



One Minute Shopping Checklist **Used Car Seats and Boosters**

✓ Have you checked the age of the car seat?

- TIP
- * Car seat manufacturers put an expiry date on their products or in their instructions.
 - * These dates are usually 6 to 12 years after the date of manufacture.
 - * A restraint should not be used if it is past the expiry date.
 - * Check the expiry date to be sure that the time period will cover your child's needs.



✓ Does the car seat meet the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard?

- TIP
- * Each car seat sold in Canada must have a label saying that it meets the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (CMVSS). New Standards came into effect in Canada on January 1, 2012. It is illegal to sell, loan, rent or give away a seat that does not comply with the new Standard. Many seats made prior to this date do meet this new Standard.
 - * If the car seat has a date of manufacture before January 1, 2012, contact the company to check if it complies with the new Standard.
 - * Only car seats that meet CMVSS are legal for use in Canada.

✓ Have you checked for a recall on the car seat?

- TIP
- * Many car seats have had a recall or warning.
 - * You can call the manufacturer or Infant & Toddler Safety Association to find out if there has been a recall on the seat.
 - * Have the make, model number and date of manufacture ready when you call.

✓ Do you know the crash history of the car seat?

- TIP
- * Ask the previous owner if the car seat has ever been in a crash.
 - * If it has been in a crash, whether or not a child was in it, it should not be used. It may not provide adequate protection if it were in another collision.
 - * It's best not to use a car seat, if you don't know the history.

✓ Does the car seat look like new and have all its parts?

- TIP
- * The condition of the seat is very important. The following signs show that the seat may not provide your child with proper protection in a crash. Look for:
 - ⊗ cracks, chips and any white, or grey patches, or lines in the shell.
 - ⊗ rust on metal components.
 - ⊗ cuts, frayed edges or broken stitches in the harness or tether straps.
 - ⊗ tears in the padding.
 - ⊗ the instructions to check for missing parts.

✓ Is there an Instruction Manual?

- TIP
- * Instructions on the seat itself do not cover everything you need to know in order to use the seat properly.
 - * Don't depend on information from the previous owner - he or she might have been using the seat incorrectly.
 - * You can get a copy of the instructions from the seat manufacturer.

✓ Is the seat right for your child's weight and height?

- TIP
- * Check the weight and height limits of the seat to be sure that it is appropriate for your child.
 - * Infant-only seats usually provide the best fit for a newborn.

✓ Is the seat right for your child's Stage?

- * It is safer for infants/toddlers to ride rear-facing as long as possible. Convertible and 3-Stage seats can be used rear-facing until 13.6-22.7 kg (30-50 lb.), depending on the model. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children rear-face until 2 years-of-age.
- * When forward-facing, Convertible and 3-Stage seats allow a child to be harnessed until at least 18 kg (40 lb.). Newer models go higher - up to 30 kg (65 lb.).
- * A child cannot use a booster seat until he or she weighs at least 18 kg (40 lb.). It is safer, however, for a child to use a 5 pt. harness as long as possible.

✓ Is the harness easy for you to adjust?

- TIP
- * Different models of seats have different harness adjustment mechanisms.
 - * You may be tempted not to bother adjusting the harness if it is difficult. Your child would not be properly secured in crash.
 - * The level of the harness needs to be changed as your child grows.
 - * A rear-facing seat should have the harness level with, or just *below*, your child's shoulders.
 - * A forward-facing seat should have the harness level with, or just *above*, your child's shoulders.

✓ Does the car seat fit in your vehicle?

- TIP
- * Try the seat in the back seat of your vehicle before you purchase it.
 - * Less than 20% of the bottom of the child seat should overhang the vehicle seat.
 - * Check that there is enough room front to back, if you are using a rear-facing seat.
 - * If the seat can be used rear and forward-facing, test it both ways.