

Read your vehicle manual to see what type of seat belt system you have. If you have a switchable retractor, you may still need to use the locking clip. If you use a locking clip, do not use the switchable retractor also.

Some car seats have tray shields (large plastic bar that comes down over the child's head) and "T" shields (large "T" shaped plastic which buckles between the child's legs). These should be snug against the child without pressing. Read the manual on how to adjust them (if possible).

Most forward facing seats can be tethered. This top tether limits how far the child seat can move in a crash. If your seat can be tethered, you should use it properly. Consult you instructions.

BELT POSITIONING BOOSTER SEATS:

Booster seats are for children who have outgrown the harness system in their car seat but are still too small to properly fit the vehicle's seat belt system. A child usually uses a booster seat until they are at least 4'9" tall and 80 pounds. Booster seats are designed to be used **ONLY** with a lap and shoulder seat belt system. Some booster seats can use the top tether. Read all printed materials to find out if your child's booster seat should be tethered.

LATCH: LATCH is a three point tie-down system to use instead of the vehicle seat belt system. LATCH comes with new cars and new car seats. It is a design to make the installation of your child's car seat easier. To locate the lower anchors, consult the owner's manuals. The top tether will attach to the vehicle in a specific spot as well.

READ the manuals to locate your LATCH system.

THE LAW IN CONNECTICUT:

Connecticut State Law states that children **MUST** ride rear facing until they are at least one year old and weighing at least twenty (20) pounds.

The CT law also states that children must be in an approved child safety seat until they are over six years old (ages 7 and up) and weighing over sixty (60) pounds. If the child is using a booster seat, they must be secured with a lap and shoulder seat belt system.

The recommendations from National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is that children ride rear facing to the upper limits of their seat over one year old. These groups also recommend that a child is in a safety seat until at least four foot nine inches tall (4'9") and at least eighty (80) pounds.

RESOURCES: There is a great deal of information out there including friends, internet, booklets, and more. Be sure you are objective when considering any point of view. Please use a "Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician or Instructor" to check your child's safety seat.

www.CtSafeKids.Org or www.NHTSA.gov

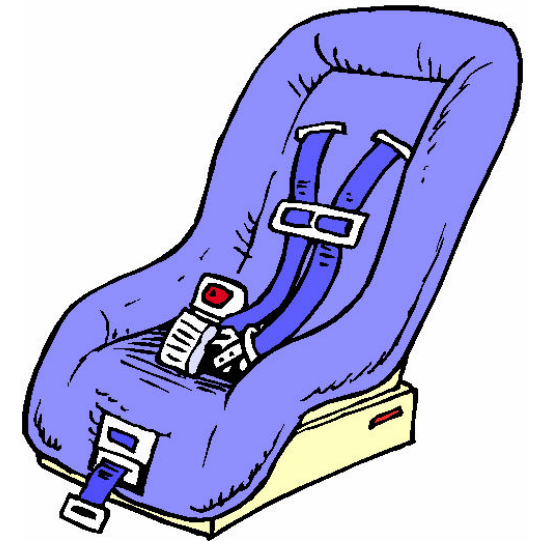


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CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY – HELPFUL HINTS ON INSTALLING YOUR CHILD'S CAR SEAT

Child Passenger Safety

More than 95% of all car seats are installed wrong. Is yours one of them?



WHAT TYPE OF SEAT DOES MY CHILD NEED?

This is probably the most popular question a car seat technician gets. The answer is fairly simple. You need a car seat that fits your child (be sure your child is within the height & weight limits of the seat for the proper direction it will be placed), fits in your vehicle and it is easy for you to use.

Another popular question is: Where is the safest place to put my child's seat? The generic answer is the middle seating position, if it fits. **READ** all instruction guides (car seat manual and the vehicle manual) for more information. The rear facing seat should not be wedged against the vehicle seat in front of the car seat. The seats can touch each other.

INFANTS: NEVER install a rear facing car seat in front of an active air bag! Children should ride rear facing until they are a minimum of one year old and at least 20 pounds. The longer they ride rear facing past these requirements, the safer they should be.

If your child is an infant (under one year old) you may want to use an infant seat. This style of car seat usually has a removable base. It can be very convenient for parents and caregivers. You may be able to purchase a second base for additional vehicles.

The other choice for your infant is a convertible seat. This style of car seat can be used rear facing or forward facing, depending on the height and weight of your child. Generally, these seats can not use the top tethers rear facing. **Read** all instructions.

Rear facing child installation:

When a child is rear facing in their car seat, the seat should be reclined from 30 - 45 degrees. Most seats have a level indicator to use as a guide.



While rear facing, the **harness straps** should go over the child's collar bone and into the car seat at or below shoulder level. The harness straps should be snug on the child – meaning that you can only place one finger between the harness strap and the child's collar bone. All harness straps should lay flat on the child's body.

The harness **retainer clip** (plastic buckle attached to the harness straps) should be placed at armpit level.

TODDLERS: Children can ride forward facing in the back seats once they are at least one year old **AND** 20 pounds. Of course, the longer they ride rear facing, the safer they may be.

Forward facing child installation:

When a child is forward facing in their car seat, the seat should be installed upright. Harness straps should be at or above shoulder level. **Read** the instructions for important information regarding this (some seats **MUST** use only the top slots). Infant seats **NEVER** get placed forward facing.

The **harness straps** should be snug on the child – meaning that you can only place one finger between the harness strap and the child's upper chest area.

The harness **retainer clip** (plastic buckle attached to the harness straps) should be placed at armpit level.

HOW TO INSTALL THE CAR SEAT INTO YOUR CAR

Be sure to find the right belt path for the direction you are placing the seat in the car. Some seats have more than one seat belt path. **READ** all instruction guides, including the vehicle manual for how to use your seat belt system.

A locking clip should never be placed on a lap only seat belt. A locking clip should never be placed more than one inch away from the latch plate (buckle). Not all seat belt systems need to use a locking clip.