator should light and stay lit when you start the vehicle.

See Passenger Airbag Status Indicator 0 103.

Put the child restraint on the seat.

Pick up the latch plate. and run the lap and shoulder portions of the vehicle seat belt through

Push the latch plate into the buckle until it clicks.

Position the release button on the buckle. away from the child restraint. so that the seat belt could be quickly unbuckled if necessary.

Pull the shoulder belt all the way out of the retractor to set the lock. When the retractor lock is set. the belt can be tightened but not pulled out of the retractor.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

### Seats and Restraints

To tighten the belt. push down on the child restraint. pull the shoulder portion of the belt to tighten the lap portion of the belt. and feed the shoulder belt back into the retractor. When installing a forward-facing child restraint. it may be helpful to use your knee to push down on the child restraint as you tighten the belt.

Try to pull the belt out of the retractor to make sure the retractor is locked. If the retractor is not locked. repeat Steps 5 and 6.

Before placing a child in the child restraint, make sure it is securely held in place. To check, grasp the child restraint at the seat belt path and attempt to move it side to side and back and forth. When the child restraint is properly installed, there should be no more than 2.5 cm (1 in) of movement.

If the airbags are off, the OFF indicator in the passenger airbag status indicator will come on and stay on when the vehicle is started.

If a child restraint has been installed and the ON indicator is lit, see "If the On Indicator Is Lit for a Child Restraint" under Passenger Sensing System 0 59.

To remove the child restraint, unbuckle the vehicle seat belt and let it return to the stowed position.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Storage

### Center Console Storage

The center console has storage under the armrest. Pull up the latch and lift to open.

### Umbrella Storage

Slide an umbrella into the opening on the driver or passenger door.

## Additional Storage Features

### Cargo Tie-Downs

There are cargo tie-downs in the trunk. The cargo tie-downs can be used to secure small loads or the convenience net. See Convenience Net 0 86.

### Convenience Net

For vehicles with a convenience net, it is in the trunk and used to store small loads. The net should not be

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

## Instruments and Controls

### Controls

#### Steering Wheel Adjustment

To adjust the steering wheel:

Pull the lever down.

Move the steering wheel up or down.

Pull or push the steering wheel closer or away from you.

Pull the lever up to lock the steering wheel in place.

Do not adjust the steering wheel while driving.

### Steering Wheel Controls

The infotainment system can be operated by using the steering wheel controls. See “Steering Wheel Controls” in the infotainment manual.

### Heated Steering Wheel

( : If equipped with a heated steering wheel, press to turn on or off. A light on the button displays when the feature is turned on.

The steering wheel takes about three minutes to reach maximum heat.

### Horn

Press a on the steering wheel pad to sound the horn.

### Windshield Wiper/Washer

The windshield wiper/washer lever is on the side of the steering column. With the ignition on or in ACC/ACCESSORY, move the windshield wiper lever to select the wiper speed.

HI : Use for fast wipes.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Instruments and Controls

LO : Use for slow wipes.

INT : Move the lever up to INT for intermittent wipes. then turn the band up for more frequent wipes or down for less frequent wipes.

OFF : Use to turn the wipers off.

X : For a single wipe, briefly move the lever down. For several wipes, hold the lever down.

Clear snow and ice from the wiper blades and windshield before using them. If frozen to the windshield, carefully loosen or thaw them.

Damaged blades should be replaced. See Wiper Blade Replacement 0 235.

Heavy snow or ice can overload the wiper motor. If the wiper motor overheats, the windshield wipers will stop until the motor cools and the wiper control is turned off. See Electrical System Overload 0 242. { Warning

In freezing weather, do not use the washer until the windshield is warmed. Otherwise the washer fluid can form ice on the windshield, blocking your vision.

{ Warning

Before driving the vehicle, always clear snow and ice from the hood, windshield, roof, and rear of the vehicle, including all lamps and windows. Reduced visibility from snow and ice buildup could lead to a crash.

### Wiper Parking

If the ignition is turned off while the wipers are on LO, HI, or INT, they will immediately stop.

If the windshield wiper lever is then moved to OFF before the driver door is opened or within 10 minutes, the wipers will restart and move to the base of the windshield.

If the ignition is turned off while the wipers are performing wipes due to windshield washing, the wipers continue to run until they reach the base of the windshield. f : Pull the windshield wiper lever toward you to spray windshield washer fluid and activate the wipers.

