



Recommendations for Replacement of Crash-Involved Safety Belts & Child Restraints

Airbags, safety belts, and child restraints (CRs) are generally considered "one time use" products. After a crash they may need to be replaced. Without a doubt, airbags and pretensioners used with some belt systems must be replaced if they are activated during a crash.

Vehicle manufacturers also recommend that safety belts in use in a crash be replaced except in minor crashes. Some vehicle manufacturers suggest that the safety belts should be inspected by a service technician after any type or severity of collision. Contact your vehicle manufacturer's Customer Service for their guidelines and recommendations.

Most child restraint manufacturers recommend replacement of their child restraints after any crash. Contact your child restraint manufacturer's Customer Service for their guidelines and recommendations.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommends that a child restraint always be replaced if it is involved in a moderate to severe crash. In general, automobile collision insurance should cover replacement of airbags, safety belts, and child restraints.

To determine if a crash is severe enough to warrant CR replacement, NHTSA advises parents/caregivers to use the following criteria:

- 1) Does a visual inspection of the child restraint (CR), including inspection under any easily movable seat padding, reveal any cracks or deformities that might have been caused by the crash?
 Yes: Replace CR¹ No: Continue to next question
- 2) Did the vehicle in which the CR was installed have to be towed from the scene of the crash?
 Yes: Replace CR¹ No: Continue to next question
- 3) Was the vehicle door nearest the CR damaged?
 Yes: Replace CR¹ No: Continue to next question
- 4) Were there injuries to any of the vehicle occupants?
 Yes: Replace CR¹ No: Continue to next question
- 5) Did the air bags in the vehicle (if any) deploy?
 Yes: Replace CR¹ No: Replacement of CR not warranted²

¹If the answer is "Yes" to ANY of the above questions, the crash is considered to be serious enough to warrant replacement of the child restraint.

²If the answer is "No" to ALL of the above questions, the crash is NOT considered to be serious enough to warrant replacement of the child restraint.

For further information contact: UNC Highway Safety Research Center 800-672-4527 / 919-962-2202 www.buckleupnc.org www.hsrb.unc.edu	For further information or to order brochures or other educational materials, contact: NC Governor's Highway Safety Program 800-999-9676 / 919-733-3083 www.ncdot.org/secretary/GHSP	NC Department of Insurance NC SAFE KIDS Buckle Up 800-634-7854 / 919-661-5880 www.ncsafekids.org
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