

Kids, Cars & Heat!



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Informational Resources:

US Consumer Product
Safety Commission
www.cpsc.gov

American Academy of
Pediatrics
www.aap.org

Safe Kids Worldwide
www.safekids.org

Kids and Cars
www.kidsandcars.org

Dept of Agriculture, Trade
& Consumer Protection
www.datcp.state.wi.us

Leaving kids alone in & around cars can be dangerous for your child.

On average, 30 children die each year from being left in a car on a warm day. Parents often think that “cracking” the windows to let in air and still keep others out will be a good way to keep kids safe and cool. This is not true; many parents don’t realize that the car can reach deadly temperatures in a matter of minutes. For example, when the window is “cracked” and it is 93 degrees outside, the inside of the car can exceed 125 degrees in about 20 minutes and 140 degrees in about 40 minutes. This can be deadly because a child’s body temperature increases 3-5 times faster than an adult’s.

Children are also at risk outside the car. They like to play and hide around cars, and are not always easy to see. As a result, they are at risk of being backed over by a car.

Injury Facts

In the US (2002 - 2007):

- 1,173 children died because they were left alone in or around a car. Of these 1,173 deaths:
 - 16% were from heat
 - 44% were from a car backing over the child.
- In addition, over 9,100 children are treated in hospital emergency rooms.

In Wisconsin (1990-2006):

- 18 children have died when left alone in and around cars.

The Risks

If a child is left unattended they may:

- Be run over by a car
- Start the car and shift out of the park position.
- Be strangled by the seat belt.
- Become trapped and strangled in the window.
- Become trapped in the trunk.
- Be burned by the cigarette lighter.
- Be abducted from the vehicle.

Prevention Tips

- Never leave your child in an unattended car, even with the windows down.
- Make it a habit to check for sleeping babies before exiting the car.
- Keep cars locked at all times, even in the garage or driveway.
- Keep the trunk of your car locked at all times, especially when parked in the driveway or near the home.
- Check the temperature of the car seat surface and safety belt buckles with your hand before restraining your child in the car. If it too hot for you to touch, it is way too hot for your child.
- If your child gets locked inside a car, dial 9-1-1 or your local emergency number immediately.
- Keep fold-down seats closed to prevent kids from getting into the trunk.
- Put car keys out of children’s reach and sight.
- Teach children to never play in, around or behind a vehicle.
- Always have proper supervision of children when moving your vehicle.

