

Child Car Seat Recycling

This guideline provides step-by-step instructions on how to prepare a car seat for recycling through the Ann Arbor recycling programs. Note that not all recycling programs will accept these materials. Check with your local recycling coordinator to determine acceptance.

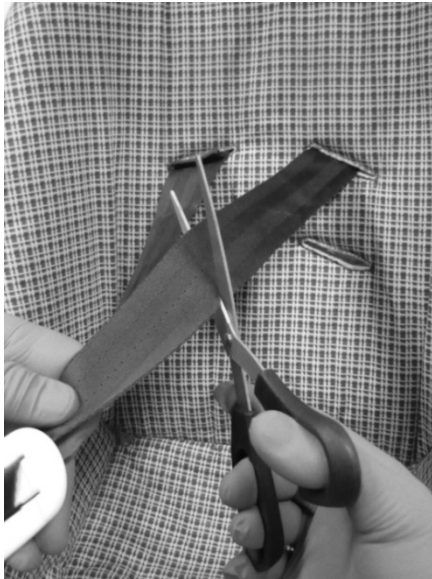
Did you know?

- Car seats for children have been manufactured since 1933. The Bunny Bear Company made several designs of children's car seats, but their purpose was not to protect the child in the event of an accident. Instead, these seats confined the children, raised them above the level of the passenger seat, and made them more visible to adults from the front seat. The true safety seat for children was invented in England by Jean Ames in 1962.
- It is estimated that 10-12 million car seats are purchased annually in the United States.
- Car seats have an expiration date, which is typically six years from the manufacture date. The expiration date is typically stamped under or on the back of the seat. If there is no expiration date stamped on the child restraint, add 6 years to the date of manufacture to determine expiration. Car seats and booster seats expire because the plastic materials degrade from ultraviolet light -- intensified through the car windows -- that weakens their effectiveness in a crash.
- Car seats involved in an automobile accident may not be safe according to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, posted online at: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/childps/ChildRestraints/ReUse/index.htm>
- Used car seats should not be accepted from others or purchased unless you are aware of the entire history of a car seat and can confirm the seat has not expired.
- Ninety percent of the car seat material (by weight) can be recycled.
- In Ann Arbor, the bulky plastic and all metal pieces can be recycled. The mixed metal/plastic pieces, straps, small plastic pieces, fabric, and soft foam should be placed in the trash. Ann Arbor residents can place the accepted items in their recycle bin for curbside pickup.
- The general public is welcome to bring accepted items for recycling to the Drop-Off Station. A \$3 user fee applies. <http://www.recycleannarbor.org>.



Material recycled from the car seat check-up event conducted at Packard Health in June 2011.

Follow the simple instructions below to disassemble the car seat for recycling



1. Use scissors to cut off the fabric, foam padding, and harness straps from the child safety seat.



2. Use a Phillips head screwdriver to remove as much metal as possible. There may be some metal which can't be removed easily. The MRF accepts items that have some metal still attached.



3. Remove the car seat cover and any padding underneath the cover.
4. Discard the fabric, foam padding, straps, and mixed metal/plastic pieces and small plastic pieces.



5. Mark the plastic as expired or unsafe.

6. The bulky plastic body and all metal pieces can be recycled. Ann Arbor residents can place the bulky plastic and metal pieces in their recycling bin for curbside pick-up.

