



WHY WE USE BOOSTER SEATS

Seat belts are not designed for children. Young children are too small for seat belts and too large for toddler seats. A booster seat raises your child up so that the seat belt fits right—and can better protect your child. The shoulder belt should cross the child's chest and rest snugly on the shoulder, and the lap belt should rest low across the pelvis or hip area—never across the stomach area. Your child's ears shouldn't be higher than the vehicle's seat back cushion or the back of a high-back booster seat.

Need help with your booster seat? Visit a child safety seat inspection station or a certified child passenger safety technician near you. To find one, go to www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/childps and click on the Child Safety Seat Inspections button or call 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236).

More than 40% of children under eight who die or suffer incapacitating injuries in fatal crashes are completely unrestrained. (NHTSA)



For more information about booster seats and other child passenger safety issues, go to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) web site at: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/childps or call NHTSA's toll-free hotline at **1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236).**



US Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration



BUCKLE UP

Kids In Cars



**Young Children
PRIORITY ONE**

When do you use a booster seat?

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for children of every age from 6 to 14 years – a fact that can be linked, at least in part, to the reality that most kids are unbuckled or improperly restrained in vehicles. One of the most common mistakes parents make when restraining children is that they don't understand the different stages of child restraint use throughout a child's growth.

Even the most safety-conscious parents are often not aware of the need for booster seats or the danger their children face when improperly restrained in an adult seat belt. On a small child, the adult lap belt rides up over the stomach and the shoulder belt cuts across the neck. In a crash, this could cause serious or even fatal injuries.



Because many state laws only require children to be in a safety seat up to age 4 or so, many parents assume older kids are safe in just a seat belt. However, all children need to be restrained right whenever they ride in a motor vehicle

REMEMBER: Fill out and return the product registration card so you can be notified in case of a recall.

Children generally outgrow convertible child safety seats when they are about 40 lbs. From 40 to about 80 lbs. and about 4'9" tall, children should always be seated in a belt-positioning booster; lifting them so adult lap/shoulder seat belts are "positioned" correctly and safely. Plus, booster seats offer children better visibility and comfort.

SAFETY TIPS FOR BOOSTER SEATS

- Child safety seats – including boosters – are very effective in saving children's lives during crashes.
- All children age 12 and under should sit properly restrained in the back seat.
- It is critical for parents not to move their children too quickly into adult seat belt systems, skipping booster seats altogether.
- Always use both the lap AND shoulder belt—never just a lap belt.
- The shoulder belt should never be placed behind a child's back or under the arm. If you do, your child could be seriously injured or killed in a crash.
- Replace a booster seat that has been in a crash—the seat might have defects that you can't see.
- Parents should have their child safety seats inspected by a certified child safety seat technician in their community.



TYPES OF BOOSTER SEATS YOU CAN USE.

HIGH-BACK BELT-POSITIONING BOOSTER SEATS

Two types of high-back belt-positioning booster seats are available. This type of seat "boosts" your child up so the vehicle seat belt fits better.



One is used only with a lap/shoulder belt and provides head and neck support for your child if your vehicle seat back does not have a head restraint.



The other converts from a forward-facing toddler seat to a booster seat and comes equipped with a harness. This type can be used as a forward-facing toddler seat when your child is age one to about age four and at least 20 to about 40

pounds. When your child outgrows the toddler seat, remove the harness to use the seat as a booster seat with the vehicle's lap/shoulder belt. When using the harness, the seats are attached using the vehicle seat belt system and a top tether anchor, if the vehicle has one, or attached with the LATCH system, (for Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children).

NO-BACK BELT-POSITIONING BOOSTER SEAT



These seats are used with a lap/shoulder belt.

They are for use in vehicles with built-in head restraints.

SEAT BELTS at age eight or older or taller than 4'9". All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat.