

Are you using the right child car seat?

All children must use an age- and weight-appropriate child seat **until their 9th birthday** unless they have reached the height of 145 cm (4'9") tall.

All drivers must ensure **all children** (under 16) are restrained appropriately as described below.

**NEW LAWS
IN EFFECT
July 1, 2008**

Birth to at least 1 year AND 9 kg (20 lb.)

Infant and rear-facing infant/child car seats are for children:

- Starting from their first ride home from the hospital.
- Until they are at least one year old AND 9 kg (20 lb.).



Over 1 year AND over 9 kg (20 lb.)

Forward-facing child seats are for children:

- Who are at least one year old AND 9 kg (20 lb.).
- Until they reach 18 kg (40 lb.).

Children may remain rear-facing if allowed by manufacturer's weight limit.



Under 9 years AND over 18 kg (40 lb.)

Booster seats are for children:

- Who are at least 18 kg (40 lb.).
- Until they are 9 years of age unless they have reached the height of 145 cm (4'9") tall.

Children may remain in a forward-facing car seat with harness if allowed by manufacturer's weight limit.



Choose the best child car seat for your child

Select a child car seat that:

- Is appropriate for your child's age and weight.
- Meets Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. Look for the CMVSS label on the seat.
- Fits your vehicle and can be installed correctly.
- Is easy to use. Look for a child car seat with a harness that tightens and loosens from the front and has an easy-to-use tether strap.



Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and read your vehicle owner's manual.

Install and use the child car seat correctly

Installing the child car seat

- Never place an infant or rear-facing infant/childcar seat in a vehicle seat with an air bag.
- Install the child car seat in the back seat – in most cases, that’s the safest position in the vehicle.
- Ensure that the vehicle seat belt is routed correctly.
- Tightly secure the child car seat to the vehicle with the seat belt or UAS (Universal Anchorage System). Check periodically to make sure that the belts haven’t loosened.
- Ensure tether strap is attached and tight (applies only to forward-facing childcar seats).



Harnessing your child (up to 18 kg or 40 lb.)

- Position the harness straps at the appropriate height – **below the shoulders when rear facing; above the shoulders when the child car seat is forward facing.**
- Check that the harness is snug – no more than two fingers can fit between the harness and the baby’s or child’s collarbone.
- Position the chest clip at armpit level.

Make sure your child is ready before you move him or her to the next stage of protection. Remember, there’s no rush.

Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions and read your vehicle owner’s manual.

Avoid common mistakes

Results of a Child Passenger Safety Program British Columbia-wide survey reveal that:

- Over half of infant and child car seats are not installed or used properly.
- Half the children who need a booster seat are not using one.

What are the most common mistakes?

Infant and child car seats:

- Seat belt is too loose
- Harness is too loose
- Harness is in the wrong slot
- Tether strap is not secured (applies only to forward-facing child car seats with harness)
- Child put forward-facing before reaching one year of age AND 9 kg (20 lb.)
- Child moved into booster seat too soon (before weighing 18 kg or 40 lb.)

Booster seats and seat belts:

- Child put in booster seat too soon (before weighing 18 kg or 40 lb.)
- Child put in the seat belt too soon (before 9th birthday)
- Shoulder belt is behind your child’s back or under their arm

For more information

- www.ChildSeatInfo.ca and www.icbc.com/road_safety/carseat.asp
- Child Seat Information Line: 1-877-247-5551

