

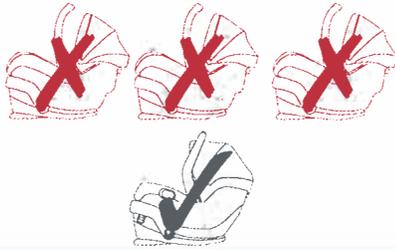
CAR SEAT SAFETY MATTERS

Be Informed! Make sure your child is in the appropriate car seat for their age and size.



BE THE RIGHT ONE

3 out of 4 car seats aren't used correctly*



SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Installation should be tight.**
The car seat should not move more than an inch side to side or front to back.
- Recline infant seat correctly.**
Children in rear-facing car seats usually reclined no more than 45°.
- Place chest clip at armpit level.**
Not too high or too low.
- No bulky clothing under harness.**
Too much padding can give a false sense of tightness.
- Use the seat correctly every ride.**
Don't rush. Take your time to install.
- Check installation often.**
Car seats get loose with use. Check before every ride.
- Use only manufacturer-approved products.**
After-market toys and accessories are not crash tested with car seats. Only buy products made for your car seat.
- Car seats expire.**
Check with the manufacturer. (Usual lifespan is 6 years unless it specifies)
- Store loose objects in trunk.**
Anything unrestrained in the vehicle can become a projectile.
- Always wear your seatbelt.**
Children are more likely to buckle up if you do.

YOUR CHILD'S CAR SEAT SAFETY = PROPER FIT & INSTALLATION WHEN FITTING A CAR SEAT CONSIDER THESE 5 STEPS.



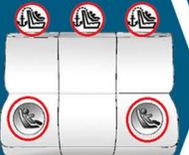
SELECTION FIND THE BEST CAR SEAT.

Choose the one that best fits your child, your vehicle, and that you can use correctly every time. By law children must be in a car seat until age 8 or 4'9"; meaning you can have a child who is over 8 years old and still in a car seat.



DIRECTION REAR-FACING IS SAFEST.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends keeping your child rear-facing until the age of 2 or longer if possible.



LOCATION TIGHT INSTALL EVERY TIME.

The safest seating position is one that works best for your specific car seat, family, and vehicle. When installing a car seat you cannot use the lower anchors and SEATBELT together. If you use lower anchors to install your car seat remember: **A) lower anchors** have designated seating positions. Check your vehicles owner's manual as to where those are. **B) When installing a car seat using lower anchors the child + seat cannot exceed 65 pounds.** Always use top tether when installing forward facing.



INSTALLATION READ MANUALS.

Read your vehicle and car seat manuals for proper use instructions. Always remember when installing a car seat it needs to be tight enough so you have no more than 1" movement at the belt path. Install rear-facing car seats at a 45° angle or according to manufacturer instructions. Check installation and angle after every ride as it can sometime become loose with use.



PROPER FIT POSITION HARNESS STRAPS PROPERLY.

A rear-facing car seat harness should be at or slightly below the child's shoulders. A forward-facing car seat harness should be at or slightly above the child's shoulders. Harness should be snug so that you cannot pull the strap from the body and pinch the fabric together. The straps should always be flat and untwisted. Use your car seat harness system to the max weight limit it allows.

BOOSTER SEATS

MN law says a child must be in a booster until age 8 or 4'9". If your child isn't using a booster, try the simple test below the next time you ride together in the car.

The 5-Step Test

1. Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

RESOURCES
buckleupkids.mn.gov

SAFE
K:IDS



*US Department of Transportation Statistic