

Car Seats *AFTER* A Crash

Is Your Child's Car Seat or Booster Seat Safe to Use After a Crash?

If you've been in a car crash, you may be wondering if you need to replace your child's car seat or booster seat. It's important to make sure the seat is still safe to use after a crash.



WHAT TYPE OF CRASH HAPPENED?

The type of crash helps decide if you need a new car seat or booster seat. It depends on the seriousness of the crash. *Was it a minor crash or a moderate to severe crash?*

A MINOR CRASH MEANS ALL OF THESE THINGS HAPPENED:



- You could drive your car away.
- The door closest to the car seat was NOT damaged.
- No one in the car was hurt.
- The airbags did NOT go off.
- The car seat looks fine – no cracks or damage.

If ALL of these are true, it MIGHT be okay to keep using the car seat.

But – check your car seat's manual OR call the car seat manufacturer to be sure. *Some manufacturers still say you need to replace the seat, even after a minor crash.*

A MODERATE TO SEVERE CRASH MEANS ANY OF THESE HAPPENED:



- Your car could not be driven away.
- A door was damaged near the car seat.
- Someone was hurt in the crash.
- Airbags went off.
- You see damage to the car seat.

If ANY of these are true, you MUST replace the car seat or booster seat.

Even if your child wasn't in the seat during the crash, it could still be damaged.

FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S CAR SEAT RULES

Every car seat manufacturer has different safety rules.

Some say you always need a new seat after any crash, others don't. Look at the owner's manual or call the manufacturer to ask what to do after a crash.



You can find the car seat manufacturer's phone number on a label on the seat or in the owner's manual.

CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY

Your car insurance might pay for a new car seat after a crash.

They may ask for proof that the seat should be replaced – your car seat manual often includes this, or the manufacturer can help confirm it if needed.



WHEN IN DOUBT, GET A NEW CAR SEAT

If you aren't sure if the car seat is safe, get a new one.

A car seat's job is to protect your child in a crash. If it's damaged, it might not work right next time.

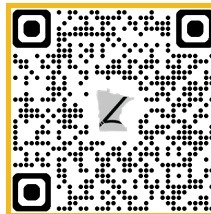


NEED HELP? NOT SURE WHAT TO DO?

Visit **BuckleUpMN.org** to find a local Child Passenger Safety Technician who can help answer questions.



Get Your Seat Checked By A
Child Passenger Safety Technician
<https://bit.ly/3Psp9IY>



Contact Your Seat Manufacturer
<https://bit.ly/4gyirXn>