

Stage 1 Rear-facing Car Seats



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH

Stage 1 – Rear facing

Infants are safest in an infant-only seat. A rear-facing seat provides better protection for developing bodies and muscles than a forward-facing seat.

Many infants will outgrow some brands of infant-only seats before they can move out of the rear-facing car seat stage, so another rear-facing car seat that can be used will be needed.

- Read the car seat and vehicle owner manuals for details on how to use and install the seat
- The seat should be at a 45 degree angle
- Look for the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (CMVSS) symbol on the seat



Infant-only Seat	Infant/Child Seat (convertible)	Infant/Child/Booster Seat (3-stage or 3 in 1)
Height: up to 32 in. (81 cm)*	Height: up to 44 in. (112 cm)*	
Weight: up to 35 lb. (16 kg)*	Weight: up to 45 lb. (20.4 kg)*	
Use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use from birth until your baby reaches the height/weight limit of the seat, or top of baby's head is less than 1 in. (2.5 cm) below the back of the seat • It is common for babies to outgrow an infant only seat before 1 year of age (typically 5–8 months) 	Use – rear facing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use from the time your child outgrows the infant only seat • Can be used from birth but it is safest to use an infant seat first • Make sure lowest harness slot is at or below infant's shoulders • Make sure you are using the rear-facing pathway for the seatbelt <u>or</u> UAS** • When the child is over 1 year-of-age and is at least 22 lb. (10 kg) and can walk unassisted, the seat can be used forward-facing • Your child is safest if seat is rear-facing until your child is over the weight/height limits of the seat—do not rush your child into a forward-facing car seat • Seat all children in the back seat • Never put a child in front of an active air bag 	

* height and weight limits will depend on the brand of car seat used

** Universal Anchorage System (alternative to seat belt; UAS **strap** on all current car seats and **anchor** on all cars manufactured after September 1, 2002)

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Injury Prevention

519-883-2004