



Which type of car seat do I need?



# Introduction of New National Laws

## CAR RESTRAINTS

- All children under the age of 7 years must be restrained in a child restraint that meets Australian Standards (check all restraints for a Standards label to make sure they comply).
- All child restraints and seatbelts in use must be properly fastened and adjusted.

## WHERE TO SEAT A CHILD

- If a vehicle has two or more rows of seats (i.e. the average sedan) then children under 4 years must not travel in the front seat.
- If a vehicle has two or more rows of seats, then children aged between 4 years and under 7 years must not travel in the front seat unless all other seats are being used by children under 7 years of age. In this situation, a child may travel in the front seat using an approved booster seat and a properly fastened and adjusted seatbelt.

Failure to comply with the above requirements is a serious offence. Drivers who do not ensure all children in their vehicle are properly secured are liable for substantial fines and will incur demerit points.



\* exact size/weight will be listed by your car seat manufacturer for the specific model

# Types of Car Seats

| Age/Size*  | Type   | Description  |
|--|--|--|
| 0-6 months (max 12 months)<br>Up to 9kg (12kg max) | Rearward facing infant restraint.<br>Restraint has its own inbuilt harness           | A capsule (pictured) or a convertible restraint that combines the features of rearward-facing and forward-facing restraints in one child restraint. These restraints accommodate babies from birth in rearward-facing mode and can then be converted to forward-facing when the child is around 6 to 12 months of age. |
| 6 months – 4 years                                 | Rearward or forward-facing restraint.<br>Restraint has its own inbuilt harness       | Children aged between 6 months and 4 years must be restrained in an approved rearward or forward-facing restraint. Once your child has outgrown their rearward-facing restraint (this usually happens from around 6 to 12 months they can be moved into a forward-facing restraint.                                    |
| 4 years – 7 years                                  | Forward-facing restraint or booster seat.<br>Booster seats use a car's own seatbelt. | Forward-facing restraint or booster seat. Booster seats are used with an adult lap-sash seatbelt.  |
| Over 7 years                                       | No seat required.  | Car seat belts are designed for passengers over 145cm tall.  |



# How do I know when to move up?

## **What to do if your child is too small or too large for the type of restraint specified for your child's age**

- If a child is too small for a restraint specified for their age, they should be kept in a previous level of restraint for as long as necessary.
- If a child is too large for a restraint specified for their age, they may move to the next level of restraint.

## **A child aged between six months and four years of age will need to move to the next level of restraint when:**

- Their shoulders no longer fit comfortably within the restraint; or
- Their eye-level is higher than the back of the restraint; or
- The top insertion slots for the shoulder straps are below the level of the child's shoulders.

## **A child aged between four and seven years of age will need to move to the next level of restraint if:**

- Their shoulders no longer fit comfortably within the restraint; or
- Their eye-level is higher than the back of the booster seat (when measured at right angles from the seat back).
- Children should remain in a child restraint for as long as physically possible.