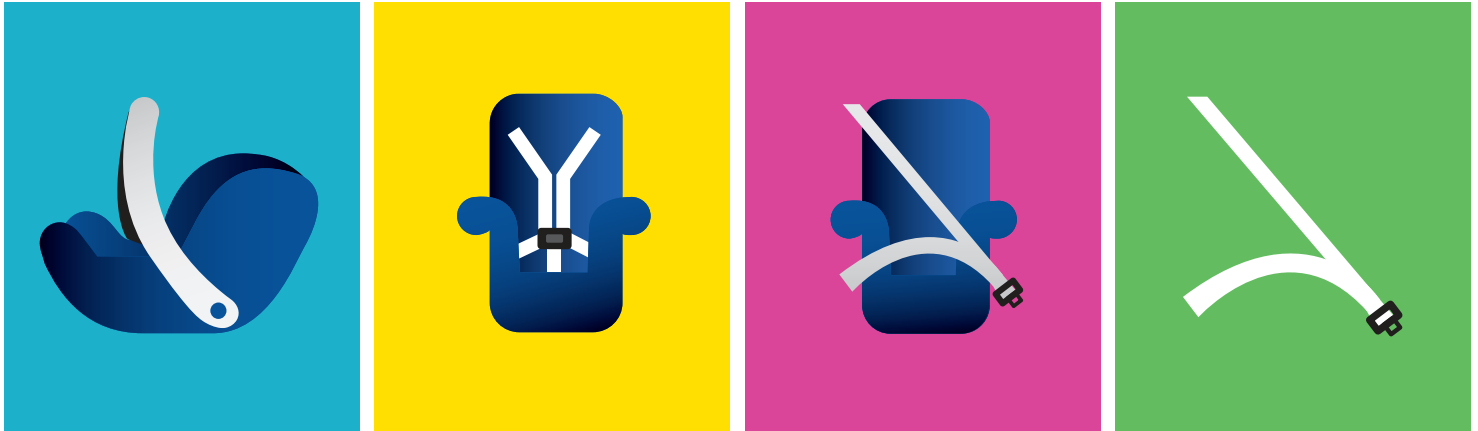


Car Seat Safety



How to choose and fit the right car seat

A decorative vertical bar on the left side of the page, composed of several colored rectangular segments: teal, yellow, magenta, green, teal, yellow, magenta, and green.

Keep your child safe in the car by always using a correctly fitted, properly fastened car seat that meets Australian standards.

This booklet will help you to find the answer to these questions:

- Why use a car seat?
- Which is the right car seat for my child?
- How do I fit and install a car seat?

Why use a car seat?

The most important reason for using a car seat is to protect your child.

The right car seat that is properly installed can reduce the risk of death or serious injury in a crash by up to 70 per cent.

The law says:

- Children under 6 months must use a rear facing car seat with an inbuilt harness.
- Children aged 6 months up to 4 years must use a rear facing or forward facing car seat with an inbuilt harness.
- Children aged 4 years up to 7 years must use a forward facing car seat with an inbuilt harness, or booster seat with a properly fastened and adjusted seatbelt or safety harness.
- Children aged 7 years and older must use a properly fastened forward facing car seat or adult seatbelt.



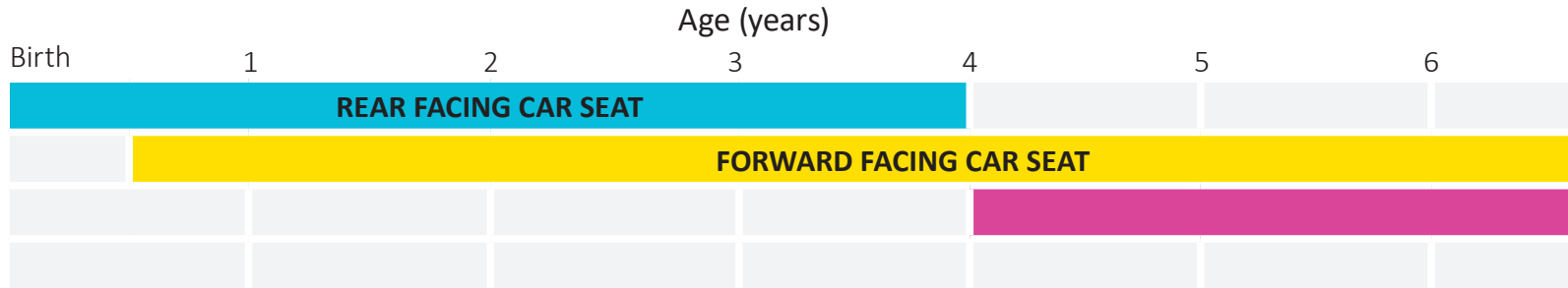
**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION**

Your car seat must meet the Australian Standards, it will have the AS/NZS 1754 code on the label.

