

Ride Safely: Child Safety Seat Buyer's Checklist




Use the following checklist to help you make the right selection. Before you buy a child seat **try securing your child in it and try installing it in your vehicle.**



Refers to things to check when you try the child seat in your vehicle.

All Car Seats



Yes No

- N/A **MUST** meet all current Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. It's the law.
- No assembly required or very little assembly required.
- Clear instructions and illustrations.
- Seat belt routing clearly indicated on child seats.
- At least two sets of usable harness slots (for growing child).
- Easy to change harness slot positions.
- Easy to tighten and loosen harness.
- Easy to secure and release harness buckle.
- 80% of the child seat base fits on the vehicle seat. 
- Seat belt can be threaded through child seat with ease. 
- Seat belt can be tightened to secure child seat in vehicle. 






Infant Car Seat

Yes No

- Has two crotch strap positions or a crotch strap close to the seat back for a good secure fit.
- The carrying handle can be lowered while in the vehicle. 
- If the seat has a base, it is easy to attach and remove the seat from the base while it is in the vehicle. 



Convertible or Combination Car Seat with Tether Strap

Yes No





- A five-point harness provides a better fit for an infant and is suitable for a growing child.
- Tether strap instructions easy to follow
- Takes just one pull to tighten the tether strap. 
- In rear-facing position, harness adjuster is easily accessible. 
- In forward-facing position, harness adjuster is easily accessible. 

Booster Seat

Yes No

- The seat base is high enough to ensure the seat belt fits the child correctly. 
- The vehicle has a shoulder/lap seat belt so that a booster without a shield can be used. This is safest. 

Important Reminders

-  Choose the right seat for your child's weight and height.
-  Always check the manufacturer's instructions and your vehicle owner's manual for correct installation instructions.
-  Never install a rear-facing child seat in a vehicle seat equipped with an air bag.
-  All children under twelve should ride buckled up properly in the back seat.

For more information on child passenger safety, contact:
Peterborough County-City Health Unit (705) 743-1000.