

Choose Right Fit Right

Q and A Sheet on Child Restraints

How do I know which restraint type to use?

It is important to choose a restraint that is right for your child's size (weight and height)

Rear facing infant restraint – children from birth to around 9kgs

Forward facing child seat – children weighing around 9kg to 18kg

Booster seat – children weighing from around 18kg until they fit correctly into an adult seat belt (at around 145cm tall)

When do I move my child to the next type of restraint?

Move your child to the next type of restraint only when they are too big for their current restraint. This is when their shoulders are too broad to fit inside the seat or when the child's eyes are above the back of the restraint.

When can my child sit in an adult seat belt?

Children should move into an adult seat belt only when they are too big for their booster seat. This is when they are about 145cm tall.

When can my child sit in the front seat of the car?

Children of any age are much safer in the back seat.

I only have a two door car, can I put a child restraint in the front seat?

In NSW it is illegal to use a child restraint (infant restraint, forward facing child seat, booster seat/cushion) in the front seating position of a motor vehicle where an airbag is fitted (designed to be deployed) in that seating position.

Where can I get a child restraint professionally fitted?

Call the RTA on 13 22 13 to find an RTA Authorised Restraint Fitter in your area.

Are second hand child restraints ok?

The problem with second hand restraints is that it is difficult to tell whether it has been involved in an accident before you have purchased it. We recommend buying new restraints where possible, however if you are going to buy a 2nd hand restraint, have it fitted and checked by an RTA Authorised Restraint Fitter.

When is a child restraint too old to use?

Never use a restraint that is more than 10 years old as it is not likely to comply with Australian Standards. The date of manufacture should be found on a sticker on the restraint.

What Australian Standard do child restraints have to comply with?

AS/ NZS 1754

Can I use a restraint I have brought with me from overseas?

A restraint bought from overseas (other than New Zealand) will not meet the Australian Standard and should not be used here. The Australian Standard is one of the toughest child restraint standards in the world so you can be sure that if it meets AS/ NZS 1754 your child will be well protected if it is fitted and used correctly.

What if I need to take my child in a taxi?

Most taxi companies have baby capsules and forward facing child seats or convertible seats (for children from birth to 18kgs) available. If you need a child restraint, ensure that you ask for one when booking the taxi.

Are booster cushions ok?

Booster cushions do not provide support for the head or back in the event of an accident.

We strongly recommend you use a rigid booster seat with a back and side wings for better protection (as shown in the picture on the right hand side of the page).

Information is provided as a guide only. Further advice is available as part of restraint manufacturer's instructions, at an RTA Authorised Restraint Fitter or from Kidsafe NSW on telephone (02) 9845 0898.

Forward Facing Child Seat

For children weighing around 9kg to 18kg

(From ages 6 to 9 months to approximately 5 years)



Booster Seat

For children weighing from around 18kg, from about 5 years, until they fit correctly into an adult seat belt (at around 145cm tall)