



What to do with Expired or Unsafe Child Safety Seats



Occasionally, an expired child safety seat will be brought with a family at a check-up event. This is a major concern as these seats are unsafe to use. Two of the seats pictured in this article - showing expiration dates on their outer shells - arrived with a family at a recent event in Hood River.

Current expiration dates for the U.S. are generally set at six years from the date of seat manufacture for five-point harness seats and high-back boosters. Always consult the instruction manual to confirm the actual expiration timeframe.

Why do child safety seats expire?

Safety standards and regulations change over time so an older child safety seat may be less effective than a newer product. Additionally, a seat may not have all of its parts, instructions, labels, or the important warning features of newer models. It is always important that a seat has its original labeling so that it may be checked for expiration as well as recalls. Without labeling, there is no way to verify whether or not a seat is safe to use.



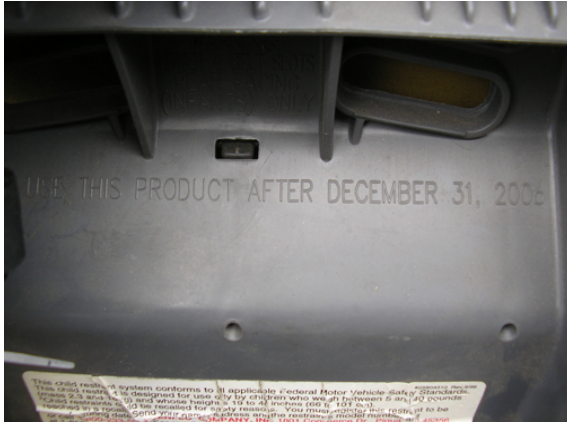
Another important concern with an older seat is that it is likely to have deteriorated through hot, cold, over-dry, or damp conditions, regular use (or misuse), and general wear and tear. For these reasons, seat components may have degraded and the seat may be unsafe to use.

What should I do with an expired or unsafe child safety seat?

Legacy Health partners with several agencies to offer free child safety seat recycling. If you have an expired or unsafe restraint you wish to dispose of [click here](#) to find out if there is a location near you which accepts seats and how to prepare the seat for recycling before drop-off. Otherwise, the seat should be destroyed and disposed of.

Before you dispose of the seat you should:

- Remove the harness straps and cut them up
- Remove and cut up the cover and any foam padding
- Break the shell so that there is no way that it can possibly be 'repaired' and used again



Expired or unsafe child safety seats should be disposed of in a garbage dumpster. Make sure to follow the above steps so that old restraints cannot be recovered to use for children or sell for profit to someone unaware of its dangers.

For families such as those who arrive at a check-up event with unsafe, expired child safety seats, the recommendation is to purchase new seats immediately, and whenever possible, return to the event for education assistance, or plan to attend an upcoming check-up event. For families who are income eligible there are programs in most areas of Oregon which provide reduced cost seats. Please contact us for more information.

Source: Manufacture & Expiration by ChildRestraintSafety.com