

CAR SEAT SAFETY

Kids Deserve To Be Safe.



80-90% of car seats are installed incorrectly in vehicles.

ALWAYS

install rear-facing, forward-facing and booster seats in the back of your vehicle. In the event that a crash or collision is forceful enough to deploy the front airbags, you want your child to be as far away from them as possible.

CAR SEAT STAGES



REAR-FACING

Infants have very weak neck and back muscles. Rear-facing seats provide the extra support your baby requires in the event of a sudden stop or collision.

KEEP AN EYE ON:

HEAD

Ensure there is at least 2.5 cm of space between the top of your child's head and the top of the car seat.

SHOULDERS

Ensure the harness straps are snug on your child's shoulders.

The harness straps should be at, or just below, your child's shoulders.



FORWARD-FACING

Forward-facing car seats are meant for older children who have developed stronger neck and back muscles.

KEEP AN EYE ON:

HEAD

Ensure that the middle of your child's ear is not above the top of the car seat.

SHOULDERS

Ensure the harness straps are snug on your child's shoulders.

The harness straps should be at, or just above, your child's shoulders.



BOOSTER SEATS

Booster seats are designed to raise children so adult seat belts protect them better. Booster seats protect children from serious injury 3 1/2 times better than seatbelts alone.

KEEP AN EYE ON:

HEAD

If your booster seat has a back, ensure that the middle of your child's ear is not above the top of the seat.

SHOULDERS

Ensure the seat belt rests on your child's shoulder and NEVER on the neck, arm or under the arm.

If there is a seat belt guide, make sure it is at or above your child's shoulder.

Second guessing if the harness straps are tight enough? If you are able to pinch the straps in the shoulder area, they are too loose!

CHEST

The chest clip must be at the level of your child's armpit and closed properly.

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CHEST & HIPS

The seat belt should come over the collarbone and across the chest.

The lap belt should be snug against your child's hips and NOT their stomach.

IMPORTANT NOTE!

When purchasing a car seat for use in Canada, look for the National Safety Mark label attached to the seat. This indicates that the seat complies with Canadian regulations and standards and is legal for use in Canada.

IMPORTANT NOTE!

Always be sure to attach the tether strap to forward-facing car seats. If in doubt, your vehicle owner's manual will indicate where to find the tether anchors.

IMPORTANT NOTE!

If you are using a no-back booster seat, your vehicle MUST have adjustable head restraints.

TIPS

Always use a lap belt & a shoulder belt.

Always be sure to buckle up an empty booster seat (or remove it from your vehicle) to prevent it from bouncing around in the back seat when not in use!



WHEN TO MOVE UP A STAGE?

REAR-FACING

Keep your child in a rear-facing seat until they grow out of it.

The user guide for your car seat will indicate the maximum weight and height of a child for that particular seat.

Even if your child weighs 22 pounds, is able to walk independently and your provincial/territorial law indicates you can move to a forward-facing seat, rear-facing is still safer!

FORWARD-FACING

Keep your child in a forward-facing seat until they grow out of it. You know it's time to move up when the top of your child's ears are at the top of the car seat shell.

A forward-facing car seat is able to spread the force of a sudden stop or collision over the strongest parts of your child's body.

Even if your child weighs 40 pounds and your provincial/territorial law indicates you can move to a booster seat, your child is safer in the forward-facing seat as long as they are below the seat's weight & height limits.

BOOSTER SEATS

Please ensure you check with your provincial/territorial law before moving your child from a booster seat to a seat belt alone.

As long as your child is still in line with the weight and height limits for your particular seat, it is safer to have them remain in a booster seat.

WHEN IS IT TIME TO LEAVE A BOOSTER SEAT? USE OUR 5-STEP TEST!

Sit your child in the backseat of your car without a booster and check for the following things:

Your child's back is flush against the back of the seat

Their knees bend at the edge of the seat

The shoulder belt lies across their collarbone

The lap belt sits low and touches their thighs

Your child is able to stay seated in this correct position for the duration of your trip

REMAIN REAR-FACING LONGER!



96% Injury reducing effect when using a rear-facing car seat.

8% Chance of sustaining severe injuries.

50 kg Neck load in a 50 km/hr vehicle crash.



77% Injury reducing effect when using a forward-facing car seat.

40% Chance of sustaining severe injuries.

300 kg Neck load in a 50 km/hr vehicle crash.

PURCHASING A CAR SEAT

Determine which stage is correct for your child based on their weight, height and stage of development and choose a seat accordingly.

Ensure your child fits the weight and height limits of the particular seat before purchasing.

Place your child in the seat and check to make sure they are comfortable.

Check to ensure that the particular car seat you are looking to purchase can be properly installed in your vehicle make & model.

Always send in the Product Registration Card after you make your purchase. This will ensure you are notified of any recalls.

REPLACING A CAR SEAT

Has your seat:

Expired?

Been in a crash or collision?

Had the shell or materials rip?

EXPIRY DATES

Car seats have expiration dates, so be sure to replace yours when it expires.

IMPORTANT NOTE!

Food, cleaners, drinks and other materials that have been spilled or used on car seat webbing, buckles, adjusters & additional parts may prevent them from working properly!

For car seat products and services, including installation, call us at 1-800-764-KIDS (5437) or visit us online at www.kiddieproofers.com

Source(s): Transport Canada

