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How long can you use a britax marathon car seat

You may put a sticker on your car reading "baby on board" to alert other road users, but you can be proactive by having a baby car seat too. Car seats are so important in protecting children from fatal injuries that all the US states made it illegal to drive without one if you have a child. While seat belts reduce the risk of death and severe injuries by 50%, car seats decrease injury risk by 54% in children under four years.However, did you know that, like any other product, car seats also have an expiration date? Below we get into the details of why they expire and what the expiration dates mean. We will also focus on Britax car seats, particularly when exactly they expire and what you should do with yours once it expires. So, read on to find out how you can enhance your child's safety by using a valid car seat.source You usually are very careful when shopping for perishables to prevent food poisoning, but what happens when you discover that your car seat is about to expire? Should you be worried that traffic police will arrest you if you are found driving with an expired seat?Well, car seat expiration dates are only meant to estimate the number of years that the seat will protect your baby before factors such as deterioration and technological advancements make it redundant. Usually, most car seats expire between 6 and 10 years after the manufacture date. Therefore, you should always check yours when buying to ensure it can serve you for a longer period.The expiration dates do not necessarily mean that the seat has become useless immediately after that day. It is not even illegal to have an expired car seat. The truth is, in the United States, car seat manufacturers are not required by law to put an expiry date on the product. However, reputable car seat manufacturers do so to make users aware that they can only guarantee the product's safety for a limited period. Some people reason that manufacturers emphasize car seats expiring as a marketing ploy. However, it is not a tactic to increase sales for car seat manufacturers; these products expire, and there are various reasons why they do: You cannot compare a phone manufactured a decade ago with the one you are currently using because of the features added. Similarly, car seats produced years ago cannot offer the same features as the recent ones. Regardless of how well-maintained it is, an old car seat will lack some enhancements vital to saving lives.Crash tests are always being done to ensure that advanced technology to improve the chances of survival during accidents is installed with each recent production. Britax is known for its safety technology; thus, it employs SafeCell Impact Protection in its car seats. Therefore, the infant seats have an impact-absorbing base, different side impact protection levels, and impact- stabilizing frame.Older car seats lack some of these advanced technological features; hence replacing them before or as soon as they expire is crucial. Car seats usually remain in the car for long periods; therefore, they are exposed to changing weather conditions. The heat, cold, and humidity will eventually take a toll on the seat's materials, reducing its quality. Plastic is especially affected by extreme heat or cold, and the expansion and contraction will negatively affect the car seat. Therefore if the plastic looks faded, yet it was originally gray or black, has dents, or cracks, it is time to get a new car seat.Rust in the metal frames also reduces safety during a collision, as supported by crash tests conducted in Sweden. A rusty chassis and body increase the likelihood of death by 20%, so you can imagine what little chances your child has of surviving in an accident if placed in a rusty car seat.Regular wear and tear from everyday use also deteriorate your car seats. As much as you may try to maintain it, you cannot prevent it from showing signs of the years it has served you. When it starts showing, be sure to replace it. Upon purchasing a car seat, it is important to register it with the manufacturer to keep you updated with any news regarding the product. If a recall happens, it usually means that the car seat is faulty, and using it will defeat its purpose. In most cases, the faults can be fixed, but if they cannot, then the manufacturer will discontinue production and inform users to stop using it.Discontinuation could also be due to changing standards that make previous models unfit to use. When car seats are discontinued, getting replacement parts becomes a challenge; thus, you might as well get the newer model. source Here is a table that includes Britax infant car seat expiration dates and owners manuals.6 years after the date of manufacture.Located on infant car seat and base.6 years after the date of manufacture.Located on infant car seat and base.6 years after the date of manufacture.Located on infant car seat and base.6 years after the date of manufacture.Located on infant car seat and base. Britax Convertible Car Seat Expiration Date and Owners Manuals: Britax Booster Car Seat Expiration Dates and Owners Manuals:9 years after the date of manufacture.Label on back of car booster9 years after the date of manufacture.Label on back of car boosterPioneer Harness-2-Booster Seat 9 years after the date of manufacture.Label on back of car booster 10 years after the date of manufacture. Label on bottom of booster (under User Guide)Britax® Essentials™ Skyline Belt-Positioning Booster10 years after the date of manufacture.Label on bottom of booster (under User Guide) Midpoint Belt-Positioning Booster 10 years after the date of manufacture. Label on bottom of booster (under User Guide) DualFit Harness-2-Booster 9 years after the date of manufacture. Label on back of car booster Grow With You (Regular, ClickTight, and Plus) 9 years after the date of manufacture. Label on back of car boostersource An expired car seat means that the child's safety is no longer optimal, so you cannot donate it to other people regardless of its good condition. However, it can come in handy in demonstration classes. Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs) are car seat experts trained in car seats, harnessing procedures, and vehicle differences. They put their knowledge to practice through community presentation and child car seat safety checks.Since we learn better by observing, a CPST will have better chances of passing on the information regarding car seats to caregivers by demonstrating with a car seat. Therefore, before you trash yours, make sure that your CPST does not need one. There is no use in holding on to an expired car seat when you can get a new one at a discount. Target is popularly known for its trade-in program, and although the 2020 one has expired, you can be on the lookout for the next one. The trade-in program does not mind even if your expired car seat is in bad shape. They also accept all kinds of car seats, including convertible car seats, infant car seats, car seat bases, and booster seats.With its wide online selection, Target.com will provide you with many options for the car seat, based on color and brand. So, you might be lucky and get another Britax car seat if you are loyal to the brand. The coupons are usually for use in-store or online. You can also opt for the Walmart trade-in program, which offers a \$30 gift card instead of a 20% discount. If your children are past the age of using car seats, you can decide to recycle the expired car seat. However, you should note that the curbside recycling program does not normally accept infant car seats, so be sure to check that there is a local recycling program near you and ask them if they accept plastic from the seat. If they do, ask how they like it delivered; some do not mind the car seat brought in without dismantling while others request that you break it down first.If they prefer dismantling it first, remove any unrecyclable materials they will not need, such as padding, fabric, and metal. You can then take the recyclable plastic parts to the program. Still, if this sounds like too much work for you, there are recycling programs that require you to pay for the shipping box and follow a certain guideline. If you cannot recycle it, trade it in or donate it, you should trash it. Before you do, take the seat apart to avoid a desperate family taking it and putting their child at risk. Like when taking it to the recycling plant, remove the padding, straps, metal, and cover and mark the seat's plastic "unsafe" or "expired." After six or ten years, your car seat is not going to protect your child anymore. Fortunately, there are many options for getting rid of it. Of course, most people who still have a child would go for the trade-in option, but regardless of the method you choose, your mind will be at peace knowing that your child's safety is not compromised by holding on to an expired seat. So, have you checked your car seat's expiration date? *This post may contain affiliate links. As an Amazon Associate we earn from qualifying purchases.If you are a new parent or grandparent, you may not know that car seats, like many other products, have expiration dates. This article will help you understand more about Britax Marathon expiration dates and the laws regarding their use.[amazon link="B013YCX22I" title="Britax Marathon Car Seats" /][amazon box="B013YCX22I"]Britax creates several different styles of car seats including infant, convertible and booster to accommodate different sizes of children. An infant car seat is only rear-facing and can fit children up to 35 pounds or 32 inches. The Marathon style has been on the market for many years and is strictly a convertible car seat, which means that it can change from rear-facing to front-facing as your child grows.However, the car seat only accommodates children up to 65 pounds in weight or 49 inches in height. Beyond this, you will want to move your child into a booster seat. Britax has two newer convertible designs called Emblem and Allegiance that have similar functions but a new design and some more enhanced safety.Britax Car Seat Model Expiration DatesAll Britax car seats come with expiration dates displayed on the seat back or side. Different seats have slightly different life expectancy dates. For instance, their infant car seats and belt-positioning booster seats have an expiration date of six years. Their convertible car seats expire approximately seven years after creation. The Harness-2-Booster and Click-Tight convertible seats have expiration dates of nine and 10 years, respectively.Why Have Expiration Dates on Car Seats?There are several situations in which people may decide to give you a car seat. You are having your first baby, and some friends want to gift you with their old car seat to save you some money. You had a baby many years ago and are now having a second or third, and you have saved all of your baby gear for the next child. Your parents will be driving your child around, and they need a dedicated car seat so that you are not constantly shifting the car seat between cars. These situations may be perfect opportunities to save money on a used or older car seat, but you will want to make sure that the car seat is not expired.While many people think that car seat expiration dates are a ploy by manufacturers to create an artificially small life span for these big plastic buckets with cushions, there are several very important and lifesaving reasons for car seats to expire routinely. Upgraded Safety FeaturesAs mentioned earlier, the Marathon car seat has been in production for many years. While it has received upgrades over these years, the model itself has not changed much. Companies continually learn more about how to keep children safe during accidents. They then apply this knowledge to newer car seat models. The newer seats may have