

Types of restraints

All child restraints sold in Australia must comply with the Australian Standard and are marked accordingly.

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 vehicle's seatbelt and a top tether strap. 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 vehicle's seatbelt and a top tether strap. The seat faces forward and incorporates 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 to 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.

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

BOOSTER SEATS are suitable for older children approximately 4 to 7 years, but it is strongly recommended that children aged 7 years and over stay in their booster seats until they are too big for them. 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 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 car crash than one who is not.

Choosing and using the safest restraint

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

- ✓ Child restraints are designed to match a child's size. When you buy a restraint you need to consider:
 - The size of your child.
 - If the restraint will fit in your vehicle.
 - ✓ Consider 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 an incorrectly fitted restraint.
- Keep your child in the most appropriate restraint suitable for their 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 inbuilt 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 hips. 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.

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.

Each year many children are injured or killed in car crashes. Some of these injuries could be prevented if the right child restraint was used and if the restraint was installed correctly.

What is CREP?

The Child Restraint Evaluation Program (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), the NRMA Motoring & Services and the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV).

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 to 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 comparison between the performances of these restraints. Use this information as a guide when buying a child restraint by considering both the protection 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



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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.

For further enquiries
www.rta.nsw.gov.au
www.mynrma.com.au
www.racv.com.au

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Child restraint safety ratings

Your guide to buying child restraints

MAY 2010 RESULTS

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 – there is little point buying a better performing child restraint if it is not used properly.

New star rating system

The Child Restraint Evaluation Program (CREP) began in 1992 and has gone through several significant changes with the aim of improving the level and clarity of information provided to consumers. The scoring system has been improved, providing a five-star rating system that better reflects the comparative performance beyond that required by the Standard for child restraints sold on the Australian market. All restraints assessed to the most recent CREP crash protection and ease-of-use protocols have been rescored using this new system.

Some star ratings may have changed from the previous brochure because the way the scores are awarded has been revised to better represent the performance of the restraints in simulated front and side impact crashes.

Key to CREP test results

★ Protection: The more stars the better a child restraint performed in protecting the occupant from injury in a crash.

★ Ease-of-use: The more stars the easier a restraint is to use, meaning a child restraint is more likely to be used correctly.

ASC Anti Submarining Clip

Type A1 Rearward-facing restraint for babies up to 6 months*

Type A2 Rearward-facing restraint for babies up to 12 months*

Type A1/B Convertible forward-facing restraint for babies up to 6 months* in rearward-facing mode then for toddlers up to 4 years* in forward-facing mode

Type A2/B Convertible forward-facing restraint for babies up to 12 months* in rearward-facing mode then for toddlers up to 4 years* in forward-facing mode

Type B Forward-facing restraint

Type B/E Convertible booster seat

Type E Booster seat

TEST RESULTS

Rearward-facing restraints

For babies up to 6 or 12 months*



Model Tested	Type	RATING	
		Protection	Ease-of-use
Baby Safety Capsule (Safe-N-Sound) Series 230/A/95	A1	★★★★	★★★
Compaq (Safe-N-Sound) Series 25/A/2004	A2/B	★★★★	★★★
Strider DLX Infant Carrier (Steelcraft) Series 60/A/2004	A1	★★★★	★★★
Snap-N-Go (Babylove) Series BL620 Baby Safety Carrier	A1	★★★★	★★
Turn-A-Tot (Inta-Secure) Model CS-35	A1/B	★★★★	★★
Cleo (IGC GoSafe)	A1/B	★★★	★★★
Compaq Deluxe (Safe-N-Sound) Series 25/D/2004	A2/B	★★★	★★★
PegPerego Infant Carrier (Nursery Elegance) Series PP01/2004	A1	★★★	★★★
Royale (Safe-N-Sound) Series 7000/H/2004	A2/B	★★★	★★★
Safeguard (Safe-N-Sound) Series 7000/J/2004	A2/B	★★	★★★
Summit (IGC GoSafe)	A/B	★★	★★★
Madrid (Hipod) Series JS7/A/2004	A2/B	★★	★★
Sovereign (Babylove) FI-304	A2/B	★	★★★
Unity Travel Carrier (Safe-N-Sound) Series 40/A/2004	A2	★	★★★
Meridian (Safe-N-Sound) Series 7000/M/2004	A2/B	★	★★
Royalty (Babylove) FI-500	A2/B	★	★★

