

Child Car Seat Safety – Manitoba

The following reference guide was gleaned for the Manitoba MPI booklet ‘Securing Your Precious Cargo’. Contact MPI at www.mpi.mb.ca to order this booklet or come by the KFFNM office to get a copy.

Important tips to consider re booster and child car seats:

- **Check the expiry date before purchasing.** An expired car seat may not protect your child because over time the plastic may crack, reducing its ability to withstand a crash. Most seats are stamped with the expiry date on the back or bottom of the seat. If you can’t find the date, contact the car seat manufacturer.
- **Buy your car seat in Canada** to ensure it meets Canada’s Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. Look for the National Safety Mark.
- **Check if the car seat has been recalled** on Transport Canada’s website at tc.gc.ca.
- **Replace a car seat that’s been in a collision.** The impact from a crash can cause non-visible damage to a seat and may not provide adequate protection in a future collision.
- **Over half of car seats and booster seats are installed incorrectly.** Refer to your car seat installation guide and your automobile driver’s manual for installation instruction.
- **Do NOT buy a second hand car seat** as it may be compromised by having previously been involved in an accident you know nothing about....**Buy new!**
- For safety reasons the province of Manitoba offers licensed kinship and foster parents reimbursement funding (\$200 for a new car seat) under the ‘**Crib and Car Seat Program**’ instituted to discourage caregivers from buying used, unsafe car seats. Talk to your social worker on how to gain access to this plan.



Use this chart to find out which car seat is best suited for your child:

| Car seat stage | Guidelines |
|--|---|
| 1. Rear-facing | Use a rear-facing car seat from birth until your baby reaches the manufacturers weight and height limits. Some seats are made for children up to 20 kg (45 lb.) . Use rear facing seat AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, DON'T RUSH TO SWITCH UP. |
| 2. Forward-facing | Use a forward-facing car seat until your child reaches the maximum weight and height limits. Some seats are made for children up to 30 kg (65 lb.) . |
| 3. Booster seat (and seat belt) | Use a booster seat once your child reaches the maximum weight listed on your forward-facing car seat. |
| Seatbelt only | Use a seatbelt only when your child is more than 145 cm (4' 9") , 36 kg (80 lb.) or nine years old. |