

SECOND-HAND RESTRAINTS

Before purchasing a second-hand child restraint, you should have its condition thoroughly examined at the Kidsafe's Infant Restraint Loan Service or by an authorised child restraint fitter. Contact details for the Loan Service are provided later in this leaflet under Restraint Hire.

FITTING RESTRAINTS

Most modern passenger vehicles have child restraint anchorage points. For information about their location, check your vehicle manufacturer's handbook or contact the vehicle's local dealer.

Some passenger vans, four-wheel-drive vehicles and station wagons need to have anchorage bars fitted to enable the use of child restraints. You should consult an authorised child restraint fitter about the installation of these.

Child restraint anchorage points were not required in older vehicles. However, suitable restraints can be fitted and it is strongly recommended that you do so.

If you already have child restraints in your vehicle, but are not sure they are properly fitted, you can have them inspected by the Kidsafe's Infant Restraint Loan Service. Contact details are provided under Restraint Hire.

Child restraints are designed to be portable so they can be moved from car to car. Generally, an anchorage bolt or fitting is all that is needed, and you should consider installing one in your car if it is likely you will need to transport children. For some vehicles, you will need to fit extension straps, angle brackets or anchorage bars.

RESTRAINT HIRE

The Kidsafe's Infant Restraint Loan Service hires restraints for babies up to the age of six months. Other restraints are available in situations such as young children visiting Canberra.

Please ring (02) 6290 2244 to make an appointment.



Carrying Children Safely In Your Car

If children travel in your car, they must all use suitable safety restraints.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Road User Services

Vehicle Inspections & Technical Unit

13-15 Challis Street

Dickson ACT 2602

Telephone (02) 6207 7236

The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia (Kidsafe) operates the Infant Restraint Loan Service. The assistance provided by staff at the Loan Service in the preparation of this leaflet is gratefully acknowledged.



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THE REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements apply whenever children are travelling in a vehicle:

- every child **under the age of one year** must be restrained in a suitable, approved child restraint;
- all other children **under the age of 16 years** must be restrained in a suitable, approved child restraint or seat belt; and
- the child restraints and seatbelts the children are using must be properly fastened and adjusted.

In particular, a child must NEVER be put into a seatbelt with an adult or another child because a seatbelt is designed for the use of one person only.

Remember, children are much safer in the back seat. If there are not enough seating positions in the rear for all of the children, you should put the heaviest child in the front.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

It is the driver's responsibility to ensure all children travelling in the vehicle are correctly secured or seated, even for short trips.

Failure to comply with the requirements outlined above is a serious offence and you are liable for a substantial fine as well as demerit points unless:

- you have a medical certificate exempting the child from those requirements,
- an approved child restraint anchorage is not available because the vehicle is not required to be fitted with one; or
- a sudden or extraordinary emergency arises.

TAXIS

If no suitable, approved child restraint or seatbelt is available, children under the age of 16 years are permitted to travel in a taxi or hire car without one, but they must not be carried in the front seat.

ACT taxis have at least one anchorage bolt or fitting to enable the use of a child restraint.

APPROVED RESTRAINTS

All child restraints must meet the Australian Standard AS/1754 which will be shown on the label attached to the child safety seat or restraint.

Opposite is a guide to the different types of child safety restraining devices available.

Before purchasing a restraint, always check to make sure it is suitable for your child and vehicle.

Stay Safe!

If children travel in your car, they must all use suitable safety restraints.



Infant Restraint

Suitable for babies weighing up to 9kg and measuring up to 70cm long. Approximate age range: birth-6 months.

Convertible Restraint

Suitable when used as a baby capsule for babies weighing up to 9kg or 12kg and measuring up to 70cm or 85cm long (depending on type).

Approximate age range: birth to 6 months.



Child Safety Seat

Suitable for children weighing 8-18kg. Approximate age range: 6 months-4 years

Child Safety Harness

Suitable with a booster seat for children weighing 14-26kg. Approximate age range: 3-5 years. Suitable without a booster seat for children weighing 14-32kg. Approximate age range: 3-10 years.



Booster Seat with Lap-Sash Seat Belt

Suitable for children weighing 14-26kg. Approximate age range: 3-5 years