

## fact sheet

### Car Restraints

#### SA Legislation

SA Law requires drivers to ensure all children up to 16 years of age travelling in their motor vehicle are restrained in an approved child restraint or seat belt.

Children under one year of age, travelling in a motor vehicle, must be restrained in an Australian Standard (AS: 1754) approved child restraint, suitable for their size and weight.

Approved child restraints are marked with the code AS: 1754 and must be correctly anchored to the vehicle using an Australian Standard anchorage system.

The child restraint must be appropriately adjusted and fitted to the child using the restraint at all times.

#### AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS - AS 1754

All child restraints sold in Australia must meet the strict requirements of the AS: 1754 covering the materials, design, construction, performance, testing and labelling of child restraints.

Restraints bought in other countries will not meet the Australian Standard - it is illegal to use them in Australia.

The symbol below certifies that the restraint fully meets the Standard.



#### Where Children must Ride

*Can my child sit in the front passenger seat?*

Research clearly demonstrates that persons travelling in the front

passenger seat of a motor vehicle are at significantly greater risk of severe injury and/or death in the event of a crash.

Kidsafe does not recommend children under the age of 10-12 sit in the front seat.

#### Safe in the Centre

Kidsafe SA and other road safety experts recommend that children travel in the rear centre position as the preferred option. This position offers protection from side impact.

#### Which Restraint do I use?

All child restraints are tested to mass limits; therefore weight and height are the most important factors when determining which restraint to use.

#### Infants

- Birth up to 9kg
- 700 mm in length
- 6 months of age with good head control

#### Use either

- Baby Safety Capsule
- A convertible restraint



Traditional Capsule



Convertible

#### Toddlers - Young children

- Weighing 8kg – 18 kg
- Approximately 6 months to 3 - 4 years
- Shoulder level less than or equal to 2.5 cm above the top harness adjustment level.
- Eye level must be lower than the back of the restraint.

#### Use either

- A convertible restraint 0 – 18kgs (approx 0 – 4 years).
- Forward facing toddler seat

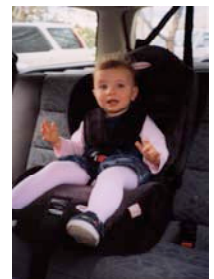
- A combination restraint (8kg to 26kg)
- Remain using the toddler restraint until the child is either too tall or has reached 18kg.

#### Pre-primary aged children and older

- Weight 14kg-26 kg
- Approximately 3-7 years



Toddler



Combination

#### Choosing a Booster seat

- Look for a high back booster seat, with wide side wings and a sash locator.
- Select a booster with an anti-submarine clip.
- Use a safety harness with a booster seat for children weighing up to 26 kg. Ensure the lap belt is tightened first then adjust the harness.

#### I have a restraint that is ten years old.

It is not recommended that a child restraint be used after ten years of age because:

- Restraints older than ten years cannot be guaranteed to perform as they were originally intended
- The Australian Standards have been improved since 1991 and updated in 1995 and 2000. Older restraints will not meet new improved design features.

## Kids & Hot Cars

On a typical Australian summer day, the temperature inside a parked car can be as much as 30°C to 40°C higher than the outside temperature. 75% of this temperature increase occurs in the first 5 minutes.



**If kids are left alone in cars, they can:-**

- suffer heat stress and dehydration
- gain access to dangerous items such as matches and cigarette lighters
- release the hand brake or start the car
- use the automatic locking device
- get caught in seat belt straps
- become wedged in partly open windows
- become trapped behind cargo barriers

### Safety Steps

- On warm or hot days, provide plenty of cool water or fluids regularly during the journey
- Dress children to promote airflow around their body, i.e. lightweight fabric and use light colours

- If you have to leave the car, even to run a quick errand; take the children with you
- Never leave children in the car without adult supervision at all times.

## Driveway Safety

In the home driveway, the vehicle is usually only moving slowly and is often being driven by a parent, family member or friend. We don't think of small children as being in danger in such a familiar and caring environment but they are!

Small children are naturally inquisitive and want to see what's going on. They can also move surprisingly quickly. In the time it takes for the driver to say goodbye and start the car, a child can move from a 'safe' position, onto the driveway and into the path of the vehicle. Small children can be impossible to see from inside a car, especially if they are immediately behind it.

### The Facts

- Young children often do the unexpected – they require constant supervision to keep them safe
- More than one third of pedestrians aged under six years killed in motor vehicle crashes were killed 'off road' in yards, car parks and driveways
- Children aged under three years are the most likely to be killed or injured in home driveways, often by a reversing vehicle driven by a parent, relative or friend
- Many of the young children who are not killed sustain severe and permanent injuries

- Even when drivers use mirrors while reversing, visibility behind the car is limited.

**Tragically one child, often a toddler, is run over in the driveway of their home every week in Australia.**



**What can you do to prevent such a tragedy?**

- Always supervise your children whenever a vehicle is to be moved – hold their hands or hold them close to keep them safe
- If you're the only adult at home and need to move a vehicle, even only a small distance, place children securely in the vehicle with you while you move it.
- A driveway is actually a small road – discourage children from using it as a play area
- Make access to the driveway from the house difficult for a child, possibly using security doors, fencing or gates.

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