

Parents' Guide to Buying a Car



Buying the safest car for your family

Co-op Insurance has put together this handy guide for parents looking to buy a car. Working in collaboration with vehicle safety experts, Thatcham Research, and road safety charity, Brake, we've put together a checklist with all the things you need to know before buying a car.



Thatcham
Research
Safer cars, fewer crashes

Brake
the road safety charity

Choosing your family car

Things to look out for:

- ✓ **European New Car Assessment Programme (Euro NCAP rating).** This is a five-star rating system, determined from a series of vehicle tests. The more stars the better. Five stars means that the car has overall good performance in crash protection, and is well equipped with robust crash avoidance technology.
- ✓ **Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB).** This is a safety feature becoming more and more common in cars. The AEB system uses sensors to detect obstacles, such as other vehicles and pedestrians, to assess whether a collision is likely. It warns the driver if there is a risk, but if the driver fails to brake, the system will automatically brake for them.
- ✓ **Check that the car has ISOFIX mountings.** This is the safest way you can fit a child car seat.
- ✓ **Check the Euro NCAP child occupancy score of the car.** This shows how well the car's child restraint systems will protect a child in different types of crashes, and how well the car can accommodate child restraints of different sizes and designs.



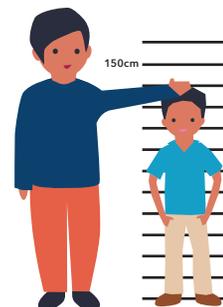
Used cars



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Child car seats, explained

- ✓ Always use a child car seat suitable for their size and weight.
- ✓ Use an appropriate child or high back booster seat for your child's size until they're 150cm tall or twelve years old - whichever comes first.
- ✓ If fitting a forward-facing child seat in the front of a car, make sure the car seat is as far back as it will go, so the child is as far as possible from the dashboard.
- ✓ If ISOFIX mountings are available in your car, choose an ISOFIX compatible child car seat.
- ✗ Never hold a child in your arms in a vehicle, and never allow a child to travel unrestrained.
- ✗ Never fit a rear-facing child seat in the front of the car unless the passenger airbag has been switched off.



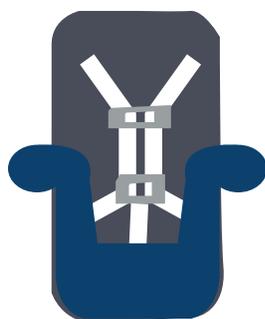
The different types of child car seat



0-10kg - Lie-flat or 'lateral' baby carrier, rear-facing baby carrier, or rear-facing baby seat using a harness.

0-13kg - Rear-facing baby carrier or rear-facing baby seat using a harness.

9-18kg - Rear- or forward-facing baby seat using a harness or safety shield.



15-36kg - Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield.



Buy a child car seat with a United Nations 'E' mark label - this means that the car seat conforms with the United Nations safety standards.

1. Indicates the European safety standard
2. The seat's weight group, universal means it is approved for fitting in all cars
3. Confirms the seat is **EU-approved**
4. The seat's approval number. This should always start with **03** or **04**
5. **Y** indicates the the seat has a **5-point** harness with crotch strap

