

Car Seat Alternatives: What's Safe, What's Portable, and What You Should Know

Keeping kids safe in the car is always the top priority—but we know that travel, carpools, taxis, and rideshares don't always make it easy to use a traditional car seat or booster. Here's what you should know about portable car seat alternatives before choosing one.

Harness Vests:

Harness vests, such as the [RideSafer Travel Vest](#), are wearable child restraints designed to help position the vehicle's seat belt correctly on a child's body. Instead of lifting the child up like a booster, the vest brings the seat belt down to fit properly across the hips and shoulder. These are a great option for travel as they are lightweight and easy to carry in a backpack or bag.

Harness vests can be a helpful alternative when a traditional seat isn't practical—but correct sizing and proper use are essential for safety. The vest comes in 4 size options ranging from 26.5 pounds & 30 inches up to 110 pounds and 64 inches.

Inflatable Boosters:

Like traditional boosters, inflatable boosters are designed to help position the seat belt properly across a child's body when the child is old enough and meets the manufacturer's size requirements. Their biggest advantage is convenience — they're lightweight, compact, and easy to pack, making it more likely that a child will ride in *some form of booster* rather than none at all. There are two inflatable boosters currently on the market that meet safety regulations: [Bubble Bum](#) and [Hiccapop](#)

While there are safe, certified alternatives to traditional car seats and boosters, not all products are created equal. If you're considering a harness vest or inflatable booster, take time to understand how it works, ensure it meets safety standards, and use it exactly as directed. As with any child restraint, proper fit, correct use, and choosing a federally approved product are key to keeping kids safe.

If you have questions or want help choosing the safest option for your child, reach out to a Child Passenger Safety Technician—we're here to help keep every ride a safe one.

