

Michigan's Booster Seat Law

Effective July 1, 2008



Children must be in a booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9" tall.

Children must be in a seat until they reach the age requirement or the height requirement, whichever comes first. For example:

If your child is over 8 years old, but under 4'9" tall, the law does not apply.
If your child is under 8 years old, but over 4'9" tall, the law does not apply.

Remember: In both of these cases, your child may be safer in a booster seat but it is not required by law.

Types of booster seats

A booster is a seat that boosts a child up so that the seat belt fits properly. There are two types of booster seats, no-back and high-back.

A no-back booster can be used when the vehicle seat/head rest supports the child's head.

A high-back provides head and neck support and can be used on vehicle seats with or without head restraints.

ALL booster seats **MUST** be used with a lap/shoulder safety belt.



More information

Best practice is to keep your child in a car seat with a "5-point" harness until they are at least 40 lbs. before using a booster seat. Some car seats have higher forward-facing harness weight limits of 40-65 lbs. Some forward-facing seats also convert to a high-back booster. Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions and choose a seat that is right for your child and fits in your vehicle.

Booster seats are readily available in many retail stores. A no-back booster costs about \$15 and a high-back ranges from \$20-\$100 or more depending on the style.

BOOSTER SEATS. More than a good idea. It's the law.

Until they're
8 YEARS OLD or 4'9"
children **MUST** use
a booster seat.

**IT'S THE LAW
STARTING JULY 1**

Until children are 8 years old or 4'9" they can be too big for a child car seat but too small for a safety belt. A booster seat makes safety belts fit properly and reduces the risk of injury in a crash.

Which seat should I use?

Either a proper-fitting child safety seat or booster seat that is installed correctly will meet the requirements of Michigan's new law for children under age 8 or not yet 4'9". This includes using a booster seat with both a lap and shoulder belt. A no-back booster is recommended for vehicle seats with a head rest, and a high-back booster for vehicle seats without a head rest.

Where do I get a booster seat, and how much do they cost?

Booster seats are available at many stores. They cost between \$15 and \$100 depending on the style.

Important: All booster seats are safest when used in the back seat and with both the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt, **NEVER** with a lap belt only.



To learn more, visit
www.MichiganSafeKids.org

