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# Keep kids safe

**BOOSTER SEATS**

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[www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/kids](http://www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/kids)

Don't hurry to move your child to a booster seat. Your child must weigh at least 18 kg (40 lbs) and meet the height guidelines in your booster seat user guide. As long as your child still fits within the weight and height ranges for his or her forward-facing seat, it is safest to use that seat as long as possible.

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**Canada**

## INSTALL YOUR BOOSTER SEAT

Always install the booster seat in the back seat of your car. This way, your child is as far away as possible from the front seat air bags if they inflate during a crash.

There are different ways to install a booster seat. Read your car owner's manual and booster seat user guide to learn how. A correctly installed booster seat should keep the lap and shoulder belts in place across your child's hips, chest and shoulders.

**Note:** If you are using a **low backed booster**, the vehicle **MUST** have adjustable head restraints to protect your child's head and neck in crash.

## HOW TO BUCKLE UP YOUR KIDS THE RIGHT WAY



### BOOSTER BACK

If your booster seat has a back, make sure the middle of your child's ears are lower than the top of the back of the booster seat.

### SEAT BELT GUIDE

If there is a seat belt guide, it should be at or above your child's shoulder.

### SHOULDER BELT

Make sure the shoulder belt rests on your child's shoulder, and never on the neck or arm, or under the arm.

### LAP BELT

The lap belt should be snug against your child's hips, and **not on their stomach**.

## IMPORTANT TIPS

- Always use a lap belt **and** a shoulder belt with a booster seat.
- Always buckle up an empty booster seat (or take it out of your vehicle) so it doesn't bounce around in the back seat when not in use.
- Leave as much space as possible between the booster seat and the front seat of your vehicle.
- Items that did not come with your new booster seat (such as liners, trays or comfort straps) may not be safe to use. Contact the booster seat manufacturer and ask if these items are safe to use with your new car seat.
- By law, kids must be buckled up in a child restraint made for their weight, height and age. Read your provincial/territorial regulations for details as to booster seat use.
- If you are not sure that you have installed your booster seat correctly, there may be a **car seat clinic** in your community where you can go to have it checked. Your local Health Centre or police station may be able to tell you where and when a clinic is being held in your area.
- Do not leave loose items in your vehicle during a trip, as they may hit and hurt someone in a sudden stop.

## When should you move your child from a booster seat to a seat belt?

As long as your child still fits within the manufacturer's weight and height limits, he or she is safer in a booster seat.

## WHEN TO REPLACE A BOOSTER SEAT

- Always replace a child seat that was in a car that had a crash. Even if your child wasn't in the child seat when the crash happened, the child seat could be damaged.
- Booster seats have **expiry dates** — so make sure you replace yours when it expires.
- If the shell or materials on the seat are torn or damaged, replace the seat.

If you need more information on road safety, please contact us by email at [roadsafety@tc.gc.ca](mailto:roadsafety@tc.gc.ca) or call toll free 1-800-333-0371 (Ottawa area 613-998-8616).