

Where can I get help fitting my restraint?

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

- NSW – RTA Customer Service Enquiry on 132213.
- NSW – NRMA Technical Advice on 1300 655 443 or www.mynrma.com.au
- VIC – RACV Motoring Line on 1800 134 126 or www.racv.com.au



Types of restraints

Different types of child restraints are designed to accommodate children of specified sizes. In general terms, these sizes equate to the ages of typical children. It is important when choosing a child restraint that it is appropriate for your child's size. This may not necessarily match your child's age group, especially if they are bigger or smaller than the average children their age.

Rearward-facing restraints are for babies up to 6 months of age or 9kgs and up to 70cm in length or 12kgs depending on the make of child restraint. The restraint is held in place by the seatbelt and the top tether strap. All have an inbuilt harness system.

Forward-facing restraints are designed for young children who weigh from 8kgs to 18kgs, or 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 a six-point harness.

Booster seats are suitable for children between 14kgs and 26kgs, or approximately 4 years to 7 years old. 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.

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 12kgs (depending on the type of restraint) in rearward-facing mode and can then be converted to forward facing for young children from 8kg to 18kgs. All have an inbuilt six-point 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 child reaches 18kg or until the harness straps are too tight over the shoulders.

Seatbelts – adult lap/sash seatbelts should only be used on their own when your child is too big for a booster seat. Lap/sash seatbelts offer greater protection to passengers than do lap only seatbelts, but they must fit correctly. This means that the lap belt is positioned over the hip and the sash belt sits on the shoulder and does not touch the neck.



The restraints are tested at the RTA Crash Lab.

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.

Child restraints can be purchased from retail outlets or hired from some local councils, some hospitals, community groups and from privately run rental companies.

All child restraints sold in Australia must comply with the *Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1754 Child restraint systems 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 they can be used properly.

Most of child restraints that comply with the Standard have been tested and assessed under the Child Restraint Evaluation Program (CREP).

This brochure provides guidelines for you to follow when buying a child restraint as well as information regarding the level of safety and ease of use of the restraints tested.

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

The testing and production of this brochure have been sponsored by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), the NRMA Motoring & Services and the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV).

The test methods and evaluations are available at the following websites:

www.mynrma.com.au/childrestraints

www.rta.nsw.gov.au

www.racv.com.au

Brochures are available from:

RTA – 1800 060 607

www.rta.nsw.gov.au under myResources

NRMA Motoring & Services – 1300 655 443

www.mynrma.com.au/childrestraints

RACV – 03 97902190

www.racv.com.au

RTA Authorised Fitting Stations Enquiry Number – 132213



New South Wales Government

Roads and Traffic Authority

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

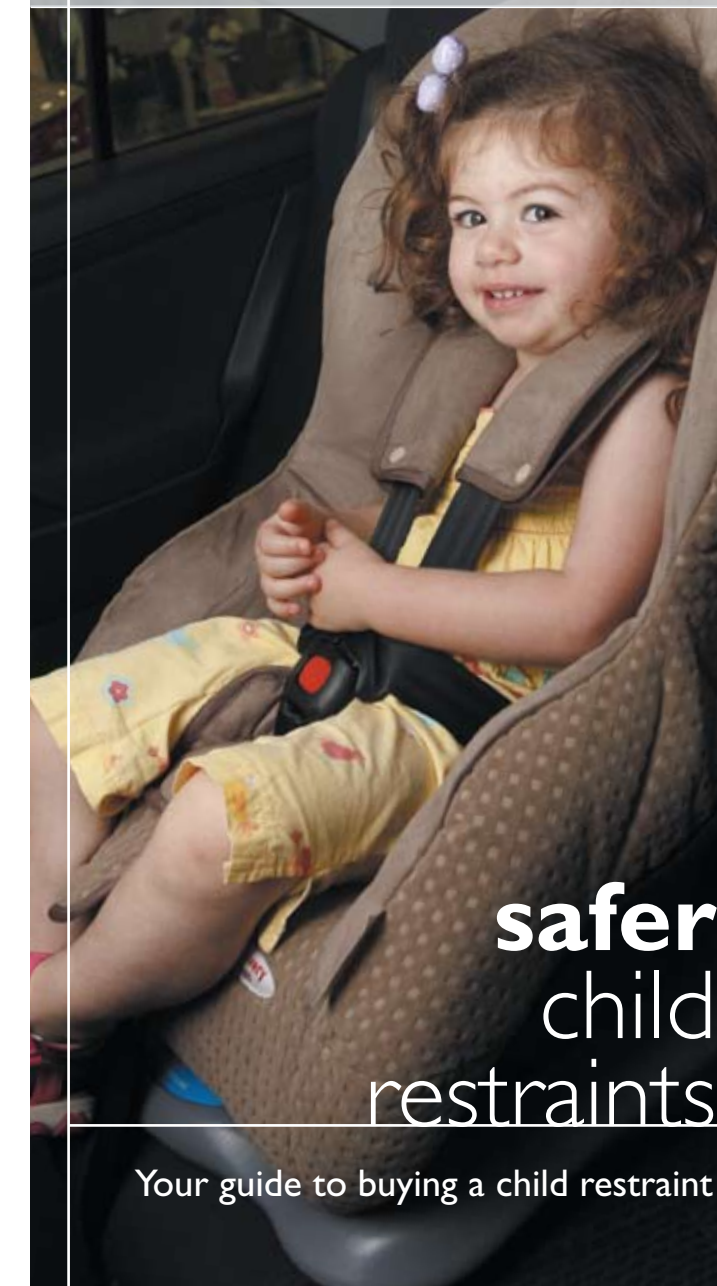
www.rta.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Centre for
Road Safety



