

Where can I get help fitting my restraint?

The following Customer Service centres and websites can be contacted to find your nearest Authorised Fitting Station:

- NSW – RTA Customer Service Enquiry on 13 22 13 www.rta.nsw.gov.au
- NSW – NRMA Technical Advice on 13 11 22 or www.mynrma.com.au/childrestraints.
- VIC – RACV Motoring Line on 1800 134 126 or www.racv.com.au.
- WA – RACWA Motoring Advice on 13 17 03 or see www.rac.com.au



Types of restraints

REARWARD-FACING RESTRAINTS are for babies up to approximately 12 months (depending on the model of child restraint). The restraint is held in place by the seatbelt and the top tether strap. All have an inbuilt harness system.

CONVERTIBLE FORWARD-FACING RESTRAINTS combine the features of rearward-facing and forward-facing restraints in one child restraint. These restraints accommodate babies from birth up to approximately 6 months or 12 months in rearward-facing mode and can then be converted to forward-facing for young children approximately 6 months to 4 years old. All have an inbuilt harness system.

FORWARD-FACING RESTRAINTS are designed for young children approximately 6 months to 4 years old. The restraint is held in place by the seatbelt and the top tether strap. The seat faces forward and incorporates an inbuilt harness system.

CONVERTIBLE BOOSTER SEATS combine the features of forward-facing restraints for young children and booster seats for older children. These restraints come with an inbuilt harness and a top tether strap. The harness is used until the harness straps are too tight over the shoulders.

BOOSTER SEATS are suitable for older children approximately 4 to 7 years. They are used with an adult lap/sash seatbelt. Booster seats with high backs and sides provide protection for children in side impact crashes as well as providing support for when they are sleeping.

SEATBELTS It is strongly recommended that children aged 7 years and over stay in their booster seats until they are too big for them. Adult lap/sash seatbelts are designed for people with a minimum height of 145 cm. Lap/sash seatbelts offer greater protection to passengers than lap-only seatbelts, but they must fit correctly. This means that the lap belt is positioned low over the hip and the sash belt sits in the middle of the shoulder and does not touch the neck.

A child that is properly secured in an approved child restraint is less likely to be injured or killed in a crash than one who is not.

Choosing the safest restraint

Follow the guidelines below to ensure that you are choosing the safest restraint for your child and using it correctly.

- ✓ All child restraints sold in Australia must comply with the Australian Standard and are marked accordingly.
- ✓ Child restraints are designed to match a child's age and size. When you buy a restraint you need to consider:
 - The age and size of your child.
 - If the restraint will fit in your vehicle.
- ✓ Consult the crash protection and ease-of-use ratings listed in this brochure. A restraint that is easier to use is more likely to be used correctly. A correctly fitted restraint offers better protection than one that has been incorrectly fitted.

Keep your child in the most appropriate restraint suitable for their age and size and only move them to the next category of restraint when he or she no longer physically fits.

- ✓ In rearward-facing and forward-facing restraints, ensure the in-built harness is adjusted for a comfortable but firm fit with no slack so that the harness straps are straight and in flat contact with the child.
- ✓ In booster seats, make sure the sash belt crosses the mid-shoulder and is in contact with the child's chest. Make sure the lap belt sits low across the pelvis.
- ✓ Always follow the restraint manufacturer's instructions when installing a restraint and placing your child in it.
- ✓ If you are purchasing or borrowing a second-hand restraint, be VERY CAREFUL. Only use a restraint when you know its history or if it has been obtained from a reliable source. Do not buy or use it if it has been involved in a crash, has worn straps, bent or worn buckles, or the attachment points in the plastic shell are cracked or discoloured, for example from age, overloading or exposure to the sun. Child restraints that are more than 10 years old should not be used.
- ✓ Use an authorised restraint fitter if you are unsure how to fit the child restraint.

Who is CREP?

The Child Restraint Evaluation Program (CREP) is run by a consortium of government agencies and motorist organisations who share a common interest in improving safety for children travelling in vehicles.

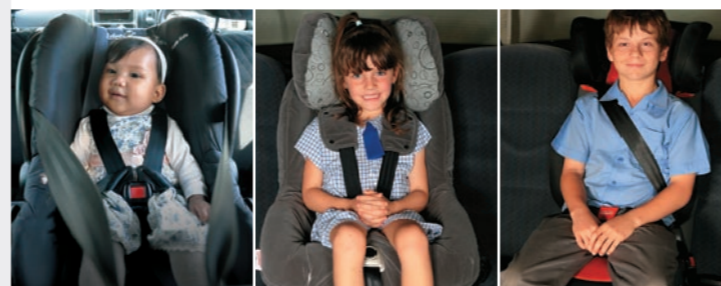
CREP gives consumers independent and consistent information on the levels of occupant protection from injury in a crash provided by child restraints and the ease with which they can be used correctly.

The program is supported by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), NRMA Motoring & Services, the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV), the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), the Royal Automobile Club of WA (RACWA) and VicRoads.

The Results

All child restraints sold in Australia must comply with the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1754 Child restraints for use in motor vehicles. This Standard is one of the most stringent child restraint standards in the world, so child restraints manufactured to this standard offer good protection in a crash. Even so, the level of protection offered by child restraints that comply with the Standard varies, as does the ease with which they can be used properly.

Most of these child restraints have been tested and assessed under the CREP. This brochure includes the latest test results and enables comparisons to be made between the performance of these restraints. Use this information as a guide when buying a child restraint by considering both the safety and ease-of-use results.



Rearward-facing restraints
For babies up to approximately 6 or 12 months

Forward-facing restraints
For young children approximately 6 months to at least 4 years

Booster seats
For older children approximately 4 to at least 7 years



Every year many children are injured or killed in car crashes. Some of these injuries could be prevented or reduced if all children occupy the right restraint for their age and size and if the restraint is installed and used correctly.

As a parent or carer, you should choose a restraint that provides the highest available level of protection and make sure it is used correctly.

This brochure provides guidelines for you to follow when buying a child restraint as well as information regarding the comparative safety and ease of use of the restraints tested. Both are important factors – a better performing child restraint can only provide best protection if it is used properly.

The child restraints tested and included in this brochure were those available for purchase and that were approved to AS/NZS 1754:2004 at the time the testing was carried out.

Brochures are available from:

RTA – 1800 060 607 and www.rta.nsw.gov.au under myResources

NRMA Motoring & Services – 13 11 22 and www.mynrma.com.au/childrestraints

RACV – 03 9790 2190 www.racv.com.au

RACWA – 13 17 03 www.rac.com.au

TAC – www.howsafeisyourcar.com.au

VicRoads – 13 11 71 www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/childrestraints

www.crep.com.au



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The information in this brochure is intended as a guide only and is subject to change at any time without notice. It does not replace the relevant legislation.

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Your guide to buying child restraints

www.crep.com.au

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