

Car Seat/Booster Seat Guidelines and Resources

Connecticut Car seat rules:

Rear-facing 5 point infant or toddler car seat until 2 years AND 30 pounds.

Front-facing 5 point car seat until 4 years AND 40 pounds.

Booster seat until 8 years AND 60 pounds

Regular seat belt after age 8 if the following criteria are met:

A child can ride **safely**
without a **booster** seat
when you can say **YES** to **ALL 5**

- 

Back against the vehicle seat
- 

Knees bend at edge of seat
- 

Lap belt on tops of thighs, not on belly
- 

Shoulder belt between neck and shoulder
- 

Sits properly. No slouching, no playing with seat belt, etc.

* To ride safely, most kids need a booster until age 10-12 *



THE CAR SEAT LADY

Never use a car seat that:

- Is previously used if you don't know the seat's history.

- **Is too old.** Look on the label for the date the seat was made. Check with the manufacturer to find out how long it recommends using the seat.
- **Has any visible cracks on it.**
- **Does not have a label with the date of manufacture and model number.** Without these, you cannot check to see if the seat has been recalled.
- **Does not come with instructions.** You need them to know how to use the seat. Instructions can be found on manufacturer websites or by contacting the manufacturer.
- **Is missing parts.** Used car safety seats often come without important parts. Check with the manufacturer to make sure you can get the right parts.
- **Was recalled.** You can find out by calling the manufacturer or contacting the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888/327-4236. You can also visit the [NHTSA Website](#).
- **Do not use seats that have been in a moderate or severe crash.** Seats that were in a minor crash may still be safe to use, but some car safety seat manufacturers recommend replacing the seat after any crash, even a minor one. The NHTSA considers a crash minor if all the following situations are true:
 - The vehicle could be driven away from the crash.
 - The vehicle door closest to the car safety seat was not damaged.
 - No one in the vehicle was injured.
 - The airbags did not go off.
 - You can't see any damage to the car safety seat.

US Department of Transportation: overview of car seats and booster seats, installation, guidelines for use, ratings and recalls, and location services for installation support:

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats>

American Academy of Pediatrics information and guidelines for car and booster seats:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Car-Safety-Seats-Information-for-Families.aspx>

Find a car seat technician for installation assistance:

<https://portalskcms.cyzap.net/dzapps/dbzap.bin/apps/assess/webmembers/secure/manage?webid=SKCMS&pToolCode=CERT-SEARCH&pAdd=Yes&fbclid=IwAR1xLgPYbacxisy8nZVP9ex7C176dxRi9Qyj0osTQPKFhD9JM6xPoSAe-o0>

Team of Child Passenger Safety Technicians who help caregivers with three main types of questions: seat selection, installation and use, and clarifying niche issues that may not be clearly addressed in the car seat's manual:

<https://csftl.org/about-us/>

The Car Seat Lady: help with choosing the right car seat, installation, and vehicle selection for growing families:

<https://thecarseatlady.com/>

Portable 5 point car seat safety harness for travel with kids- city parents using taxis, carpooling, special needs safety, fitting 3 across, plane travel and more:

<https://ridesafertravelvest.com>

