

Choosing and fitting

Buying

- Choose the right seat for your child's weight. The packaging label should help you.
- Try it for fit in the car – or cars – you will use it in.
- Look for the official approval mark (the United Nations 'E' mark). The current UN standard is Regulation 44.03
- Beware of second hand seats. They could have been damaged and may not meet modern standards. The fitting instructions may also be missing.

- **Fit it properly every time. It's no good if you don't.**
- **Take time to get the child comfortably strapped in.**
- **Make sure the adult seatbelt passes through all the correct guides.**
- **Never modify the seat or adult seatbelt to make it fit.**
- **The child seat must be tight in the adult seat.**
- **The adult seatbelt buckle should not be bent over or rest on the child seat frame.**
- **Never fit a rear-facing seat with an active airbag in front of it.**

Use the right car seat for your child



Please supply
Directgov logo

For wider motoring advice, such as how to renew your car tax online, visit www.direct.gov.uk. Directgov – public services all in one place. Published by the Department for Transport.
© Crown copyright 2006
Printed in the UK July 2006 on paper comprising 75% post consumer waste and 25% ECF pulp

www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk

Use the right car seat for your child



How to fit a child's

A pocket guide to buying and fitting a child's car seat

Seating your child

- Make sure the harness is correctly adjusted – only one or two fingers should fit between the child's chest and harness.
- If you are using a booster seat or cushion, the adult seat belt should go from hip bone to hip bone and rest on the child's shoulder, not neck.
- Never tuck the seat belt under the child's arm or behind their back. In a crash, the child could be injured if you do this.



Fitting a child car seat

Children are still killed in car accidents because they are not properly restrained. You can best protect your children by putting them in a properly fitted child car seat which is appropriate for their weight and size.

This leaflet is a guide to help you make sure that your child is properly protected every journey.



Car Seat Groups – explained

Child's weight and approximate age

Up to 13kgs (birth to 9-12 months approx)

A rearward-facing seat which can be used in the front or rear of the car. *MUST NOT be used on a passenger seat fitted with an active frontal airbag.*



9-18kgs (9 months to 4 years approx)

A forward-facing seat which can be used in the front or rear of the car. These sometimes have a choice of upright and reclined positions.



15kgs and upwards to 36kgs (4 years and upwards)

A forward-facing booster seat which can be used in the front or rear of the car. The booster seat lifts the child and positions the adult lap and diagonal belt correctly.



22-36kgs (6 and upwards)

A forward-facing booster cushion which can be used in the front or rear of the car. The booster lifts the child and positions the adult lap and diagonal belt correctly.



Note that car seats are now also manufactured to cover several weight ranges. Check the packaging or label on the car seat.

Summary of the law

A useful guide to your responsibility as a driver

	Front seat	Rear seat	Responsibility
Driver	Seat belt must be worn if fitted		Driver
Child under 3 years of age	Correct child restraint must be used	Correct child restraint must be used. If one is not available in a taxi, may travel unrestrained	Driver
Child 3 years to 135cms in height (and under 12 years)	Correct child restraint must be used	Correct child restraint must be used where seat belts fitted. Must use a seat belt if: – in a taxi, the correct child restraint unavailable; – on a short and occasional trip, the correct child restraint not available; – two occupied child restraints prevent fitting a third.	Driver
Child 12 or 13, or over 135cms in height	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Seat belt must be worn in fitted	Driver
Adult passengers	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Passenger

Fitting

- The child seat must be tight in the adult seat. Push all your weight into the child seat as you tighten the belt.
- Keep the fitting instructions in the car.
- Any doubts, ask a professional to show you how.

Airbag

- Always check the car handbook for advice whether children can use front seats. This advice varies from car to car.
- Never fit a rear-facing child restraint in a seat with an active airbag in front of it.
- Forward-facing restraints should be as far back from the airbag as possible.

