

Key Messages

This electronic toolkit is a road safety resource intended to educate and inform Ontarians on child car seats and seatbelts.

The contents of this toolkit are shareable.

All road users are responsible for **adopting safe and courteous behaviour** on our roads so that everyone gets home safely.

Goal: To encourage all motorists, passengers, and children to wear their seatbelt.



SEATBELTS

Safe behaviours for all drivers and passengers

- All Ontario motor vehicle drivers and passengers must wear a seatbelt that is properly adjusted and securely fastened.
- Seatbelts are designed to hold occupants in place and must be snugly positioned where the body can best withstand crash forces – that is the bones of your hips, shoulders, and chest. Never wear your seatbelt across soft tissue like your neck or stomach.
- One seatbelt per person. Never double up with two occupants sharing one seatbelt.

Safe behaviours for all drivers traveling with passengers over age 16

- Passengers who are 16 years of age or older are responsible for buckling up themselves.

Safe behaviours for all drivers traveling with passengers under age 16 and/or children

- Drivers are responsible for ensuring children are properly secured in the proper seatbelt or child car seat when traveling in a motor vehicle.
- Children under the age of 13, regardless of their size, are safest in the back seat of motor vehicles away from active front airbags.

Seatbelts and Child Car Seats

Key Messages



CHILD CAR SEATS




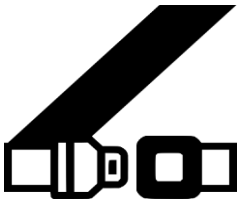
- Using the right child car seat is the best way to reduce serious injury to children in collisions.
- Drivers are responsible for ensuring children are secured in the appropriate child car seat or booster seat for their age, height and weight.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and read your vehicle owner's manual for correct child car seat installation.
- When purchasing a child car seat for use in Canada, look for the National Safety Mark label attached to the seat. This label indicates that the seat complies with Canadian regulations and standards and is legal for use in Canada.
- Register your car seat with the manufacturer to ensure that you are notified of any safety alerts.
- Car seat safety alerts, notices and recalls can be found on the [Transport Canada website](https://www.transportcanada.gc.ca).
- Every child car seat and booster seat sold in Canada has an expiry or useful life date on it and should not be used past that date.
- Wearing bulky items such as winter coats or sports equipment can impact the harness or seat belt fit and reduce its effectiveness.



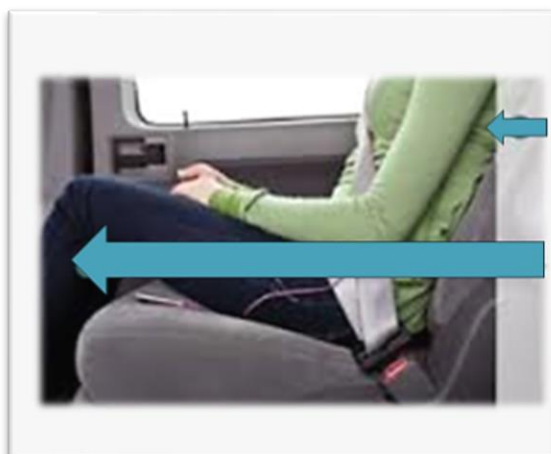
Ontario's Child Car Seat Stages and Laws

- Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA) outlines car seat, booster seat and seatbelt laws.
- Never be in a rush to move up to the next stage of seat. It's best to keep your child in their current car seat until they outgrow the maximum height/weight limits of the seat.
- There are a variety of seats available on the market from an infant only car seat, to a 4-in-1 car seat. The best car seat you can get is the one that installs securely in your vehicle and accommodates your child's age, height and weight.

Seatbelts and Child Car Seats

Seat	Ontario's HTA Requirements
 <p>Car Seats for Infants</p>	<p>Ontario's HTA requires the use a rear-facing car seat until the child weighs at least 9 kg (20 lb.).</p>
 <p>Car Seats for Toddlers</p>	<p>Ontario's HTA allows children weighing 9 kg to 18 kg (20 to 40 lb.) to use a forward-facing child car seat or a rear-facing car seat as long as the car seat manufacturer recommends its use.</p>
 <p>Booster Seats (with back, or backless)</p>	<p>Ontario's HTA requires children weighing 18 kg to 36 kg (40 to 80 lb.), standing less than 145 cm (4 ft. 9 in.) tall and who are under the age of 8 to use a booster seat.</p>
<p>Seatbelts</p> 	<p>Ontario's Highway Traffic Act allows a child to use a seatbelt alone when any one of the following occurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child turns 8 years old, or • Child weighs 36 kg (80 lb.), or • Child is 145 cm (4 ft. 9 in.) tall or more

It's important to note that seatbelts are designed for adults and older children. Children may be ready to move from a booster seat to a vehicle's seatbelt once they meet the legal requirements noted above. However, it's best practice that if riding without a booster seat, the child passes the five-step test:



- 1 They can sit all the way against the back of the vehicle seat
- 2 Legs bent comfortably over the edge of the seat
- 3 The shoulder belt lays flat over the shoulder and collar bone, not the neck
- 4 The lap belt crosses over the hips, not the stomach.
- 5 The child can maintain this position for the entire trip.

