

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BOOSTER SEAT

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HOW DO I PICK THE RIGHT BOOSTER SEAT?

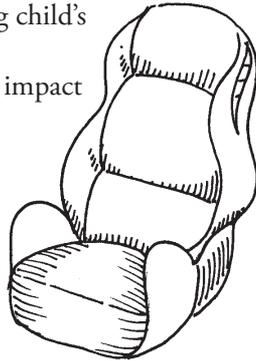
Booster seats come in many types and styles. Check the label for the weight limits and always follow the manufacturer's guidelines. Booster seats come in a wide range of prices. A higher price may not mean a better or safer booster seat. Here are some guidelines to help you.

REMEMBER

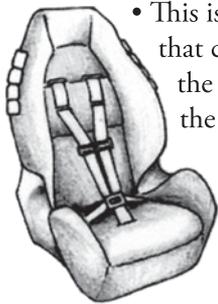
All booster seats must be used with a lap/shoulder style seat belt. Lap Belts alone are not a safe option.

HIGH BACK BOOSTER

- This type of booster protects against whiplash in cars with low seat backs or cars without headrests.
- The high back booster supports a sleeping child's head.
- This type of booster often has added side impact protection.
- The high back booster often has an adjustable seat belt guide to position the shoulder belt to the child's shoulder.
- This type of booster can often be adjusted into a no-back booster by disassembling the back portion from the seat portion.
- Must be used with a shoulder/lap seat belt.



COMBINATION Car Seat and Booster Seat



- This is a forward facing car seat with harness straps that can be converted into a high back booster once the child has outgrown the upper weight limits of the harness system.
- When the child outgrows the harness system (often at 40#), remove the harness and use the seat as a booster seat with the vehicle's lap/shoulder belt.

NO-BACK BOOSTER

- This type of booster seat should only be used if your car has headrests or if the car's seat back comes above your child's ears when she/he is sitting the booster seat.
- This model is easy to pack up and move from car to car.
- This model is less expensive usually.
- This model is less conspicuous if a child is sensitive about booster use.
- Must be used with a shoulder/lap seat belt.



What if my car has only lap belts in the back seat? Can I put my child in the front seat? Safety professionals recommend that children under 13 years old ride in the back seat of the vehicle because it is safer for them. Most crashes occur to the front of the car. If you do not have shoulder belts in the back seat of your vehicle, try one of the following options:

- Use a forward-facing car safety seat with a harness that goes up to higher weight limits. Other options are:
- Check to see if shoulder lap belts can be installed in your vehicle. Contact your car dealer for more information.
- Use a travel vest (some can be used with lap belts). For more information contact your local CPS resource.
- Consider buying another car with shoulder lap belt system.
- If you do NOT have an airbag in the front passenger seat, move the seat as far back as possible and have the child restrained with a lap/shoulder belt and booster seat in the front seat.

My 6 year old says he's a big boy now and none of his friends use booster seats. What should I tell him?

- It's the law.
- I love you and I want to protect you. The seat belt is designed for adult sized bodies and will not alone properly protect you at your current size.
- A booster seat will make the seat belt fit better and be more comfortable.
- Booster seats are made just for older kids like you.
- You'll be able to see out the window better.

All booster seats should be secured to the vehicle when not in use.



"BOOSTER UP" ALASKA – It's the Law

