

# Winter Car Seat Safety

The winter season can bring additional challenges for car seat safety. With the right steps, you can keep your child warm and secure on every ride.

## How to Keep Your Child Warm and Safe in Car Seats and Booster Seats



Dress children in thin, snug layers. Avoid bulky snowsuits or coats under harnesses or seatbelts.



Use hats, mittens, and warm socks to help keep children warm.

Buckle your child first. Harness straps should lie flat and be snug with no pinch at the shoulder.



Add warmth over the harness straps. Use blankets, a coat worn backwards, or a poncho-style layer.



Avoid aftermarket padding or inserts both under the harness and behind the child. These accessories can reduce the car seat's safety.

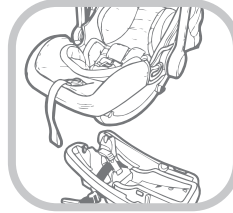
## What Makes Bulky Clothes Unsafe in Car Seats?

Bulky coats, snow pants, and snowsuits may compress in a crash. When this happens, extra space can form under the harness, making it too loose to properly restrain the child. This also increases the risk of a child slipping out of the straps and suffering serious injury.

**A Simple Rule to Remember:** THIN layers go UNDER the straps. THICK layers go OVER the straps.

*Use a car seat for every ride. Always follow the instructions in your car seat and vehicle manuals.*

## Infant Car Seat Safety



Bring the carrier part of the car seat indoors to keep it warm.



Only use "shower-cap" style covers that go over the top of the seat, not under the harness or behind the child.

Keep the baby's face visible and uncovered to prevent overheating or possible breathing problems.

## Older Children, Booster Seats, and Adults



Seatbelts must fit snugly against the body.

Do not wear heavy winter jackets under seatbelts.

In cold weather, unzip the jacket and ensure the seatbelt lies flat on the chest and hips.

## Cold Weather Travel Tips

Warm up the vehicle before securing children in their car seats, when possible.

Remove extra layers if the vehicle becomes warm.

Carry an emergency winter kit, including blankets, dry clothing, water and non-perishable snacks, a shovel, traction aids, a flashlight, and a charged phone with a charger or battery pack.

For more information about car seat safety, visit: [www.skprevention.ca](http://www.skprevention.ca) or call 306-651-4300

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