Forward-facing restraints

For young children 6 months to 4 years*



Model Tested	Type	RATING	
		Protection	Ease-of-use
Comfi-Cruiser (Infa-Secure) Model CS 55	B/E	★★★	★★
Marathon (Cargo) Series 111/A/2004	B/E	★★★	★★
Maxi Rider AHR (Safe-N-Sound) Series 8000/B/2004	B/E	★★★	★★
Senator (Hipod) Series 10/D/2004	B/E	★★★	★★
Cleo (IGC GoSafe)	A1/B	★★	★★★
Compaq (Safe-N-Sound) Series 25/A/2004	A2/B	★★	★★★
Compaq Deluxe (Safe-N-Sound) Series 25/D/2004	A2/B	★★	★★★
Discovery Plus (Safe-N-Sound) Series 7000/B/5/2004	B	★★	★★★
Madrid (Hipod) Series JS7/A/2004	A2/B	★★	★★★
Maxi Rider (Safe-N-Sound) Series 8000/A/2004	B/E	★★	★★★
Royale (Safe-N-Sound) Series 7000/H/2004	A2/B	★★	★★★
Safeguard (Safe-N-Sound) Series 7000/J/2004	A2/B	★★	★★★
Sovereign (Babylove) Series FI-304	A2/B	★★	★★★
Summit (IGC GoSafe)	A1/B	★★	★★★
Meridian (Safe-N-Sound) Series 7000/M/2004	A2/B	★★	★★
Turn-A-Tot (Infa-Secure) Model CS35	A1/B	★★	★★
Explorer (Safe-N-Sound) Series JS8/A/2004	B/E	★	★★★
Toddler Rider (Babylove) Series FI-100	B	★	★★★
Prospect Convertible Booster Seat (Safety First)	B/E	★	★★
Royalty (Babylove) FI-500	A2/B	★	★★
Star Max EHP (Infa-Secure) Model CS57S	B/E	★	★★
Trek 8 (Infa-Secure) Model CS55	B/E	★	★★

Booster seats

For older children 4 to 7 years*



Model Tested	Type	RATING	
		Protection	Ease-of-use
Vario Kid (Infa-Secure) Model CS 54	E	★★★★	★★★
Hi-Liner with ASC (Safe-N-Sound) Series 4820/A/2004	E	★★★★	★★
Explorer with ASC (Safe-N-Sound) Series JS8/A/2004	B/E	★★★	★★★
Marathon (Cargo) Series 111/A/2004	B/E	★★★	★★
Maxi Rider AHR with ASC (Safe-N-Sound) Series 8000/B/2004	B/E	★★★	★★
Travel Max (Infa-Secure) Model CS56	E	★★★	★★
Trek 8 (Infa-Secure) Model CS55	B/E	★★★	★★
Barcelona (Hipod) Series 20/A/2004	E	★★	★★★
Compass Ultra (RC2 Australia)	E	★★	★★★
Hi-Liner without ASC (Safe-N-Sound) Series 4820/A/2004	E	★★	★★★
Maxi Rider with ASC (Safe-N-Sound) Series 8000/A/2004	B/E	★★	★★★
Pacer GoSafe ^(#) (IGC)	E	★★	★★★
Pegasus (Safe-N-Sound) Series 4803/2004	E	★★	★★
Senator (Hipod) with & without ASC Series 10/D/2004	B/E	★★	★★
Star Max EHP (Infa-Secure) Model CS 57S	B/E	★★	★★

* Approximate guide. (#) This device was found to have a top tether adjustment mechanism that was very difficult to use. The manufacturer subsequently changed the design of the mechanism and this assessment applies to the device with the new mechanism.

Model Tested	Type	RATING	
		Protection	Ease-of-use
Titan (Cargo) Series 4100/A/2004	E	★★	★★
Comfi-Cruiser (Infa-Secure) Model CS 55	B/E	★★	★
Airbooster (Graco/Newell Australia)	E	★	★★★
Babycraft Booster Seat Series 4103/A/2004	E	★	★★★
Bathurst (Babylove) Series 828	E	★	★★★
Concorde (Safe-N-Sound) Series 4810/2004	E	★	★★★
Explorer without ASC (Safe-N-Sound) Series JS8/A/2004	B/E	★	★★★
Maxi Rider without ASC (Safe-N-Sound) Series 8000/A/2004	B/E	★	★★★
Cindy 2 (Inta-Secure) Model CS53	E	★	★★
Maxi Rider AHR without ASC (Safe-N-Sound) Series 8000/B/2004	B/E	★	★★
Olympian (Safe-N-Sound) Series 4803/2004	E	★	★★
Prospect Convertible Booster Seat (Safety First)	B/E	★	★★
Travel Safe (Vita New Zealand)	E	★	★
Advance 3 Booster Seat (Mother's Choice)	E	★	★

Where can I get help fitting my restraint?

Use the following Customer Service Centres and websites to find your nearest Authorised Fitting Station:

- NSW – RTA Customer Service Enquiry on 132213 or www.rta.nsw.gov.au.
- NSW – NRMA Technical Advice on 131122 or www.mynrma.com.au/childrestraints.
- VIC – RACV Motoring Line on 1800 134 126 or www.racv.com.au.