

Washington's Child Restraint Law will change on June 1, 2007



Resources:

Washington State Booster Seat Coalition: www.boosterseat.org

The Safety Restraint Coalition: www.800bucklup.org or 1-800-BUCK-L-UP

Washington Traffic Safety Commission: www.wa.gov/wtsc/programs/childpass.htm

- Children under 13 years old shall be transported in the back seat where it is practical to do so.
- Children up to their 8th birthday, unless they are 4'9" tall, shall be transported in a child restraint system.
- The restraint system must be used according to the car seat AND the vehicle manufacturer's instructions.
- Vehicles equipped with lap-only seat belts are exempt from the requirement to use a booster seat.
- Children 8 years of age or at least 4'9" who wear a seat belt MUST use it correctly (Not under the arm or behind the back).

WA State Safety Restraint Coalition

To have your carseat or booster seat checked for correct installation:

Mary Bridge Children's Hospital
Center for Childhood Safety
1112 S. 5th St., Tacoma
Every Tuesday 9am—10:30am
No appointment necessary
Call 253-403-1417 for more information.

Or

Call 253-403-1417 for dates and times of other carseat check events throughout Pierce County.

For maximum child passenger safety, follow the 4 Steps for Kids:

1. Keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age 1 AND at least 20 pounds (best practice is to keep your child rear facing as long as the car seat allows).
2. Children between 20-40 pounds and at least 1 year old may use a forward facing car seat with harness.
3. Children over 40 pounds should ride in a belt positioning booster until age 8 or 4'9" tall.
4. Children 8 years of age or 4'9" must use an adult seat belt correctly. (must pass the 5 step test below).

The 5 Step Test

1. Bottom must be all the way against the back of the seat.
2. Knees must bend with ease at the edge of the seat with no slouching.
3. Lap belt must fit snugly across the top of the thighs, not up on the tummy.
4. Shoulder belt must lie across the center of the chest.
5. Child must be able to sit this way the entire trip.



May 30, 2007