

Seat Belts: Children Over 9 Years

Seat belts – Adults and children who are at least 9 years old unless they have reached the height of 145 cm (4'9") tall.

Key points

- Seat belts are designed for adults. Children **must** use booster seats until they are at least 9 years old unless they have reached the height of 145 cm (4'9") tall.
- **All drivers** must ensure **all children** (under 16) are restrained appropriately.
- Seat belt use is required by law in British Columbia.
- Seat belts must always be used correctly.
- The back seat is the safest place if fitted with lap and shoulder seat belts.



Common mistakes children make when using seat belts

- Lap belt is positioned too high across the abdomen; it should always be snug and low across the hips.
- Child puts shoulder belt under their arm or behind their back. The shoulder belt should go over the child's shoulder and fit snugly across the chest.
- Child unbuckles the seat belt before reaching the destination. The vehicle should not move unless all passengers are properly restrained.



Common mistakes adults make with children and seat belts

- Putting child into adult seat belt too soon (i.e., before child is 9 years old or 145 cm [4'9"] tall).
- Putting more than one child in a seat belt. This can result in serious injury or death in the event of a crash.
- Not wearing a seat belt themselves. This can send a deadly message to children. Be a good role model.

For more information

- www.ChildSeatInfo.ca and www.icbc.com/road_safety/carseat.asp
- Child Seat Information Line: 1-877-247-5551