

Child Car Seat Inspection

The St. Clair Shores Police Department is now offering child car seat inspections. If interested please call the Community Resource Officer, Cherie Mascarello at 586-445-5308 for an appointment. You will need to bring the vehicle in question with the owner's manual, (if possible), along with the car seats, and their owner's manuals. The children also need to be present for a complete and accurate installation/inspection.

Michigan's Booster Seat Law

Effective July 1, 2008



Children must be in a booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9" tall.

Children must be in a seat until they reach the age requirement or the height requirement, whichever comes first. For example:

If your child is over 8 years old, but under 4'9" tall, the law does not apply.
If your child is under 8 years old, but over 4'9" tall, the law does not apply.

Remember: In both of these cases, your child may be safer in a booster seat but it is not required by law.

Types of booster seats

A booster is a seat that boosts a child up so that the seat belt fits properly. There are two types of booster seats, no-back and high-back.

A no-back booster can be used when the vehicle seat/head rest supports the child's head.

A high-back provides head and neck support and can be used on vehicle seats with or without head restraints.

ALL booster seats **MUST** be used with a lap/shoulder safety belt.



More information

Best practice is to keep your child in a car seat with a "5-point" harness until they are at least 40 lbs. before using a booster seat. Some car seats have higher forward-facing harness weight limits of 40-65 lbs. Some forward-facing seats also convert to a high-back booster. Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions and choose a seat that is right for your child and fits in your vehicle.

Booster seats are readily available in many retail stores. A no-back booster costs about \$15 and a high-back ranges from \$20-\$100 or more depending on the style.