



CHILD SAFETY IN VEHICLE AND USE OF SAFETY BELT DURING PREGNANCY

Aster
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Digital Version

A. UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN A VEHICLE

1. Infants or young children should never be left unattended in a motor vehicle.
2. Accidental trapping of body parts like hand / head in electronically operated windows
3. Accidental ingestion of liquids like sanitizer and small objects like battery.
4. In hot weather, heat exhaustion, severe dehydration and heat stroke can occur, babies may even lose consciousness

B. TYPES OF CHILD SEATS

Retailers often describe child restraints in terms of 'Stages'

Stage 1 = Groups 0 and 0+, Stage 2=Group 1, Stage 3 = Group 2, Stage 4=Group 3

| Type of restraint | Weight range | Approx age range |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Group 0 Rearward-facing baby seat | For babies up to kgs (22 lbs) | birth to 6-9 months |
| Groups 0+ | For babies up to 13kg (29lbs) | birth to 12-15 months |
| Group 1 Forward-facing child seat | 9-18 kgs (20-40 lbs) | 9 months - 4 years |
| Group 2 Booster seat | 15-25 kgs (33-55 lbs) | 4 to 6 years |
| Group 3 Booster Cushion | 22-36 kgs (48-79 lbs) | 6-11/12 years |

FITTING CHILD SEATS



If you use the child seat in more than one car, follow the advice below for each car. It's safer to fit child seats in the rear of the car, but if necessary they can be fitted in the front. But, NEVER fit a rearward-facing baby seat in the front if the rear air bag on the passenger side of the car. If the airbag went off it would strike the seat with considerable force.

Never fit a rearward-facing baby seat in the front if there is a passenger airbag

Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for fitting the seat. If you have lost the instructions, contact the child seat manufacturer to check if they can provide a copy.

The child seat should test firmly on the car seat, with hardly any forwards or side ways movement.

Make sure the safety belt passes through all the correct guides on the child seat. Some seats have an alternative routing if the safety belt is too short to go around the main route.

Check that the safety belt buckle is not resting on the child seat frame (this is known as "bucklecrunch").

Push your weight into the child seat as you tighten the safety belt to make sure the child seat is securely held. There should be no slack in the safety belt.

Keep the fitting instruction with the child seat in the car. If you are unsure about anything, seek advice and get a professional to check the fitting of the child seat for you.

Never modify the seat or adult safety belt to make it fit.

If you are fitting a forward-facing child seat in the front of a car, make sure the car seat is as far back as it will go, so the child is as far as possible from the dashboard. This reduces the possibility of head or chest injuries in a crash.

If you take the child seat out of the car, make sure you fit it properly every time you put it back in. If you leave the car permanently, check it regularly to make sure it is still securely held.

To be effective, child restraints must be fitted and used correctly. Surveys have consistently shown that a high proportion of child restraints are incorrectly fitted, usually for one or more of these reasons:

- Safety belt too loose
- Safety belt not routed through child seat correctly
- Buckle crunch (buckle resting against part of the child seat, frame, which means that in a crash it might break or snap open)
- Handle on baby seat not positioned properly
- Child seat not compatible with car
- Child seat old and in bad condition
- Child too large or too small for the seat they are using.

C. SAFETY BELT WEARING DURING PREGNANCY

Pregnancy, other than when the subject

of a medical exemption, does not of itself provide an exemption from the law in relation to using a safety belt.

The safest way for pregnant women to wear a safety belt is to:

- Place the diagonal strap between the breasts (over the breastbone) with the strap resting over the shoulder, not the neck
- Place the lap belt flat on the thighs, fitting comfortably beneath the enlarged abdomen and over the pelvis, not the bump.
- The belt should be worn as tight as possible. In this way the forces applied in a sudden impact can be absorbed by the body's frame.

It is not advisable to wear 'Lap-Only-Belts' as opposed to lap and diagonal belts as they have been shown to cause grave injuries to unborn children in the event of sudden deceleration.

Mother and unborn child are both much safer in a collision if a lap and diagonal safety belt is being worn correctly.





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THE LOCATION

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