

# Exploring sales of second hand child restraints in Victoria

[racv.com.au/childrestraints](http://racv.com.au/childrestraints)

## RACV provides advice on the purchase and use of child restraints and booster seats in Victoria.

Only child restraints complying with the 2004, 2010 or 2013 versions of the Australian standard (AS/NZ 1754) can be legally sold and used in Victoria. In addition, only restraints less than 10 years old are recommended for use and restraints that are damaged or have been in a crash should not be used.

RACV examined the second hand market for child restraints and booster seats to establish the age, range and suitability of restraints being sold in Victoria to ensure the safety of children was not compromised.

### Method

A variety of online and store sources of second hand restraints were explored and the details of 164 second hand restraints were collected.

### Results

Overall, the results showed that 21% of restraints were unsuitable for sale. The quality of restraints varied between online and in store and the table below summarises the restraints that were examined online. Of the 114 restraints examined, 16 (14%) were found to be unsuitable for the following reasons:

- 7 were booster cushions
- 5 were overseas models
- 3 were damaged, and
- 1 was more than 10 years old.

Online source	Suitable	Unsuitable	Total
Online store 1	78	14	92
Online store 2	20	2	22
	<b>98</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>114</b>

The table below summarises the restraints that were examined in stores. Of the 50 restraints examined, 18 (36%) were found to be unsuitable for the following reasons:

- 7 were more than 10 years old
- 6 had the sticker removed or were worn out
- 2 were damaged
- 2 were overseas models, and
- 1 was a booster cushion.

Store source	Suitable	Unsuitable	Total
Second hand baby goods store	23	14	37
Resource Recovery Centres	3	4	7
Baby goods second hand market	6	-	6
Charity stores	-	-	-
	<b>32</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>50</b>

**Note:** A sample of restraints were selected for this study

## Key findings

### Online stores

There was generally more information about the child restraints available on one online site compared to the other. The listings on both websites tended to be for recent child restraint models, particularly in the capsule and forward facing categories, and therefore are less likely to be a problem.

While most child restraints examined for sale for this study appeared to meet the standard, booster cushions (not recommended for use) were found for sale and some international restraints (illegal to use) were of concern. Some restraints were damaged and should not have been for sale.

### Second hand stores

Many restraints at one store were old and visibly worn and several did not have dates of manufacture, which does not allow parents to make an informed purchase decision. A number had their dates scratched off or removed and one model seemed to have had a new cover put on, which aroused some suspicion about the prior condition of the restraint and the reason for the change.

### Resource Recovery Centres

The quality of child restraints found at Resource Recovery Centres was poor and less than half would be suitable for purchase. This is not surprising as these restraints were most likely intended for disposal rather than sale.

### Second hand market

All child restraints found at the baby market appeared to be of acceptable quality and met the Australian standard.

## Recommendations

There is a substantial volume of second hand child restraints for sale in Victoria, some of which were found to be illegal and/or unsafe to use. It is important for sellers to only sell legal and safe models of child restraints, and for parents to take steps to check they are buying a child restraint that meets the Australian standard and are safe to use.

### For parents

RACV has developed a set of tips to help parents purchase a suitable restraint. If you're unsure about something, look for another restraint.

See [racv.com.au/childrestraints](http://racv.com.au/childrestraints)

### For government

- Work directly with retailers to ensure unsuitable restraints are not available for sale
- Communicate updates on standards and regulations about the types of restraints that can be sold
- Provide an expert contact to support retailers in making decisions about restraints for sale

### For retailers

- Be familiar with legal and safety requirements
- Destroy restraints that are unsuitable for sale

### Contact details

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