

Shopping Cart Safety

It is more common than most people think for children to be hurt in shopping carts. These injuries can be severe or even deadly. Falls from shopping carts are among the leading causes of head injuries to young children.

Each year approximately 23,000 children are treated in hospital emergency departments for injuries from shopping carts. Most injuries are caused by falls from the cart or by the cart tipping over. Many injuries are to the head and neck.

Injuries result when children climb or fall out of shopping carts because the restraint system was not being used, children unbuckled or wiggled out of the restraint, or the restraint was missing. Falls from shopping carts most often occur when children stand up in the child seat or the cart basket.



To prevent falls from shopping carts:

- Use the seatbelts attached to the cart or an attachable safe restraint designed for use in the cart seat.
- Don't allow your child to ride in the cart basket.
- Never allow your child to ride or climb on the sides or front of the cart.
- Don't allow an older child to push the cart with another child in it.
- When possible, use carts with safer designs that allow children to ride closer to the ground (for example, in a small model car in front of the cart);

Additionally, the American Academy of Pediatrics suggests safer ideas for children while you shop:

- Get another adult to come with you to watch your child while you shop.
- Put your child in a stroller, wagon, or frontpack instead of in a shopping cart.
- Ask your older child to walk and praise him or her for behaving and staying near you.
- Leave your child at home with another adult while you shop.
- Shop online if your store offers shopping on the Internet.

If you have questions or need additional information, visit www.lexleeovertonlaw.com, email lexlee@lexleeovertonlaw.com or call 225.761.7272.