

Child restraints and airbags



Airbags are a proven safety feature that can prevent serious injuries in the event of a crash. However, as airbags are designed and tested for adult use, there is a small chance children can be injured from the force of an airbag.

The benefits of airbags outweigh the risks. To minimise these risks there are some things to consider when children are travelling in vehicles with airbags.

Remember: Until children are adult sized they are safest when restrained in the rear seat up to and including 12 years of age.

Keep safe: It is very important to choose the right restraint for your child's age and size. Make sure the restraint is properly fitted and used correctly. Buckle children up so there is a snug fit every time you get into the vehicle.

Remember: Improperly restrained children are most at risk of injury in a crash.

The risk of injury from an airbag is low for correctly restrained children in the rear seat. Their risk of injury increases when in the front seat position and if they are leaning forward. Their risk also increases in the back seat if not sitting correctly or if resting part of their body where there is an airbag.



Also see RACV's
guide 'Using
restraints -
getting it right
every trip

Visit an RACV restraint fitting station

RACV recommends that you have your child restraint fitted at a child restraint fitting station. Visit racv.com.au to locate your nearest restraint fitter.

Child restraints and airbags



Keeping safe in vehicles with airbags

FRONTAL AIRBAGS	Fitted in the dashboard or steering wheel to supplement protection provided by seatbelts.
safe practice	Children are always safer in the rear seat. If a child must travel in the front seat (e.g. in a vehicle with only one row of seats), the seat should be moved as far back as possible. Children should be discouraged from leaning forward. Never put a rearward facing child restraint in the front seat due to the high risk of injury.



SIDE CURTAIN AIRBAGS	These airbags may run along the full length of the vehicle or only in the front to provide head protection.
safe practice	Although the risk of injury is low, children should be encouraged to keep their head inside the support of the restraint and not rest any part of their body on the window sill or door.



THORAX (TORSO) AIRBAGS	Smaller airbags may work in conjunction with curtain airbags to reduce the risk of chest injury.
safe practice	Although the risk of injury is low, children should not rest any part of their body (particularly their head) on the window sill or door where there is an airbag.

OTHER AIRBAGS	Other types of airbags are becoming more common (e.g. knee, seatbelt).
safe practice	Refer to the owner's manual for specific information about safety for these airbags.



RACV
racv.com.au
Tel: 1800 134 126

VicRoads
vicroads.vic.gov.au
Tel: 13 11 71

Kidsafe
kidsafevic.com.au
Tel: 9036 2306