

kids aren't cargo FACT SHEET

Child Passengers at Risk in Pickup Trucks

Trucks are increasingly becoming a popular form of transportation for family travel. Occupant protection inside the cab is limited by a number of factors: space, number of safety belts, and the fact that pickup trucks are not required to meet all passenger car safety standards. Space limitations often lead drivers and/or parents to allow children to ride in the cargo area which puts them at risk for serious injury or even death.



Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Are Extended Cabs a Safe Option for Children?

Factors to consider when securing children in the rear seat of an extended cab pickup truck:

- Child restraints are designed for use on forward-facing seats and are not suitable for jumpseats.
- Jumpseats are too small to support the bases of child restraints.
- There may not be enough room between the front and back seats to allow for rear-facing child safety seats and the expected forward movement of a child's head in a crash.
- A narrow rear bench seat may make the child safety seat "hang over" the vehicle seat edge.



The Texas Law

"A person commits an offense if the person operates an open-bed pickup truck or an open flatbed truck or draws an open flatbed trailer when a child younger than 18 years of age is occupying the bed of the truck or trailer."

Sec. 545.414 Texas Vehicle and Traffic Laws

Did You Know?



Child safety seats must NOT be used in side facing jumpseats.



Children and teenagers account for more than half of the deaths of passengers riding in the bed of a truck.



Most non-collision deaths in a pickup truck bed are caused by swerving, braking or rough roads.



Children in covered pickup beds are exposed to carbon monoxide poisoning from exhaust.



The best practice is: **Buckle Everyone, Every Time, Every Trip!**

Pick Up On The Rules



Never let children ride in the bed of a pickup truck.



Never let passengers ride on the tailgate of a pickup truck.



Never let passengers ride in the bed of a pickup truck even if there is a covered bed.



Never let passengers of any age ride in the bed of a pickup truck.



CORRECT!

The bed of a pickup truck was designed to carry cargo!