



Traffic Safety News

From the Delaware Office of Highway Safety

Special Edition: Child Passenger Safety Week

Would Your Child's Car Seat Pass Inspection? Securing your children properly in age-appropriate car seats is the most effective thing you can do to protect them in the event of a crash. In fact, in motor vehicle crashes proper use of car seats and seat belts reduced the risk of fatal injury considerably.

What you need to know

Because booster seats and car seats save lives, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico require their use. Even so, motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for children ages 1 through 12. That's because according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly 3 out of 4 car seats are not used properly, which is a tremendous risk when travelling.

The most common car seat errors are:

- The seat is not installed tightly enough
- Children are turned to face forward too soon
- Harness straps are too loose

For a car seat to do its job right, it has to be:

- Appropriate for your child's age and size;
- Installed properly; and
- Adjusted to fit your child securely.

What you can do

Delaware law requires children to be in a car seat or booster seat up until age 8 or 65 lbs whichever comes first, and prohibits children under 12 from sitting in the front seat when an air bag is present. For more specifics on our law visit our website at <http://www.ohs.delaware.gov/carseat>.

If you are a parent or a caregiver, don't pass up the opportunity to have your child's seat inspected for free at one of OHS's fitting stations. Call for an appointment today!

- New Castle County (302) 434-3234.
- Kent / Sussex Counties (302) 744-2749

Buckle Up. Arrive Alive DE.

This message is brought to you by the Office of Highway Safety, who asks you to drive safely at all times. For more information on this and other traffic safety programs, go to www.ohs.delaware.gov.