The wipers will continue until the lever is released or the maximum wash time is reached. When the lever is released, additional wipes may occur depending on how long the windshield washer had been activated. See Washer Fluid 0 229 for information on filling the windshield washer fluid reservoir.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

### Instruments and Controls

#### Compass

The vehicle may have a compass display on the Driver Information Center (DIC). The compass receives its heading and other information from the Global Positioning System (GPS) antenna, StabiliTrak/ Electronic Stability Control (ESC), and vehicle speed information.

The compass system is designed to operate for a certain number of miles or degrees of turn before needing a signal from the GPS satellites. When the compass display shows CAL, drive the vehicle for a short distance in an open area where it can receive a GPS signal. The compass system will automatically determine when a GPS signal is restored and provide a heading again.

#### Clock

The time and date for the clock can be set using the infotainment system. See "Time/Date" in "System" under "Settings" in the infotainment manual.

#### Power Outlets

##### Power Outlet 12-Volt Direct Current

The accessory power outlets can be used to plug in electrical equipment, such as a cell phone or MP3 player.

There are two accessory power outlets:

One on the center stack below the climate control system

One on the rear of the center console

The outlet is powered when the ignition is on or in ACC/ ACCESSORY. or until the driver door is opened within 10 minutes of turning off the vehicle. See Retained Accessory Power (RAP) 0 160.

Open the protective cover to use the accessory power outlet.

Certain electrical accessories may not be compatible with the accessory power outlets and could overload vehicle or adapter fuses.

If there is a problem. see your dealer.

When adding electrical equipment. be sure to follow the installation instructions included with the equipment. See Add-On Electrical Equipment 0 210.

#### Caution

Hanging heavy equipment from the power outlet can cause damage not covered by the vehicle warranty. The power outlets are designed for accessory power plugs only. such as cell phone charge cords.

Always unplug electrical equipment when not in use and do not plug in equipment that exceeds the maximum 20 amps rating.

#### Power Outlet 110/120-Volt Alternating Current

If equipped. this power outlet can be used to plug in electrical equipment that uses a maximum limit of 150 watts.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Instruments and Controls

The power outlet is on the rear of the center console.

An indicator light on the outlet turns on to show it is in use. The light comes on when the ignition is on. equipment requiring less than 150 watts is plugged into the outlet. and no system fault is detected.

The indicator light does not come on if the ignition is off. if no equipment is plugged into the outlet. or if the equipment is plugged in. but not fully seated in the outlet.

If equipment is connected using more than 150 watts or a system fault is detected. the equipment may

The power outlet is not designed for the following. and may not work properly if they are plugged in:

Equipment with high initial peak wattage. such as compressor-driven refrigerators and electric power tools

Other equipment requiring an extremely stable power supply, such as microcomputer-controlled electric blankets and touch sensor lamps

Medical equipment

See High Voltage Devices and Wiring 0 241.

Wireless Charging

The vehicle may have a wireless charging pocket outside the armrest of the center console. The system operates at 145 kHz and wirelessly charges one Qi compatible smartphone. The power output of the system is capable of charging at a rate up to 3 amp (15W), as requested by the compatible smartphone. See Radio Frequency Statement 0 329. { Warning

Wireless charging can affect the operation of an implanted pacemaker or other medical devices. If you have one, it is recommended to consult with your doctor before using the wireless charging system.

The vehicle must be on, in ACC/ ACCESSORY, or Retained Accessory Power (RAP) must be active. The wireless charging feature may not correctly indicate

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

Instruments and Controls

The operating temperature is  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) to  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $140^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) for the charging system and  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $32^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) to  $35^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $95^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) for the smartphone. { Warning

Remove all objects from the charging pocket before charging your compatible smartphone.

Objects, such as coins, keys, rings, paper clips, or cards, between the smartphone and the charger will become very hot. On the rare occasion that the charging system does not detect an object, and the object gets wedged between the smartphone and the charger, remove the smartphone and allow the object to cool before removing it from the charging pocket, to prevent burns.

To charge a compatible smartphone:

Remove all objects from the charging pocket. The system may not charge if there are any objects in between the smartphone and charging pocket.

With the smartphone screen facing the rear of the vehicle, slowly insert the smartphone into the charging pocket until a green } appears on V on the infotainment display. This indicates that the smartphone is properly positioned and charging. If } turns yellow.