If you don't have your child in a correctly fitted, properly fastened car seat suitable for their age and size it could cost you a fine and demerit points.



Which is the right car seat for my child?



REAR FACING CAR SEAT

- Children from birth to 6 months old must be in a rear facing car seat with an inbuilt harness.
- Keep your child in the rear facing car seat until they reach the maximum height limit of the car seat.
- Some rear facing car seats can fit a child up to the age of 4.



FORWARD FACING CAR SEAT

- Once your child outgrows the rear facing car seat they can move to a forward facing car seat with an inbuilt harness.
- Some forward facing car seats will fit a child up to the age of 8.

This table will help you choose the right car seat for your child.
The car seat must suit your child's age and size.

Age (years)

7

8

9

10

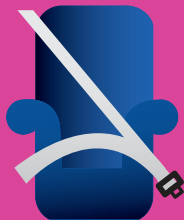
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12

13+

BOOSTER SEAT

SEAT BELT



BOOSTER SEAT

- Once your child outgrows their forward facing car seat with an inbuilt harness, they can move to a booster seat with a properly fastened and adjusted seatbelt or safety harness.
- Some booster seats will fit a child up to the age of 12.



SEAT BELT

- Children over 7 years should continue to use a booster seat until they are tall enough to use an adult seatbelt.
- To ride safely, most children need a booster seat until they are 10 to 12 years old.





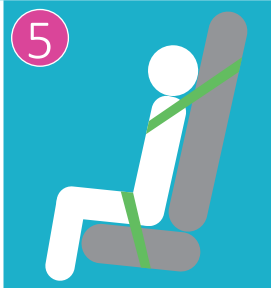
The 5 Step Test in this booklet will help you to see if your child is ready to use an adult seatbelt.

How do I know when my child can use a seatbelt?

Children over 7 years should continue to use a booster seat until they are tall enough to use an adult seatbelt. The 5 Step Test can help you check if your child is ready to wear an adult seatbelt.

5 ticks = use seatbelt

Less than 5 ticks = use booster seat

				
Can your child sit all the way back against the seat?	Do your child's knees bend comfortably in front of the edge of the seat?	Does the sash (shoulder) belt sit across the middle of the shoulder not on the neck or the arm?	Is the lap belt sitting low across the middle of the hip bones touching the thighs?	Can your child stay seated like this for the whole trip?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>

How do I know when my child outgrows the car seat?

- Your child will need different types of car seats as they grow taller.
- Children should move to the next type of car seat once they reach the manufacturer's maximum height limit for the car seat. Car seats sold after 2011 will have height markers showing when your child can move to the next type of car seat.
- If your child is not old enough for the next type of car seat, but is too tall for their current one, they can use the car seat for the next age group.
- If a child is too small to move into the next type of car seat for their age they should stay in their current car seat.
- Some car seats can be adjusted to fit your child as they grow. Many rear facing car seats can be turned around and in to a forward facing car seat.

How do I properly fit my child into the car seat?

- Check the car seat is properly adjusted to fit your child every time you buckle them up.
- Your child should fit snugly in the car seat.
- Tighten and adjust the straps so they are above the shoulder (in the slot closest to your child's shoulder). If you can pinch the strap, then it is too loose.
- Make sure all buckles are securely fastened. You should hear a "click" when you buckle them in.
- Never wrap a child in a blanket or put them in a car seat in thick jackets and coats, as you will not be able to adjust the straps to fit their body.





What car seat should I buy?

- Always buy a car seat that fits your child and fits your car. Keeping your child rear facing for as long as possible is the safest option.
- Using a convertible car seat will allow your child to be rear facing for longer.
- Booster seats with a high back, seatbelt positioning devices and side support provide the best protection.
- Visit www.childcarseats.com.au for information.

