

# Statistics show only 12 per cent of car seats are properly installed

In my travels on the roads of southern Ontario I see a lot of children in car seats, some installed correctly, some not.

Did you know that only 12 per cent of car seats are correctly installed? That is a frightening statistic.

The problem is not that parents don't care, but rather that there are so many different types of child seats on the market. They all meet the safety standards, but when you combine them with the different seat-belts in cars, and the different configurations of the cars themselves, correct installation becomes difficult with-

out training.

Here are some more scary stats: 25 per cent of infant car seats are not installed rear facing; 27.5 per cent of forward-facing car seats are not tethered; child restraint use was lowest for children from 5 to 9 years of age.

There are some changes in the guidelines for car seat use. An infant should be in a rear-facing seat from birth until they turn 1 year old, and reach 10kg (22 lbs). Children should then remain in a forward-facing seat until they reach approximately 18kg (40 lbs). Some seats can accommodate a child until 22kg (48 lbs).

411/  
911



Const. Laurel Barnett

Follow the guidelines in the instruction book that comes with the seat.

Children should move into a booster seat when they outgrow their forward-facing seat, which is generally about four years of age, but don't rush the transition. It is much

safer to keep your child in an age-appropriate seat. Transport Canada recommends that children stay in a booster until they are about 8-years-old. The booster seat helps to route the seat-belt correctly and therefore minimizes the risk of "seatbelt syndrome" in the event of a collision.

When a child has outgrown their booster seat, they should still remain in the "kid zone"—the back seat. This keeps young passengers as far away as possible from front-end collisions and front seat air bags, which can be dangerous for kids 12 or under.

Never allow anyone in the

vehicle to tuck the shoulder belt under his or her arm; it can cause serious injury, or even death.

Finally, using a second-hand car seat can be dangerous. Used seats are often missing parts and/or instruction booklets. There is no way of knowing if it has been in a collision, or if a recall has been issued.

If you would like to know more about car seats, or make an appointment for the car seat clinic at the Risk Watch Summer Safety Blitz on June 8, contact me at 905-878-5511 ext. 2120 or via e-mail laurel.barnett@hrps.on.ca.

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**LORDY  
LORDY  
PAUL'S  
FINALLY  
40!**

Love the Warden

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10+10+10+10

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All good things must come to an end. Unfortunately, this includes Volkswagen's classic Cabrio. We have ~~seven~~ five final production 2002 Cabrios remaining. Including two silver Cabrio GLX top of the line models created specifically for the Cabrio's final year.

A fully lined convertible top and glass rear window with electric defroster make the Cabrio a practical all-season convertible. The leather interior, alloy wheels and power operated top simply make the Cabrio fun to drive. Don't be disappointed, because when they're gone, they're gone.

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