



# Car Time – Stage 4

## Safe Travel in a Seat Belt

In Stage 4, your child is at least 36 kg (80 pounds), about 8 years of age, and has grown enough to use the seat belt.

Did you know that children have been hurt or killed in a crash because they were too small to use a seat belt? It is important that the seat belt fits correctly. If you find that your child is too small for a seat belt, use a booster seat or a forward-facing child seat that is right for your child's weight and height.



### Keep this in mind:

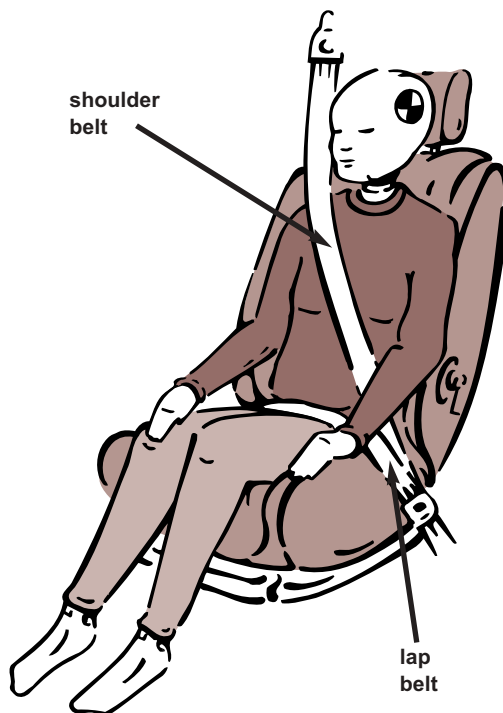
- **The back seat is the safest place for your child.**
- Seat belts with lap and shoulder straps will hold both the upper and lower body in place. They provide the best protection for Stage 4 children riding in a vehicle.
- Slouching causes the lap belt to ride up over the stomach. Children whose legs can bend over the edge of the seat when they are sitting up straight against the seat back are less likely to slouch.

### When you buckle up:

- Always follow vehicle instructions for using the seat belt.
- Check to be sure that children are not slouching in the seat.
- Keep the lap belt low and snug across the hips. **Never** put the lap belt across the stomach. This could injure your child in a crash.
- Put the shoulder belt over the shoulder and across the chest. **Never** put the shoulder belt behind the child's back or under the arm. This could injure your child in a crash.

# Seat belts for adults

- Seat belts help prevent deaths and they reduce the number of serious injuries in crashes. A seat belt helps to spread the force of a crash over the strongest areas of the body. Parents should set a good example for children by wearing their own seat belts correctly and using them all the time.
- To protect people in a crash, seat belts must be worn with the lap belt low across the hips and the shoulder belt over the shoulder and across the chest.
- When worn correctly, the lap belt spreads the force of a crash over the bones in the hips and the shoulder belt spreads the force of the crash across the chest.



## How to use the lap belt:

- Put the lap belt low across the hips and keep it snug.
- **Never** put the lap belt across the stomach. This could cause serious injuries because there is no bone to absorb the force of the crash. In a crash, if you are not wearing a lap belt correctly, you could suffer a broken spinal cord or serious damage to vital organs inside your body.

## How to use the shoulder belt:

- Put the shoulder belt over the shoulder and across the chest.
- **Never** put the shoulder belt under the arm. If a crash occurs, a shoulder belt under the arm could injure your heart, lungs or other organs inside your body.
- If you have a choice between a lap seat belt and a lap/shoulder belt, remember that the lap/shoulder belt will protect you better in a crash.

Produced by Transport Canada and Health Canada

Version française disponible

For questions about your seat belt, please contact the manufacturer. For more information or to order more copies of this publication, visit the website: [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca) or contact:

**Transport Canada** at: 1-800-333-0371, by email: [roadsafetywebmail@tc.gc.ca](mailto:roadsafetywebmail@tc.gc.ca)

**Health Canada** at: (613) 952-1014, by fax: (613) 941-4376 or by email: [cps-spc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:cps-spc@hc-sc.gc.ca)

