



# Child Car Restraint Cleaning Guide Fact Sheet

*Working together to prevent road trauma*

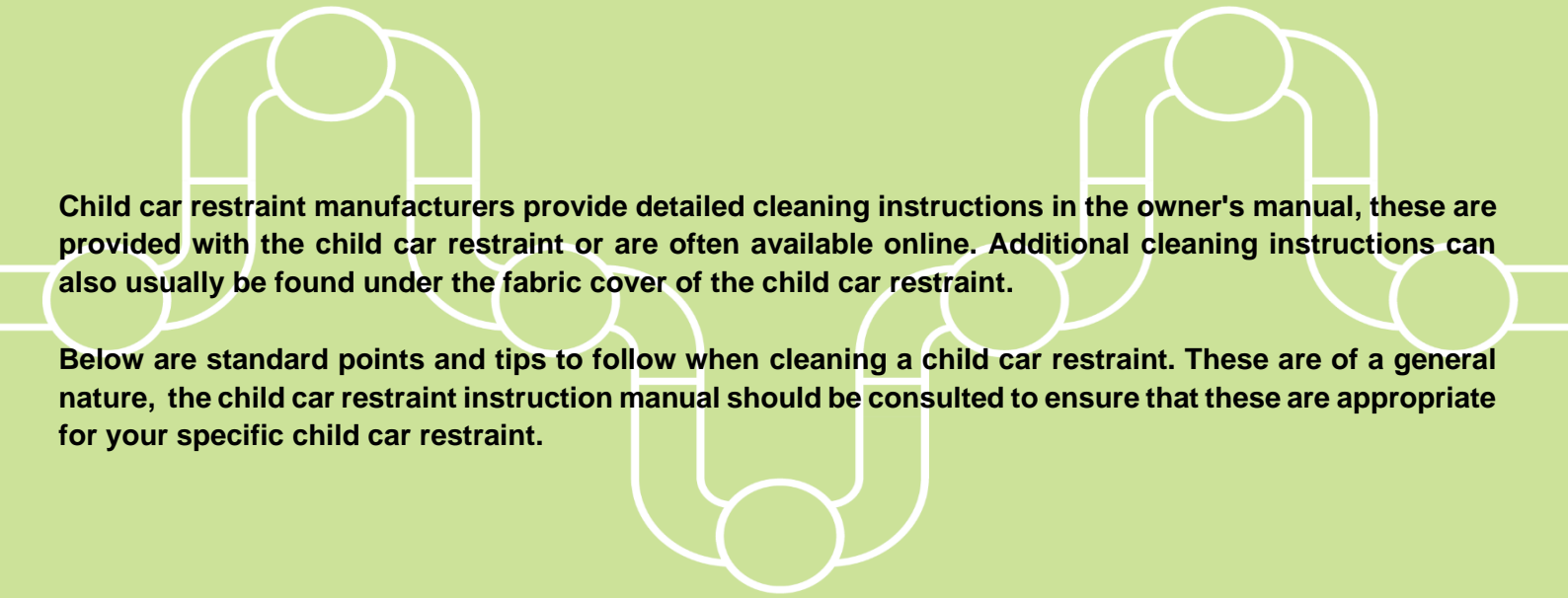


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**Child car restraint manufacturers provide detailed cleaning instructions in the owner's manual, these are provided with the child car restraint or are often available online. Additional cleaning instructions can also usually be found under the fabric cover of the child car restraint.**

**Below are standard points and tips to follow when cleaning a child car restraint. These are of a general nature, the child car restraint instruction manual should be consulted to ensure that these are appropriate for your specific child car restraint.**

### Before You Start

- Check the child car restraint manual for detailed cleaning instructions (often available online through the manufacturer).
- Look under the fabric cover for additional cleaning instructions.
- Take some photos and make notes, this can make it easier when putting the covers and straps back on once clean.
- Try to keep the harness buckled when removing, this helps to keep it in the correct order.
- Ensure you have allowed sufficient time before the child car restraint needs to be used, for the covers and inserts to fully dry naturally (not tumble dried).

### Getting Started

- Unclip and unhook cover attachments, unthread harnesses if required.
- Remove covers, inserts, harnesses and hardware - these items will need to be washed and cleaned separately.
- Give everything a good shake out.

### Whilst the Covers Are Off

- Vacuum in all the crevices of the shell.
- Wipe down the child car restraint shell with a damp cloth and mild soap, then inspect:
  - harness straps for fraying,
  - there are no cracks or stress marks on the child car restraint shell, and
  - harness adjuster is working and clamping correctly.

If there are any cracked or broken parts contact the child car restraint manufacturer.

### Harnesses

Harnesses should be regularly spot cleaned as required with a damp cloth. No soap or detergent should be used on harnesses, harnesses should not be machine washed.

### Hardware

Metal and plastic hardware should be washed with a damp cloth and mild soap. Hardware should not be machine washed.

### Covers

These can be hand or machine washed in cold water:

- Use a mild soap.
- If machine washing, use a gentle cycle.
- Do not pull any sticky substances off the cover, allow these to be soaked off.
- Rinse well before drying.
- Dry naturally on a flat surface, please note that inserts may take longer to dry.

### Buckles

Buckles can become sluggish especially if they come into contact with food and drink items. You should be able to hear a strong audible click when engaging the buckle. To clean the buckle:

- Remove the buckle with harness attachment from the child car restraint
- Rinse the buckle under warm running water for five minutes (no soap or detergent).
- Test a few times to see if an audible click is heard.
- Repeat warm water rinsing if required.

### Finishing Up

- Check all covers, inserts, harnesses and hardware are completely dried.
- Place cover on the shell, starting at the top of the child car restraint.
- Ensure that all harnesses and hardware are reinstalled:
  - check they are facing the correct way, and
  - check there are no twists in the harness.
- Check all hooks and clips are reattached on the cover.
- Reattach inserts.

### Contact

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