

Used Car Seats

If you are planning to use an older car seat that you already own, borrow one from a trusted source like family or a friend, or buy a second hand seat, use this checklist as a guide to help you decide if the seat is still safe to use.

1. Does the seat have a label with the date of manufacture or the expiry date molded into the plastic shell of the seat? (Every car seat manufacturer has different expiry dates. Contact them for specific information on the seat you are using.)

YES: If not expired, continue to next question

NO: DISCARD the seat

2. Does the seat have a label showing that it meets all Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (CMVSS)?

YES: Continue to next question

NO: DISCARD the seat

3. Has the seat been recalled for any safety defects? (Check the Transport Canada website with your car seat model number and date of manufacture.)

NO: Continue to next question

YES: Have the defects been corrected? If yes, continue to next question. If no, Correct or **DISCARD** the seat

4. Has the seat been involved in a vehicle collision?

NO: Continue to next question

YES: DISCARD the seat

5. Has the seat been dropped from a height of one metre or more?

NO: Continue to next question

YES: DISCARD the seat

6. Are there any cracks, bends, or breaks in the plastic shell or metal frame?

NO: Continue to next question

YES: DISCARD the seat

7. Do you have a copy of the manufacturer's instructions?

YES: Continue to next question

NO: Call the car seat manufacturer to request a copy of the instructions; continue to next question

8. Does the seat have all its parts: harness straps, chest clip, padding, tether straps and bolts?

YES: Continue to next question

NO: Obtain replacement part(s) from the manufacturer, or **DISCARD** the seat

9. Are the harness straps worn or frayed?

NO: Continue to next question

YES: Obtain replacement part(s) from the manufacturer, or **DISCARD** the seat

10. Does the buckle area show signs of rust?

NO: Continue to next question

YES: DISCARD the seat

11. Do the buckle(s) fasten easily?

YES: Consider using the seat

NO: DISCARD the seat

Disposal of an expired/unsafe car seat

To prevent the re-use of unsafe car seats, ensure the following before disposing of your car seat:

1. Cut off all harnessing and discard
2. Remove any padding
3. Dispose of the plastic shell separately in a dark garbage bag

For more information, call
York Region *Health Connection*

1-800-361-5653

TTY: 1-866-252-9933

www.york.ca/carseat


York Region

Choosing a Car Seat / Booster Seat



What to consider when buying a new seat or deciding to use a second-hand /used seat


York Region

New car seats/booster seats

With the large variety of car seat styles available, it's not always easy to decide which one is the most appropriate for your child's weight, height and developmental ability.

- Buying a new car seat in Canada guarantees it meets CANADIAN MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS - this is required by law








- A higher priced car seat does not necessarily indicate a safer product — shop around
- Look for one which is easy to use and clean, and is comfortable for the child

After buying car seat/booster seat

- Install the seat in the vehicle to make sure your vehicle seat belt or LATCH system is compatible with your car seat/booster and holds the seat tight; otherwise you may need to exchange it for another model
- Read the manufacturer's instructions and keep them in a safe place
- Make sure you fill out and send in your car seat registration for potential recall notices

Types of Car Seats on the Market

Type	When & how to use	Things to consider
 <p>Infant carrier (Infant Car Seat)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear-facing only • Birth to at least 22 lbs (10 kg) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check how easily the harness adjusts in the front or back of the seat • Choose a seat with at least 2 sets of shoulder harness slots • Some allow you to install the carrier in a vehicle without the base (can be useful for taxis) • Most carriers have a minimum weight of 5 lbs (2.3 kg), however some newer models have a minimum weight of 4 lbs (1.4 kg), which would be important for a premature or low birth weight newborn
 <p>Convertible car seat (Infant/Child Car Seat)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear-facing, then forward-facing • Rear-facing: birth to at least 30 lbs (14 kg) • Forward-facing: at least 22 lbs (10 kg) to at least 40 lbs (18 kg) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some models have weight limits up to 65 lbs (29 kg), and height limits higher than 40" (101 cm), often allowing you to keep your child in a 5-point car seat restraint longer, which is a useful feature for toddlers/children that are quite young when they reach 40lbs (18 kg) (the minimum to switch to a booster seat) • If using seat rear-facing with a newborn, make sure harness straps are at or below baby's shoulders (with some models the lowest harness slot location is too high for a newborn) • Some models allow you to adjust the harness slot height without having to take the car seat out of the vehicle
 <p>3 in 1 car seat (Infant/Child/Booster Car Seat)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear-facing, forward-facing, and then a booster seat • Rear-facing: 5 lbs (2.3 kg) to at least 30 lbs (14 kg) • Forward-facing: at least 22 lbs (10 kg) to at least 40 lbs (18 kg) • Booster seat: 40 lbs (18 kg) to at least 80 lbs (36 kg) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often the lowest harness slot location is too high for a newborn (must be at or below their shoulders when rear-facing) • Look for models that overlap weight and height ranges for each car seat stage to minimize the chances that your child will outgrow the seat before being able to switch to the next car seat stage
 <p>Combination car seat (Child/Booster Car Seat)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward-facing only car seat, then converts to a booster seat • Forward-facing: at least 22 lbs (10 kg) to at least 40 lbs (18 kg) • Booster seat: 40 lbs (18kg) to at least 80 lbs (36 kg) – maximum weight varies according to model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use this seat as a forward facing car seat with the harness & tether strap up to the maximum weight or height limits for this stage (depending on model) • For toddlers that are a tall, slender build, choose a model that has a maximum height limit (with harnessing) higher than 40" (101 cm) to reduce the chance that they will outgrow the car seat in height before they reach the minimum weight to switch to a booster seat 40 lbs (18 kg) • Make sure you can tighten/loosen the harness in the front of the seat, to avoid removing the seat every time it needs tightening/loosening • After a minimum of 40 lbs (18 kg), you can remove the harness and use it as a high back booster • Seats that allow you to use harnessing beyond 40" (101 cm) will accommodate tall children who are less than 18 kg (40 lbs) and still require car seat harnessing
 <p>High back or backless booster seat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 lbs (18 kg) to at least 80 lbs (36 kg) • Backless and high back styles both require a lap-shoulder seatbelt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High back booster – choose this style when the back of the vehicle seat is low and/or does not have an adjustable headrest to provide proper head and neck protection for your child • Backless booster – this style can be used when the vehicle seat is tall and/or the headrest can be adjusted to provide head and neck protection for your child