

Important points to remember:

- If you have a choice to use a booster with a lap/shoulder seat belt versus one that uses a lap-belt only, the lap/shoulder belt offers better protection for your child by preventing forward head and upper body movement during a crash
- Booster seats, like car seats, must be used in your vehicle correctly. It is important that you always follow the instructions for your booster seat and vehicle
- Make sure that the seat belt is snug
- Using a pillow or cushion etc. to boost a child in a vehicle is dangerous. In a collision, these items will compress, creating slack in the seat belt. The seat belt could then ride up on the child's abdomen, or the child could come out of the belt altogether
- Seat belt adjusters are not regulated by Transport Canada; there are no standards governing the production or design of them. Seat belt adjusters often pull the lap belt over the child's abdomen increasing the risk of serious injury. Transport Canada recommends that these devices not be used. (Shoulder belt height adjusters and comfort clip that exist in new vehicles are acceptable)
- Remember to fasten the booster, even when your child is not in it. During a sudden stop, an empty, unbelted booster seat could cause injury to the driver and/or passengers

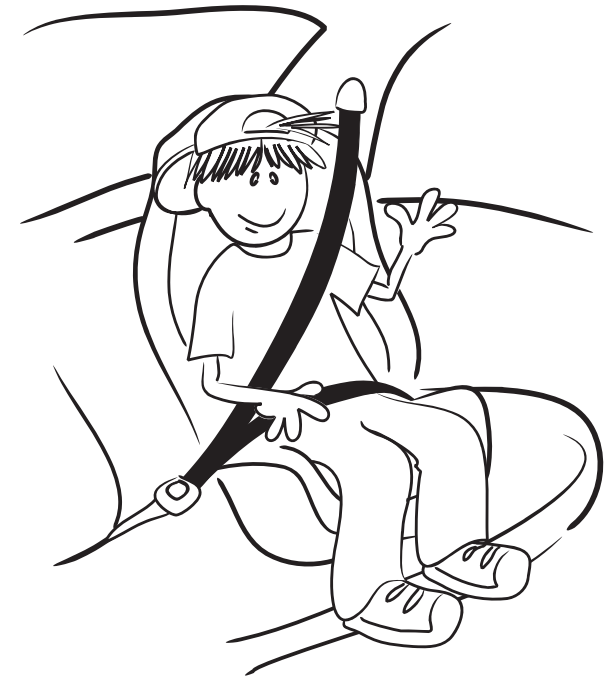
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me up.
keep me safe.**

For more information, call:

YORK REGION
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1-800-361-5653

York Region

Booster seats



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In the fall of 2005, booster seats will be required by law for children who are under 8 years of age, who weigh between 18kg - 36kg (40-80lbs) and have a standing height of less than 145 cm (4'9"). A booster seat is not a substitute for a car seat for a child under 18kg (40lbs).

What is a booster seat?

A booster seat raises your child up so that the seat belt is positioned properly over their body. The shoulder belt should cross your child's chest and rest snugly across their shoulder, and the lap belt should rest low across the hips. Without a booster, the lap belt rides up onto a child's abdomen, risking serious internal injury in a crash. Never allow the shoulder belt to be tucked under a child's arm or behind their back.

Choosing a booster seat

Make sure that the booster seat your child uses has a label that states it meets CMVSS 213.2.

For a vehicle with lap/shoulder belts:

High back booster



- It can be made of moulded plastic or covered high density foam
- This style of booster is necessary when the back of the vehicle seat is low and/or does not have headrests to provide proper head and neck protection for your child
- A high back booster seat **must be used with a lap/shoulder seat belt**

Backless booster



- The lap belt is threaded under or through the arms of the seat which then rests directly on the child's body
- When you use this style of booster, it is important to ensure that the vehicle seat is tall enough and/or has head rests to provide head and neck protection. If the midpoint of your child's ears are above the vehicle seat, in a collision they are at risk for head and neck injuries - a high back booster seat should be used instead
- A backless booster must be used with a lap/shoulder seat belt

For a vehicle with only lap belts:

Shield booster



- Although this is the least desirable style of booster, it is the only type that can be used when there are only lap belts available
- Some vehicle manufacturers can retrofit older model cars that have lap belt only systems with lap/shoulder belts - contact your vehicle manufacturer to see if this is possible with your particular make, model and year of vehicle
- The lap belt does not lie directly over your child's body; it is positioned in a moulded recess on the front of the shield
- On some models, the shield can be removed so you can use the shoulder belt for better protection

Seat belts

Is your child ready for an adult seat belt?



Some things to consider when deciding if your child is ready for an adult seat belt:

- Their sitting height should be at least 74cm (29") (from their tailbone to the top of their head)
- Their standing height should be 145cm (4'9") tall
- Your child can sit all the way back against the back of the vehicle seat and their knees can bend comfortably over the edge of the vehicle seat (without slouching)
- The shoulder belt lies across the middle of your child's chest and middle of their shoulder, not across their neck or face, or tucked under the arm or behind the back
- The lap belt fits low over the hips, and doesn't ride up on the stomach

Transport Canada recommends children 13 and under sit in the back seat especially if there is a passenger side air bag.