

Choosing and fitting

Buying

- Choose the right seat for your child's height and weight. The label should help you.
- Try it for fit in the car – or cars – you will use it in.
- Look for the official approval mark (usually 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.

Check your child seat every trip



Printed in Great Britain on material containing 75% post-consumer waste and 25% ECF pulp.
Published by DTLR © Crown Copyright
March 2002. T/INF/697

www.think.dtlr.gov.uk

Check your child seat every trip



How to fit a child's car seat

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 seatbelt should rest on the child's shoulder, not neck and from hip bone to hip bone.
- Never tuck the seatbelt under the child's arm or behind their back.



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)

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



9-18kgs (9 months to 4 years)

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. *DO NOT use on a passenger seat fitted with an active front airbag unless your vehicle manufacturer confirms it is safe.*



15-25kgs (4 to 6 years)

A forward-facing seat or booster 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 seatbelt correctly. *DO NOT use on a passenger seat fitted with an active front airbag unless your vehicle manufacturer confirms it is safe.*



22-36kgs (6 to 11 years)

A forward-facing seat or booster 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 seatbelt correctly. *DO NOT use on a passenger seat fitted with an active front airbag unless your vehicle manufacturer confirms it is safe.*



Summary of the law

A useful guide to your responsibility as a driver

	Front seat	Rear seat	Responsibility
Driver	Seatbelt must be used if fitted.		Driver
Child under 3 years of age	Appropriate child restraint must be used.	Appropriate child restraint must be used if available.	Driver
Child aged 3 to 11 and under 1.5m (approx 5ft) in height	Appropriate child restraint must be used if available. If not, an adult seatbelt must be used.	Appropriate child restraint must be used if available. If not, an adult seatbelt must be used if available.	Driver
Child aged 12 or 13 or younger child 1.5m (approx 5ft) or more in height	Adult seatbelt must be used if available.	Adult seatbelt must be used if available.	Driver
Adult passenger (from 14 years)	Seatbelt must be used if available.	Seatbelt must be used if available.	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

- 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. Check the car handbook.

