

Car Seat Safety for Children

A vehicle can be a dangerous place for a child however with the appropriate precautions the chance of death or serious injury due to a collision can be substantially reduced. This includes using the correct seat for the child's size and age, positioning the child seat for maximum protection, and ensuring that the interior of the vehicle is free of potential projectile objects.

Air bags can seriously injure and even kill a young child. As a result, children should always ride in the back seat of a vehicle and preferably in the centre of the seat if the vehicle is equipped with side airbags. If a child in a car seat must be transported in a vehicle with no rear seat; the passenger air bag should be deactivated.

There are four stages of car seat safety through which a child progresses by the time they are approximately 8 years of age: rear-facing infant seat, front-facing child seat, booster seat, and a regular seat belt.

Rear-facing and front-facing infant seat

- Rear-facing infant seat; this seat is used from birth to approximately 1 year old (10 kg/22 lbs)
- Front-facing infant seat; this seat used from approximately 1 year to 4 ½ years old (10-18 kg/22-40 lbs)
- Tightly secure the infant seat with the seat belt so that the base does not slide or move more than 2.5 cm/1 inch in any direction
- Clear the area between the infant seat and the door of all objects
- Adjust the shoulder strap so it is at or below the child's shoulder
- Ensure that the chest clip is at the same level as the child's armpit
- Tighten the harness straps so that only one finger fits between them and the child's body



Car Seat Safety for Children

Booster seats

- This seat is used from approximately 4 ½ to 8 years old or 18-6 kg/40-80 lbs
- On the road, remind the child to not lean out of the booster seat and to keep their head, arms, and feet away from the door
- Check the child's position frequently throughout the journey
- Clear the area between the infant seat and the door of all objects
- Ensure the seat belt is in "lock" mode



Regular seat belts

- A regular seat belt is used for children approximately 8 years or older or 36 kg/80 lbs and over
- Ensure the child is properly buckled up with the lap belt low and snug over the hips and the shoulder belt across the chest
- Never place the shoulder belt behind the child or under the arm
- Select a seating location away from side air bags whenever possible
- If the child must sit in a seat with a side air bag remind them to never lean against the door
- Ensure there are no objects between the child and the door that could injure them in the case of air bag deployment

Consumer alerts have been issued for the following child seats.
Please visit Transport Canada's website (www.tc.gc.ca)
for an updated list of child seat recalls.

Alkots
Britax
Combi
Gerry
Kolcraft
Strolee

Baby Trend
Century
Cosco
Graco
Lin Lih
Sunshine Kids

Basic Comfort
Chrysler
Dorel
Infanseat
Peg Perego
Volvo

Bo Peep
Collier-Keyworth
Evenflo
Jupiter
Snug Seat

For more information on car seat regulations, contact the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society at 519-252-1171 or the Children's Safety Village of Windsor and Essex County at 519-945-5500.