slightly different padding or harness mechanisms that keep children even safer than the previous models. In fact, Britax has just released two new convertible car seat models with the latest technology available. They boast similar but upgraded technology:Safety Cell - this transfers energy away from the child in case of an impact.Stabilizing Steel Frame - provides more seat stability and the ability to absorb crash energy.Impact-Absorbing Base - designed to compress in the event of an accident and redirect crash energy away from the child.V-Shaped Tether - intended to reduce the rotation of the seat in the event of an impact and also slows any forward movement of the seat.RecallsDue to the constant influx of data through crash testing in both real-life situations and during crash tests, the company continually monitors the safety of models that are currently on the market. They will recall any seat or part that is deemed unsafe within the expiration date of the model. Even the best seats occasionally have recalls. In 2007, Marathon seats had a recall for the safety clip on the harness. The company provided new clips to anyone who needed them. However, companies cannot be responsible for recalls on their products indefinitely, especially considering how much safety technology changes over time. The seats of the 1990s and early 2000s are much less safe than the ones today but were deemed to be suitable for their time.Replacement PartsSimilar to recalls, companies cannot continually produce parts for seat models that they no longer build. By having an expiration date approximately six to 10 years after manufacture, companies can mitigate the number of replacement parts that they must always have on hand for older models.Unknown HistoryWhile used car seats may seem like a great deal, unless you know the history of the seat you may be gambling with safety. Car seats that have been in accidents may find their way back to the marketplace. Any seat that has been in an accident should be immediately discarded since there could be unseen damage.Unseen DamageAs was discussed earlier, car seats that have unknown histories can have unseen damage. You often do not know how these seats were used or stored. For instance, after the other person's child became too big for the seat, it could have sat in a garage or carport for an extended period. While not directly exposed to the weather, it could have been exposed to extremes in temperature.In addition, car seats undergo extreme temperature shifts by remaining in a vehicle for extended periods of time, up to years. Consider the fact that during the summer, temperatures in vehicles can reach over 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This temperature is enough to kill a person or animal. It is also enough to cause plastic fatigue since the car seat will then cool off once the driver gets in and turns on the air conditioning. In the winter, there are similar dips in temperature. These constant hot and cold temperature shifts can cause unseen damage to the plastic base. While car seat manufacturers admit that they normally do not see this kind of material fatigue for at least a decade after manufacture, the point is still an important one to consider.The LawThere are no laws that state that you cannot use an expired car seat. Laws are written in much more general terms than that. These laws allow police officers to interpret and apply the law as necessary. While a police officer will most likely not stop your car to check the expiration date on a car seat, he or she may check the seat if your car is involved in an accident. The laws in many areas say that all car equipment must be used within the safety regulations set forth in the owner's manual. A car seat owner's manual will have the expiration date listed; therefore, if you have an expired car seat in your car, you are using the equipment in an unsafe manner and can be cited for its use.Car Seat DisposalSimilar to using the car seat correctly, the seat must also be decommissioned properly as well. Once the car seat is beyond the expiration date, it cannot be sold or used. One way to properly dispose of the seat is to take it to a retailer during one of their baby equipment buyback events. This will prevent you from having to disassemble the seat, and you will get some discount on new equipment. The other way to dispose of the seat is to disassemble it completely. You should remove the harness straps and seat cover.Unless you have a non-car-seat use for them, you can cut them so no one else may use them and place them in the trash. Next, you should remove any metal hardware using a screwdriver. These pieces can be recycled in metal recycling. Finally, you should check with your local plastic recycler to see if the seat can be placed in the recycle bin. If not, write the word "expired" in large print with a permanent marker and place the entire seat in the trash can. By taking these extra steps, you can ensure the safety of other people's children so they are not inadvertently using an expired car seat.ConclusionCar seats are an important safety barrier between children and car collisions. The Britax Marathon expiration date is an important part of this safety feature. The company does not want consumers using outdated or unsafe seats. While we don't often want to think about the worst-case scenario, we can feel more confident about safety if children are buckled up correctly in a non-expired car seat.Unlike food expiration dates where we can assess the freshness and quality of the item, car seats cannot be visually assessed for material fatigue and unseen damage. Also, the law requires that children be seated in car seats that match their height and weight and that the car seat is used within the guidelines of the user manual. For all these reasons, be sure to check the expiration date of any car seat that you obtain or purchase.

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