



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CHILD CAR SEATS HAVE EXPIRATION DATES AND CAN BE RECYCLED

ANN ARBOR, Mich., September 26, 2011 — Approximately 11 million child car seats are purchased each year in the United States and have a useful life of about six years, as stamped on the bottom of the frame. If disassembled properly, child car seats can be recycled. The expiration date is due to the research showing that the plastic materials degrade over time from ultraviolet light -- intensified through the car windows -- thus weakening the effectiveness of the plastic frame to withstand impact if involved in a crash. Despite the age, any car seat involved in an automobile accident may be also compromised for safe use and should be removed from service according to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. To learn more about child passenger safety or to get your car seat checked, call Mott Buckle Up! at 734-763-2251.

Guidelines for recycling child car seats through the City of Ann Arbor's recycling program are now available as part of Moss Children's Hospital's car seat safety program. When a car seat is ready to be disposed, it can be disassembled to remove and discard the padding and straps. All metal parts and large plastic pieces are accepted in Ann Arbor's recycling carts and recycling dumpsters. Large "bulky plastics" were added to the city's single-stream recycling program in mid-2010. Detailed pictures and instructions for disassembling and recycling car seats are [attached](#) and can be found on the city's web site at www.a2gov.org/recycle.

Ninety percent of the materials, by weight, in most car seats can be recycled and there is the potential to divert a significant amount of material from landfills in their home recycling collection program. The general public may also drop off the recyclable parts of disassembled car seats at Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop-Off Station (DOS), 2950 E. Ellsworth Rd. for a \$3 entry fee. Check the DOS days and hours of operation at www.recycleannarbor.org.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit (www.a2gov.org/news). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates (www.a2gov.org/subscribe), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor). The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters fair, sensitive, and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.## #