Second-hand or used car seats

If you decide to use a second-hand car seat, pick a seat that :

- Has the AS/NZS1754 code.
- Has not been in a crash.
- Has a smooth, working buckle.
- Has no obvious signs of wear and tear.
- Has harness straps that are not stretched, torn or fraying.
- Has no cracks on the seat's plastic shell.
- Is less than 10 years old (look at the date of manufacture sticker).

Where should a car seat go in the car?

- The back seat of the car is the safest place to put a car seat. If your car has three rows of seats, the middle is the safest place to put a car seat.
- Children under 4 years old can only sit in the front seat if the car does not have a back seat or the back seat is full of younger children. But the child must be in a correctly fitted, properly fastened car seat that meets Australian standards.
- It is recommended that children 12 years and younger do not sit in the front seat of a car.

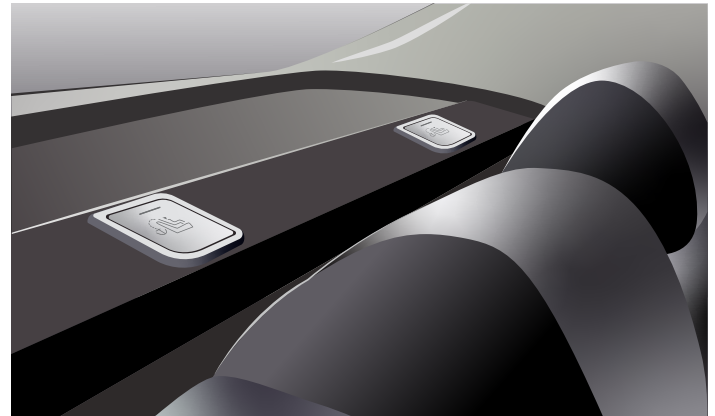
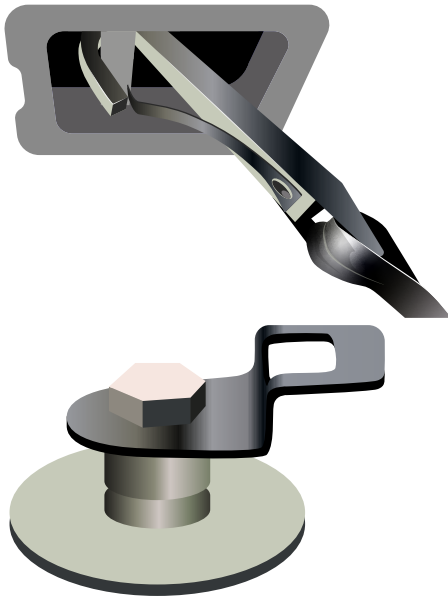


A rear facing car seat should never be used in the front seat if there is a passenger airbag.



How do I install a car seat?

- To keep your child safe the car seat must be properly installed in your car.
- A new car seat will come with instructions on how to install it. You should follow the instructions step by step.
- All car seats (excluding some booster seats) have a top anchor strap. This needs to be connected to an anchor point in your car. To find the anchors points in your car, check your car owner's manual.
- If you have a car seat that is compatible with ISOFIX, check whether your car has ISOFIX low anchor points. These car seats must also use a top anchor strap.



There are qualified people that can help you fit car seats.
Visit www.transport.tas.gov.au for more information.

Exemptions


- If your child has a medical condition or physical disability you can apply for an exemption to use an alternate car seat. You should seek advice from a health professional, such as an occupational therapist, who can work with your family to recommend the right car seat.
- Visit www.transport.tas.gov.au for more information.

Taxis and buses

- Taxis and public buses are exempt from supplying car seats, therefore children are not required to be seated in a car seat when travelling by taxi or bus. However all passengers including children must wear seatbelts if they are fitted. If booking a taxi you can ask if they can supply a car seat.
- Children under 12 months old are allowed to sit on the lap of an adult passenger in a bus or back of a taxi. You can use your own car seat if it is correctly fitted, properly fastened and meets Australian standards. Never let children share a seatbelt with another passenger.

For more information on car seats contact

Department of State Growth

 Telephone : 1800 030 688

 Website: www.transport.tas.gov.au

Kidsafe

 Telephone: 0417 381 721

 Website: www.kidsafetas.com.au



Keep your child safe in the car by always using a correctly fitted, properly fastened car seat that meets Australian standards.



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