safer child restraints

Your guide to buying a child restraint

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 size and weight 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.

Choosing the safest restraint for your child

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

- ✓ Select a child restraint approved to the Australian Standard. These restraints are marked with the Standard Australia 'tick-mark' as shown on the right.
- ✓ Child restraints are designed to match a child's height and weight. When you buy a restraint you need to consider:
 - The size and weight of your child.
 - If the restraint will fit in your vehicle.



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

- ✓ In rearward 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 shoulder and is in contact with the child's chest. Make sure the lap belt sits low across the pelvis.

Look for booster seats with:

- Sash guides or locators that will position the sash belt comfortably at your child's shoulder level.
- Features to prevent 'submarining', which occurs when a child slips under the lap section of the seatbelt during a crash, with the potential for serious or fatal injury.
- ✓ Always follow the restraint manufacturer's instructions when installing a restraint and placing your child in it. Incorrectly using a restraint or using a restraint that is not suitable for your child's size puts your child at a higher risk of serious injury or death in a crash.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Consider the ease of use ratings. 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.

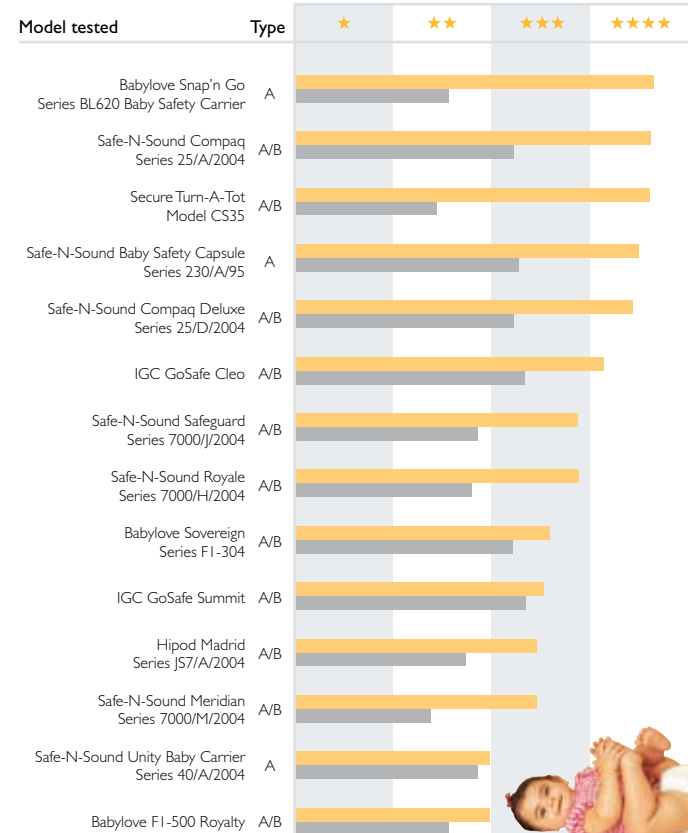
Warning: Children should only use lap-only seatbelts when placed in a booster seat that incorporates a child safety harness. In a crash, the lack of upper body restraint means the head and upper body of the child will travel forward possibly allowing the head to strike the seat in front or their knees.

TEST RESULTS

The CREP testing and assessment program is based on tests developed in Australia to identify child restraints that offer the highest level of safety. The restraints are rated on how well they protect your child in a crash and how easy they are to use. The following tables set out the test results. Injury protection and ease-of-use ratings are each scored by stars.

