



Child Car Seat Information

Arnprior Fire Department

67A Meehan St. Arnprior, ON K7S 2B7

It's The Law

In Canada, all provinces and territories require infants and toddlers to be buckled up in the appropriate car seat. Several provinces also require booster seats for children who have outgrown a child car seat but are too small for a regular seat belt. The provincial and territorial laws also say that the children's car seats and booster seats must be certified to Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions. If you don't follow the instructions or if you use them past their expiry or useful life dates - you may be putting your child's safety at risk and you may be found guilty of breaking the law.

How long are children's car seats and booster seats safe?

All children's car seats and booster seats sold in Canada have an expiry or useful life date on them, even though this is not required by regulation. Manufacturers do this to inform current owners and prospective buyers of the potential risks of using car seats and booster seats that may be missing important parts, labels or instructions and/or may have an unknown history, which could lead to less than optimal safe performance when needed. People should not use children's car seats and booster seats past their expiry or useful life date. Beyond this date, the car seat should be permanently discarded rather than donated to a charitable organization, second hand store, or given to friends or relatives. It is also important to note that if you own a car seat or booster seat made before January 1, 2012, under Health Canada's Canada Consumer Product Safety Act, you may not be able to advertise, sell, or give it away because it may not meet the latest requirements set out by Health Canada. For further information regarding the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act, please contact Health Canada.

Manufacturers give an expiry or useful life date because over time:

- frequent use and exposure to sunlight can damage and weaken plastic;
- safe-use labels on the products fade or become hard to read;
- instruction manuals have likely been lost;
- food, cleaners, drinks and other materials that have been spilled or used on webbing, buckles, adjusters and other parts may prevent them from working safely;
- the history or condition of the car seat or booster seat becomes hard to check (was it in a crash, was it stored in a place or in a way that caused damage to parts, etc.);
- safety regulations and standards may have changed, so safer products may now be on the market; and
- second or subsequent owners may not get product safety recall notices if problems arise.

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Does the Arnprior Fire Department install and inspect children’s car seating?

The Arnprior Fire Department does not install or inspect children’s car or booster seats. There are however local resources available that provide these services.

Contact a Child Car Seat Clinic:

Car seat clinics offer educational sessions where you can learn from a trained child car seat technician:

- which restraint is appropriate for your child
- how to correctly install your child car seat in your vehicle
- how to position your child in the child car seat

Ottawa Area Child Car Seat Clinics:

BEST FIT Car Seat Program (trained by CPSAC and The Ottawa Safety Council) – Eastern Ontario

Ottawa Safety Council

<https://ottawasafetycouncil.ca/bestfit/>

Telephone: 613-238-1513 ext. 228

S.E.A.T.S. for Kids (trained by CPSAC) – Eastern Ontario

<http://www.seatsforkidscanada.com/home.html>

Telephone: 1-800-267-7120

For more information on child car seat safety click on the following link or contact the following agencies:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/transport/road/child-car-seat-safety.html>

Health Canada, Ottawa Telephone: 1-866-662-0666, 613-957-2991	Transport Canada – Motor Vehicle Safety, Ottawa Telephone: 1-800-333-0371, 613-998-8616
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Thank you for your attention to these significant life safety matters.

Cory Nicholas

Fire Prevention/Protection Officer – Town of Arnprior

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