

Car seat use after a car crash

Can my child's car seat be used after a car crash?

1. After any crash, it is important to call the car seat manufacturer for guidance on whether your car/booster seat can still be used.
2. Contact your auto insurance company to find out if they will reimburse you for a replacement car/booster seat after a crash.

What about a very minor crash?

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommends that car seats be replaced following a moderate or severe crash. Car seats may not need to be replaced after a minor crash.

A minor crash is one in which **all of the following apply:**

- The vehicle was able to be driven away from the crash site.
- The vehicle door nearest the car seat was not damaged.
- None of the passengers in the vehicle sustained any injuries in the crash.
- If the vehicle has air bags, the air bags did not deploy during the crash.
- There is no visible damage to the car seat.

Never use a car seat that has been involved in a moderate to severe crash. Always follow car seat manufacturer's instructions.

Where can I get more information?

Website: childrenswi.org/carseats

Email: safetycenter@childrenswi.org



This sheet was created to help you care for your child or family member. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.