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## **RACV urges parents to put safety first when buying second-hand child restraints**

One in five second-hand child restraints was found to be unsuitable for sale in a recent RACV survey on the child restraint second-hand market online and in stores.

Any new parent would know that the costs that come with welcoming a new baby can be significant, so it's no wonder many turn to the internet and stores for a second-hand bargain.

To help parents make wise decisions when considering buying a second-hand child restraint, RACV recently investigated the second-hand child restraint market to see what the quality and safety was of child restraints available to parents in stores and online.

RACV Manager Road User Behaviour Melinda Spiteri said that of the 164 restraints RACV looked at, 114 were from online sellers, reflecting how most change hands these days. The other 50 were from second-hand stores.

"Disturbingly, we discovered that 36 per cent of store-sold restraints and 14 per cent sold online were simply unsuitable for use as they were worn-out, damaged, too old or even illegal overseas models," Ms Spiteri said.

Overall, 21 per cent of the car restraints were found to be unsuitable for resale.

"Not only would these be a waste of money, they're potentially dangerous," Ms Spiteri said.

Even though many seats were in good condition, RACV cautions parents to ask lots of questions as it is common for sellers to omit important information about the quality of the restraint.

"Make sure that the restraint meets Australian standards, that it's not too old and that all parts are in good condition," Ms Spiteri said.

"Damage isn't always obvious, so make sure you feel confident that the restraint has not been involved in a car crash."

Expecting mum Karlee was very satisfied that she saved \$400 on a restraint that she's going to use for less than 12 months.

"The restraint I bought was pretty much brand new. There were plenty of pictures and I was able to look at the restraint before I bought it," she said.

Karlee agrees with RACV's advice and says that if you don't get the answer you're after, simply look at another.

"Parents shouldn't be deterred from buying second hand provided you know what to look for. What's most important is to keep safety at the top of the priority list," Ms Spiteri said.

**Continued/**

**Media inquiries: Liselotte Geary, RACV Public Affairs, 9790 2717 or 0410 080 746**

***Please note:** RACV has available three examples of second-hand child restraints recently purchased privately that are illegal to use, or not recommend for use. These child restraints are available for use in television news footage and can be photographed by print media.*

### **RACV'S TIPS ON BUYING SECOND-HAND CHILD RESTRAINTS**

#### **Only buy a restraint that meets the Australian Standard**

A sticker will show that it meets the AS/NZS 1754 standard. It is illegal to use overseas models or restraints meeting the 2000 or older standards.

#### **Don't use a restraint that's more than 10 years old**

A separate sticker should show the year of manufacture. Consider how long your child will need the restraint. Newer restraints are likely to be safer.

#### **Check that all parts are in good condition**

There should be no signs of wear and tear, and the buckle should click in to place securely.

#### **Know the history**

Damage might not be obvious, so it's important to check if the restraint has been in a crash. A restraint that's been in a crash must be destroyed and should not be for sale.

#### **Check the safety rating**

Compare the safety of seats at [childcarseats.com.au](http://childcarseats.com.au)

#### **Check the restraint is suitable for your needs**

Is the restraint the right size? Will it fit in your car?

#### **Ask for the instruction manual**

The manual will have instructions on fitting the restraint correctly. Some manuals can be downloaded online from manufacturers

#### **LEARN**

For videos and more tips on choosing and using child restraints, go to [racv.com.au/childrestraints](http://racv.com.au/childrestraints)

#### **CHECK**

See [childcarseats.com.au](http://childcarseats.com.au) to compare the safety and ease of use of child restraints and booster seats