

accidents don't have to happen

A woman with long, straight brown hair, wearing a grey knit sweater, is seen from behind, looking at a display of various child car seats on shelves in a store. The car seats are in different colors, including blue, red, and grey.

Choosing and using child car seats...

www.childcarseats.org.uk



Child Car Seats: The Law

The law requires that all children travelling in the front or rear seat of any car, van or goods vehicle must use the correct child car seat until they are either 135 cm in height or 12 years old (whichever they reach first).



It is very important to ensure that your child travels in an appropriate child restraint, which:

- **Conforms to the United Nations standard, ECE Regulation 44.04 (or R 44.03) or to the new i-Size regulation, R129. Look for the 'E' mark label on the seat**
- **Is suitable for your child's weight and height**
- **Is correctly fitted according to the manufacturer's instructions.**

It is against the law to put a rear-facing seat in the front of a vehicle with an active airbag.

Rear-facing Child Car Seats

Rear-facing child car seats provide the best protection for your baby's head, neck and spine, so it's best to keep your baby rearward facing for as long as possible. By keeping your baby in a rear-facing child car seat you reduce their risk of death or injury in a crash by 90 percent compared with if they were unrestrained.



Rear facing seats have:

- **An energy absorbing interior**
- **An internal harness to hold your baby securely**
- **Some seats will also have side impact protection features (depending on the model).**

For information about seats for older children, such as forward facing seats and booster seats, visit the Child Car Seats website,

www.childcarseats.org.uk.

Choosing a Child Car Seat

Not all seats fit all vehicles, so it is important to check the vehicle and the car manufacturer's instructions:

- **If you can, visit a store with trained car seat fitters and ask them to fit the seat in your vehicle for compatibility before you buy**
- **If your baby travels in more than one vehicle, make sure that the seat is compatible with all of them**
- **Avoid buying a car seat online unless you're sure the seat will fit your baby and is compatible with your vehicle. You can check this by using www.childcarseats.org.uk (see choosing and using)**
- **Avoid buying a second hand child car seat. This is because you won't know the history of the seat. Even if it looks fine, it may be damaged or have even been involved in an accident. Older seats may not even meet current R44 or i-Size safety standards; making them illegal to use**
- **Some seats have an extendable foot, if the vehicle has underfloor storage these normally can't be used.**



Fitting Child Car Seats

Both rear-facing and forward-facing child seats can be fitted into your vehicle in one of two ways: by using the vehicle's three point seatbelt system or through the use of Isofix points.



Rearward-facing seats that are fitted with the car's seatbelts have blue guides through which the seatbelt must be threaded to secure the seat. On some seats, the handle is also used to help secure the seat, so it is important to position the handle as described in the instructions. The correct seatbelt routes and the position of the handle will be shown on labels on the side of the seat.

Forward facing seats that are fitted with the car's seatbelts have red guides. If it is a combination rear- and forward-facing seat take care to use the correct routing.

Isofix seats are secured in place by locking onto a bar in between the seat back and base. The seat may also have a support foot or top tether that fixes to an anchor point behind the car seat. In some cases the seatbelt may be used so it's important to read the instructions before fitting.

For more information?

www.childcarseats.org.uk
info@childcarseats.org.uk | 0800 801 0822



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