To maximize the charge rate, ensure the smartphone is fully seated and centered in the holder with nothing under it.

A thick smartphone case may prevent the wireless charger from working, or may reduce the charging performance. See your dealer for additional information.

The smartphone may become warm during charging. This is normal. In warmer temperatures, the speed of charging may be reduced.

#### Software Acknowledgements

Certain Wireless Charging Module product from LG Electronics, Inc. ("LGE") contains the open source software detailed below. Refer to

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC - 8/16/19

#### Instruments and Controls

#### OSS Notice Information

To obtain the source code that is contained in this product, please visit <http://opensource.lge.com>. In addition to the source code, all referred license terms, warranty disclaimers and copyright notices are available for download. LG Electronics will also provide open source code to you on CD-ROM for a charge covering the cost of performing such distribution (such as the cost of media, shipping, and handling) upon email request to [opensource@lge.com](mailto:opensource@lge.com). This offer is valid for three (3) years from the date on which you purchased the product.

#### Freescale-WCT library

Copyright (c) 2012-2014 Freescale Semiconductor, Inc.. All rights reserved.

Redistributions of source code must retain the above copyright notice, this list of conditions and the following disclaimer.

Redistributions in binary form must reproduce the above copyright notice, this list of conditions and the following disclaimer in the documentation and/or other materials provided with the distribution.

Neither the name of the copyright holder nor the names of its contributors may be used to endorse or promote products derived from this software without specific prior written permission.

THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED BY THE COPYRIGHT HOLDERS AND CONTRIBUTORS "AS IS" AND ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ARE DISCLAIMED. IN NO EVENT

SHALL THE COPYRIGHT HOLDER OR CONTRIBUTORS BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT,

### **INCIDENTAL. SPECIAL.**

EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES; LOSS OF USE, DATA,

OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER CAUSED AND ON ANY THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT LIABILITY,

OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY OUT OF THE USE OF THIS SOFTWARE.

EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Instruments and Controls

Warning Lights.

Gauges. and Indicators

Warning lights and gauges can signal that something is wrong before it becomes serious enough to cause an expensive repair or replacement. Paying attention to the warning lights and gauges could prevent injury.

Some warning lights come on briefly when the engine is started to indicate they are working. When one of the warning lights comes on and stays on while driving, or when one of the gauges shows there may be a problem. Check the section that explains what to do. Waiting to do repairs can be costly and even dangerous.

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Instruments and Controls

Instrument Cluster (Base Level)

English Shown. Metric Similar

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Instruments and Controls

Instrument Cluster (Uplevel)

English Shown. Metric Similar

Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (GMNA-Localizing-U.S./Canada/Mexico 13555849) - 2020 - CRC  
- 8/16/19

Instruments and Controls

Cluster Menu

There is an interactive display area in the center of the instrument cluster.

Use the right steering wheel control to open and scroll through the different items and displays.

Press o to access the cluster applications. Use w or x to scroll through the list of available applications. Not all applications will be available on all vehicles.



Info app. This is where you can view the selected Driver Information Center (DIC) displays. See Driver Information Center (DIC) (Base Level) 0 113 or Driver Information Center (DIC) (Uplevel) 0 116.

Audio

Phone

Navigation

Options

Audio

In the main view of the Audio app, press w or x to scroll through radio stations or move to the next/previous track of a CD/USB/ Bluetooth device that is connected to the vehicle. Press V to select the Audio app, then press p to enter the Audio menu. In the Audio menu browse for music, select from the favorites, or change the audio source.

Phone

Press V to select the Phone app, then press p to enter the Phone menu. In the Phone menu, if there is no active phone call, view recent calls, scroll through contacts, or select from the favorites. If there is an active call, mute or unmute the phone or switch to handset or handsfree operation.

Navigation

Press V to select the Navigation app, then press p to enter the Navigation menu. If there is an active route, press V to cancel or resume route guidance or turn the voice prompts on/off.

Options

Press V to select the Options app.

Use w or x to scroll through the items in the Options menu.

**Warning**

This content is compiled from multiple sources and is provided for reference purposes only. It may not be complete or fully applicable to all situations. If you are unable to resolve your issue, please contact the product manufacturer or an authorized service provider for official support.

