

Aftermarket Car Seat Accessories

Are aftermarket car seat accessories safe?

Research says no.

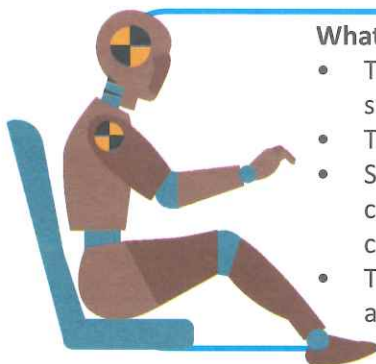


What is an aftermarket accessory?

These include any products that are designed to be used with a car seat or vehicle but did not come with them and are not provided by the car seat or vehicle manufacturer.

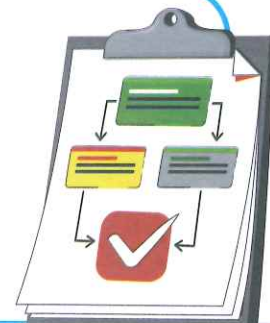
These include:

- Mirrors or toys that attach to a car or car seat
- Seat belt adjusters or extenders
- Headrests or footrests
- Infant support inserts or pillows
- Shoulder pads or harness strap covers
- Weather protector covers
- Seat protector covers (non-approved)
- Window coverings



What makes aftermarket car seat accessories unsafe?

- They have not been tested for safety in a crash or with a car seat.
- They are not regulated.
- Soft materials can create slack in the harness (e.g., harness covers, extra padding), making the harness less effective in a crash.
- They can detach in a crash and injure the baby (e.g., become a flying object).



Are any car seat accessories safe to use?

Although aftermarket car seat accessories can seem like a great idea, especially if your child does not like traveling in their car seat, it is best to avoid any car seat accessories that were not included as part of your seat's original packaging. There is not enough information to know how these products might affect your child's seat in the event of a crash.

For more information:

Contact your car seat manufacturer to learn more about safety issues associated with any aftermarket accessories that you want to use. You can also visit Transport Canada's webpage on aftermarket products for children's car seats at <https://tc.canada.ca/en/road-transportation/defects-recalls-vehicles-tires-child-car-seats/third-party-aftermarket-products-children-s-restraint-systems>.