Seatbelts and Child Car Seats

By the Numbers

- Although a Transport Canada survey shows Ontario has a 96% seatbelt usage rate - about 1 in every 5 vehicle occupants killed on Ontario roads were unbelted.
- In 2017, 87 vehicle occupants were killed while not wearing seat belts, which is a 30% increase since 2016.
- Unbuckled occupants of passenger vehicles make up 21.3% of total fatalities in 2017.
- Motor vehicle collisions are one of the leading causes of death in children ([Statistics Canada](#)).
- A recent national roadside study found that 99% of kids were buckled, however:



PENALTIES | Seatbelts and Child Car Seats

- If you are driving, you can face a fine if you or anyone in your vehicle under age 16 is not wearing a seatbelt or secured in a proper child car seat.
- Passengers over age 16 not wearing a seatbelt, will receive the fine.
- You can also be fined for having a broken seatbelt, even if it is not being used when you're stopped by a police officer.
- Ontario has a 'one person, one seatbelt' law, ensuring that not more than one person is using one seatbelt at a given time.

If you are convicted for the above offences, you will:

- be fined between \$200 and \$1,000
- receive two demerit points - demerit points remain on your driving record for two years

For information on these offences, you can visit [MTO's website](#) or search for these offences in the *Highway Traffic Act*.

Seatbelts and Child Car Seats



DID YOU KNOW?

1976

Ontario was the first province in Canada to pass a law which required vehicle occupants to wear seat belts, a law that came into effect on January 1, 1976.



The seatbelts, airbags and crumple zones of the vehicle work together to protect occupants.



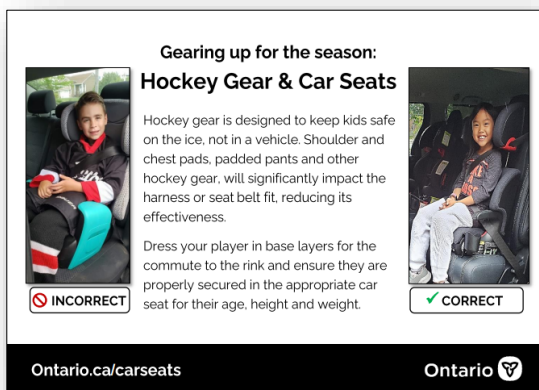
The purpose of the seatbelt is to help prevent injuries and fatalities resulting from colliding with objects or people in the vehicle, and to prevent ejection from the vehicle in the case of a collision.

Seatbelts and Child Car Seats

Digital Publications

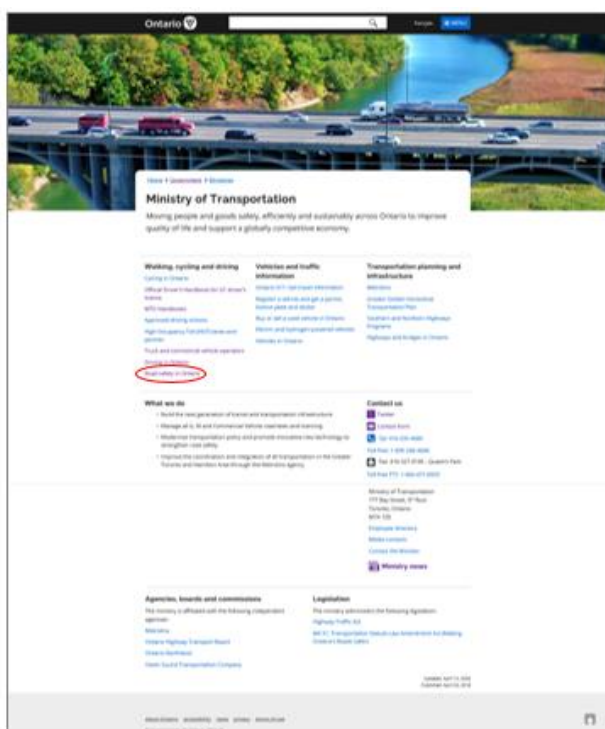
Digital Publications

Download from the links below: (click on the image)



Website

See our website for more information:



For Seatbelts:

- 1 Visit Ontario.ca/transportation
- 2 Select [Road Safety in Ontario](#)
- 3 Go to [Safe Driving Practices](#)

For Child Car Seats:

- 1 Visit Ontario.ca/Carseats

Seatbelts and Child Car Seats

Social Media

Re-tweet, like and share on your social media channels:

Release Date January 20, 2020

Social Copy Safety reminder: Make sure children are properly secured in a child car seat, booster seat or seatbelt, depending on their height, weight and/or age. Learn more: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/official-mto-drivers-handbook/getting-ready-drive#section-6>
#CarSeatSafety

Shareable



Link <https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1219258976879013888>

Release Date December 5, 2019

Social Copy Attn Drivers: Always remember to fasten your seatbelt – it can save your life. If you don't buckle up you can be fined up to \$1000 and two demerit points. For more info on seatbelt safety visit: <http://mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/safe-driving-practices.shtml>.
#seatbelts #SeatBeltSafety

Shareable



Link <https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1202649332077514752>

Seatbelts and Child Car Seats

Release Date September 12 2019

Social Copy When travelling with a child, make sure they are properly secured in a child car seat, booster seat or seatbelt, depending on their height, weight and/or age. Learn more: <http://Ontario.ca/carseats>
#CarSeatSafety #roadsafety

Shareable

**SEATBELTS AND
CHILD CAR SEATS
SAVE LIVES**



Link <https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1172133298249838593>

Release Date August 5 2019

Social Copy Travelling with kids this Civic Holiday weekend? Make sure they are properly secured in a child car seat, booster seat or seatbelt, depending on their height, weight and/or age. Learn more:
<http://ontario.ca/document/official-mto-drivers-handbook/getting-ready-drive#section-6...>
#CivicHoliday #CarSeatSafety

Shareable



**Seatbelts
Saves Lives**



Link <https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1158377507500040192>

Ministry of Transportation social media accounts:

twitter.com/ONtransport

facebook.com/OntarioTransportation

linkedin.com/company/ontario-ministry-of-transportation