

WASTE WATCH UPDATE



YOU ASKED ...

HOW DO I DISPOSE OF A CHILD'S CAR SEAT?



In Canada, all children's car seats and booster cushions are stamped with an expiration date or a useful life date. This date is usually stamped directly on the seat, on the tag, or in the user manual. Once expired, a child's car seat should not be used.

Expiry dates are important because:

- over time, materials used in manufacturing the seat could weaken;
- how-to-use labels may become faded and hard to read;
- instruction manuals may be misplaced;
- safety standards may have changed;
- owners may not have registered the product and not be aware of recalls, defects or required adjustments.

If a car seat has not been expired and is still in excellent condition but no longer required, a family might consider donating it to friends or relatives for reuse. Thrift shops generally do not accept used car seats for resale.

EXPIRED CAR SEATS

While we at IWMC strongly encourage reusing, this line of thinking does not apply to expired car seats. The use of an outdated seat could put a child at risk. If you cannot locate the useful life or expiry date on your child's seat, it should be considered outdated and not be used. Also, if a car seat was involved in a serious vehicle accident, it should be replaced.

NOTE:

In Canada, if you are involved in a serious accident and investigators determine you were using an expired car seat or booster, you may be found guilty of breaking the law!

DISPOSAL OPTIONS:

1. Make the car seat inoperable. Cut off the harness, straps, and buckles. Remove the cover and any padding. Break apart the car seat and handle as much as possible so that it cannot be reassembled and reused.
2. If the plastic component has a recycling symbol on it (♻️ 1 - ♻️ 5) the plastic may be placed into **BLUE BAG #2**. Metal components may also be placed in **BLUE BAG #2**.
3. Fabric and any plastic without recycling symbols go into **WASTE**.
4. If the seat doesn't fit into the waste cart, it may be placed beside the cart as an excess item (limit of 2) or stored until Spring Cleanup - Waste week. **Please do not place it intact for collection. Breaking it apart helps ensure safety.**

TIPS:

PEI's Highway Safety Division does **FREE** inspections on car seats to ensure they are installed properly and in good working order. In 2013, approximately 350 car seats were inspected. *To make arrangements or for more information, contact Access PEI.*



For additional information: Visit our Website at www.iwmc.pe.ca

Phone Customer Service Centre (Toll Free) **1-888-280-8111**

or Email our Info Line at info@iwmc.pe.ca

ISLAND WASTE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION