

Booster Seats



What is a booster seat?

A booster seat is a car seat without a harness. It raises a child up so the lap and shoulder belt fit right. Children use a booster seat when they are too big for a car seat but not big enough for an adult seat belt. A seat belt that doesn't fit right won't protect your child in a crash. Booster seats solve the problem.

In Washington State, it is the law for children to ride in a booster seat until age 8, or they are 4 feet, 9 inches tall (57 inches). Children under the age of 13 should ride in the back seat whenever possible.

Never use a booster seat with just a lap belt. Booster seats must be used with a lap and shoulder belt.

My car has only lap belts in the back seat. What can I do?

Try one of these options:

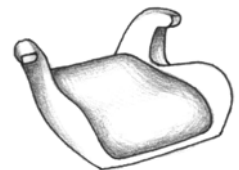
- Use the booster in the front seat with the lap and shoulder belt. Push the front seat back as far as you can to keep your child away from the dashboard.

- Never put your child in the front seat if your car has an air bag.
- If you must use a lap belt, your child should wear it low and tight across the hips.
- Call the Safety Restraint Coalition at (425) 828-8975 or (800) 282-5587 (800-BUCK-L-UP) for other options.

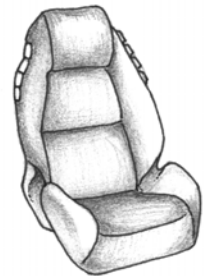
What kinds of booster seats are there?

There are two kinds of booster seats.

- A no-back booster can be used in cars with headrests in the back seat or a seat back that comes above your child's ears when he is sitting in the booster seat.
- A high-back booster can be used in cars with or without headrests.



No-back booster



High-back booster

TO LEARN MORE

- Booster Seat Coalition Web site, www.boosterseat.org
- Safety Restraint Coalition
 - (425) 828-8975
 - (800) 282-5587 (800-BUCK-L-UP)
 - www.800buckleup.org
- Información en español
 - <http://depts.washington.edu/abrocha/>
 - (877) 788-8432 (877-7-TU-VIDA)

Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Please call Marketing Communications at (206) 987-5205.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Children's Hospital. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's health-care provider.