

# Car Seat Recommendations



Children under the age of 1, or less than 20 pounds **must** always ride in a rear-facing car seat in the back seat.

A **rear-facing car seat** is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.



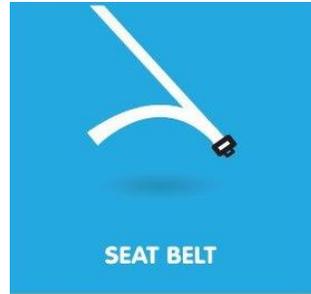
Keep your child rear-facing for as long as possible. If at least one-year-old and 20 pounds, but less than four years old or less than 40 pounds, your child **must** be in a forward-facing child seat in the back seat

A **forward-facing car seat** has a harness and a tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.



Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until they reach the top height and weight limit allowed by your car seat manufacturer. Children ages 4 to the age of 8, or less than 80 pounds and less than 4ft. 9in. tall **must** be in a forward-facing or booster seat.

A **booster seat** positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.



Keep your child in a booster seat until they are big enough to fit a seat belt properly. The lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Children should still ride in the back seat because it is safer there.

A **seat belt is required** and should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash.

SOURCES: United States Department of Transportation – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (<https://www.nhtsa.gov>)  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation (<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/safety/education/child-safety/laws.aspx>)

**Car seat installation & inspection**  
Kalin Montevideo - SBFD  
920-746-2448  
kmontevideo@sturgeonbaywi.org

**Expired Car Seat Drop Off Site:**  
Sturgeon Bay Fire Department  
421 Michigan Street  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235



# Car Seat Reminders

- When installing, use **either** the lower anchors **or** the seat belt, **not both**.
- If the car seat wiggles more than 1" at the belt path, make an appointment to visit a car seat installer and they will help you!
- Read the instruction manual. All important information about your car seat will be in this booklet – keep it in a safe place!
- Big winter coats interfere with getting the harness snug. Kids should wear nothing thicker than polar fleece when in their seat.
- Only use products that came with the car seat. It is not safe to use other harness covers or infant inserts.
- Look before you lock your car to make sure your child is not left behind.

## Used & Expired Car Seats

- Avoid used seats. Secondhand seats may be damaged, have been involved in a crash, be missing pieces, or be expired.
- Car seats expire! Most have a lifespan of 6 years, so check the labels on the seat for the date of manufacture.
- Typically, car seats cannot be recycled except at a specialty event. In Door County expired car seats can be dropped off at the Sturgeon Bay Fire Department.

SOURCE: Center for Childhood Safety ccs.gb.org