

Belt-Positioning Booster Seat Basics



Selection

- ◆ When children outgrow the forward-facing car seat, secure them in a belt-positioning booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt until the seat belt fits correctly, typically when a child is approximately 4 feet 9 inches tall and between 8 and 12 years of age.
- ◆ Select a booster seat that positions the vehicle's lap belt low and snug across the hips/upper thighs and the shoulder belt across the center of the child's shoulder and chest.
- ◆ Belt-positioning booster seats lower the risk of injury for children ages 4 to 8 by 45% compared to children using the seat belt alone.

Direction - Location

- ◆ Place the belt-positioning booster seat forward-facing and flat on a vehicle seating position with a lap and shoulder belt.
- ◆ Confirm the child's ears are not above the back of the vehicle seat or the top of the booster seat's head restraint.
- ◆ Secure all children younger than 13 years in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.
 - ◆ If a booster seat is permitted for use in the front seat, move the front seat back as far as possible.



Seat Belt Adjustment and Fit

- ◆ Use a lap and shoulder belt with belt-positioning booster seats.
 - ◆ Some high-back booster seats have adjustable seat backs. Adjust the booster seat back or shoulder belt positioner level with or just above the child's shoulders, following the car seat instructions.
 - ◆ Lap belt positioned low, across the child's hips, touching the upper thighs.
 - ◆ Shoulder belt placed across the center of the child's chest and shoulder.
 - ◆ The shoulder belt is in contact with the child's shoulder.
 - ◆ Seat belt is routed correctly through the booster seat belt path.



Pennsylvania Law

All drivers transporting children 4 years of age or older but under 8 years of age are responsible to securely restrain those children in a seat belt system and an appropriately fitting child booster seat. (Primary Law)

Installation

- ◆ Check the car seat instructions for information on securing the booster seat.
- ◆ Most booster seats rest on the vehicle seat and are not locked in place.
 - ◆ Some booster seats have lower anchors to position and keep the booster seat in place.
 - ◆ Some booster seats may also permit use of a tether.
- ◆ The lower anchor connectors secure the booster seat and the seat belt secures the child. Lower anchor weight limits do not apply to booster seats.
- ◆ Thread the vehicle's lap and shoulder belts through the correct belt path and buckle.



Belt-Positioning Booster Seat Basics



Adjust the head restraint height so the shoulder belt guides are at or slightly above the top of the child's shoulders.

Shoulder belt is placed across the center of the chest and shoulder and in contact with the child's shoulder.

Lap belt is positioned low, across the child's hips, touching the upper thighs.



Position the height of the booster seat or vehicle seat head restraint to provide support for the child's head. The child's head should not be above the top of the booster seat's head restraint or the back of the vehicle seat/head restraint.

Tips to Achieve Correct Use of a Belt-Positioning Booster Seat (Booster Seat)



Selection

- Select a belt-positioning booster seat only when the child has outgrown a forward-facing car seat with a harness.
- Read the booster seat instructions and/or label for the weight and height ranges and guidance on correct use.
- The top of the child's ears should not be above the vehicle seat or the top of the booster seat's head restraint.



Direction

- Place the belt-positioning booster seat forward-facing and flat on the vehicle seat.
- Confirm the child has appropriate head support from the car seat head restraint or the vehicle seat or vehicle's head restraint.



Location

- Select a seating position with a lap and shoulder belt.
- Confirm the child has appropriate head support from either the vehicle seat/head restraint or the back of the booster seat.
- Secure all children younger than 13 years in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.



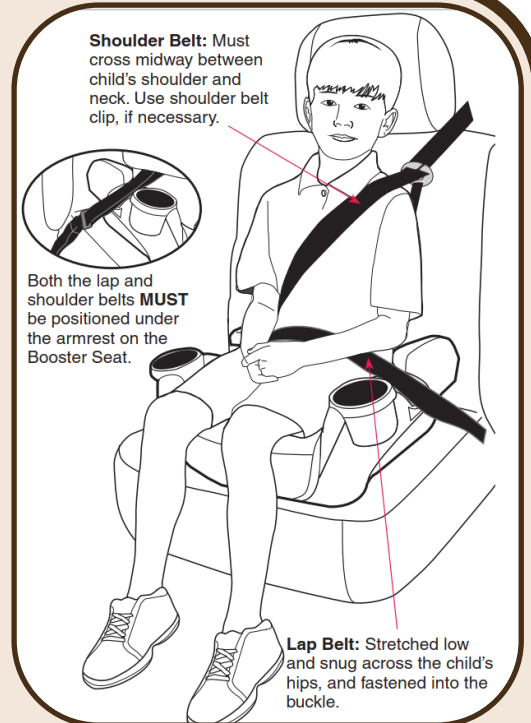
Harness Adjustment and Fit

- Confirm the lap and shoulder belts are laying flat against the child's body.
- Position the shoulder belt across the center of the chest and shoulder. Use the shoulder belt guide on the booster seat for correct placement of the shoulder belt.
- Position the lap belt low and across the child's hips. The lap belt is generally placed under the booster seat arm rests, but not always. Follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for correct belt routing.



Installation

- Read the vehicle owner's manual for information on adjusting the lap and shoulder belts and the head restraint.
- Always use a lap and shoulder belt to secure a child seated in a belt-positioning booster seat.
- Some belt-positioning booster seats have lower anchors to position and keep the seat in place.
 - Lower anchor weight limits do not apply to booster seats.
- Thread the vehicle's lap and shoulder belts through the correct belt path and buckle.



Example: Booster seat instructions on lap and shoulder seat belt routing.