

CONTENTS

Page 1

Overview

Page 1

How can i improve my safety by using a seatbelt?

Page 2

Which child car restraint is appropriate for my child?

Page 2

How do i correctly install a child car restraint?

Page 2

Can my child travel in a taxi, on-demand transport or a bus without a child car restraint?

Page 2

At what age can my child travel in the front seat of the car?

Page 3

Can i restrain my child in a booster seat with a lap seatbelt only?

Page 3

What are the penalties for not wearing a seatbelt in wa?



SEATBELTS AND CHILD RESTRAINTS

OVERVIEW

In Western Australia, it is mandatory for all vehicle occupants to use a car restraint or seatbelt.

Wearing a seatbelt is one of easiest ways to protect drivers and passengers in the event of a crash, as seatbelts:

- Prevent ejection from vehicle;
- Decrease the time it takes for an occupant to come to a stop;
- Spread the impact force over a greater area of the body; and
- Minimise contact with the interior of the vehicle.

HOW CAN I IMPROVE MY SAFETY BY USING A SEATBELT?

Always ensure your seatbelt is properly adjusted and securely fastened.

The sash should be placed over the middle of the shoulder and diagonally across the chest.

The lap belt should sit snugly over the hips.

Never share a seatbelt with a child on your lap.

WHICH CHILD CAR RESTRAINT IS APPROPRIATE FOR MY CHILD?

The age and height of a child should be taken into consideration when choosing the right car restraint for your child.

WA laws specify by age the type of child car seat or seatbelt that a child should use:

- Birth to under six months to be restrained in a rearward facing child restraint (e.g. infant capsule).
- Six months to under four to be restrained in either a rearward or forward-facing child restraint with in-built harness.
- Four to under seven to be restrained in either a forward-facing child restraint or booster seat restrained by a correctly adjusted and fastened seatbelt or child safety harness. Ensure your child's shoulder height is within the safety markings on their seat.

Avoid old or worn restraints, that are more than 10 years old or have previously been in a crash. And ensure your child car restraint has been correctly installed in your vehicle.

HOW DO I CORRECTLY INSTALL A CHILD CAR RESTRAINT?

WALGA RoadWise coordinates the Type 1 Child Car Restraint Fitting Service which provides the public with access to child car restraint fitting services across Western Australia.

For advice, call the WALGA RoadWise child car restraint information line on 1300 780 713 between 9am and 2pm AWST Monday – Friday, or visit roadwise.asn.au.

CAN MY CHILD TRAVEL IN A TAXI, ON-DEMAND TRANSPORT OR A BUS WITHOUT A CHILD CAR RESTRAINT?

The taxi or on-demand transport driver is responsible for ensuring passengers aged one to seven are restrained with adult seatbelts that are:

- Properly adjusted; and
- Securely fastened to the best extent possible given the height and weight of the passengers.

Children aged under one can be held on a lap of a person aged 16 or over, or restrained in a seat, according to the judgment of their caregiver.

Bus drivers are not required to ensure that passengers aged under 16 years are restrained, however if they are available it is recommended that passengers use seatbelts. A bus is defined as a motor vehicle which seats over 11 adults including the driver.

AT WHAT AGE CAN MY CHILD TRAVEL IN THE FRONT SEAT OF THE CAR?

WA laws state that a child under four years of age must not travel in the front seat of a car that has more than one row of seats.

If there is only one row of seats, make sure that the child seat is moved back as far as possible and is not directly in front of an air bag.

If the child is aged over four but under seven, the child can travel in the front seat if all other rear seats are filled with passengers aged under seven.

CAN I RESTRAIN MY CHILD IN A BOOSTER SEAT WITH A LAP SEATBELT ONLY?

Children aged between four and seven must be placed in a properly positioned booster seat and restrained by either:

- A lap and sash seatbelt that is properly adjusted and fitted; or
- A lap only type seatbelt and (in relation to the upper body of the passenger) a child safety harness, each of which is properly adjusted and fastened.

WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES FOR NOT WEARING A SEATBELT IN WA?

Offence	Penalty	Demerits
Unrestrained Driver	\$550	4
with 1 unrestrained passenger	\$600	4
with 2 unrestrained passengers	\$700	4
with 3 unrestrained passengers	\$800	4
with 4 or more unrestrained passengers	\$900	4
Restrained Driver		
with 1 unrestrained passenger	\$550	4
with 2 unrestrained passengers	\$600	4
with 3 unrestrained passengers	\$700	4
with 4 or more unrestrained passengers	\$800	4
Other Driver Offences		
Driver not ensuring child under 7 years is suitably restrained	\$550	4
Driver allowing passenger in open utes, etc.	\$550	4
Passenger Offences		
Unrestrained passenger over the age 16	\$550	0
Passenger riding in open utes, etc.	\$550	0