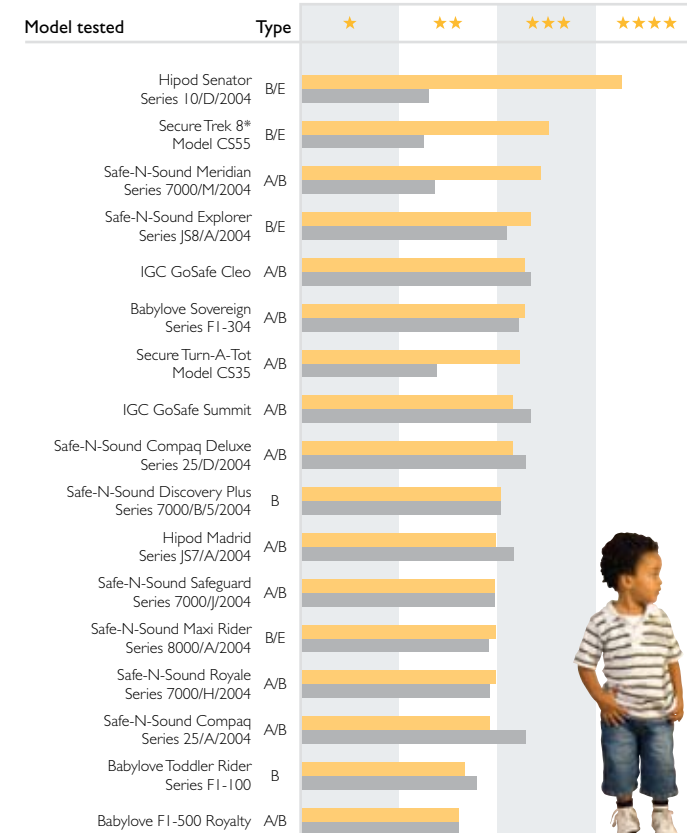
Rearward-facing restraints

For babies up to 9 or 12kgs



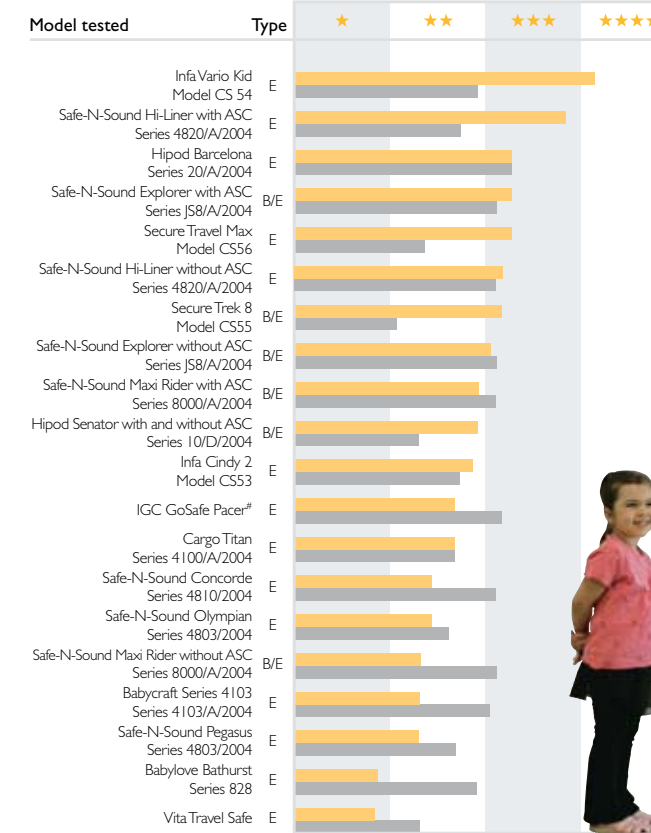
Forward-facing restraints

For young children 8 to 18kgs



Booster seats

For older children 14 to 26kgs



Type A = Dedicated Rearward-Facing Restraint Type A/B = Convertible Forward-Facing Restraint Type B = Dedicated Forward-Facing Restraint Type B/E = Convertible Booster Seat Type E = Booster Seat

PROTECTION FROM INJURY IN A CRASH

- ★★★★ Exceptional crash protection and well above the AS/NZ Standard requirements.
- ★★★ Good all round crash protection and well above the AS/NZ Standard requirements.
- ★★ Above average crash protection and above the AS/NZ Standard requirements.
- ★ Fully meets crash protection of the AS/NZ Standard requirements.

EASE OF CORRECT USE

- ★★★★ Exceptional ease of correct use and well above the AS/NZ Standard requirements.
- ★★★ Good all round performance in ease of correct use and well above the AS/NZ Standard requirements.
- ★★ Above average ease of correct use and above the AS/NZ Standard requirements.
- ★ Fully meets ease of correct use of the AS/NZ Standard requirements.

ASC = Anti Submarining Clip
 * The Secure Trek 8 Model CS55 allowed a much greater degree of forward movement of the child dummy than the other forward-facing restraints tested. Unless there is at least a distance of 1.2 metres or more between the top of the restraint and the back of the passenger seat in front there is a risk the child impacting the seat in front if using this model.
 † 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.