

Infant and Child Safety

Infant Car Seats



Infant car seats save lives!

Infant-only car seats meet CMVSS 213.1 and they must always face the rear of the vehicle. They are for babies from birth to 9 or 10 kg (20 or 22 lb.), depending on the model. They will also have an upper height limit, ranging from 66 to 73.5 cm (26 to 29 in.).



Infants simply do not have the back and neck strength to travel facing forward. In the rear-facing position, the force of a crash or sudden stop is spread across the baby's body, and absorbed into the back of the car seat.

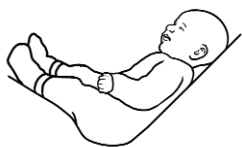
Using an infant car seat involves two main steps:

- harnessing your baby in the seat correctly
- putting the seat in your vehicle correctly

It is important that you always follow the instructions for your seat.

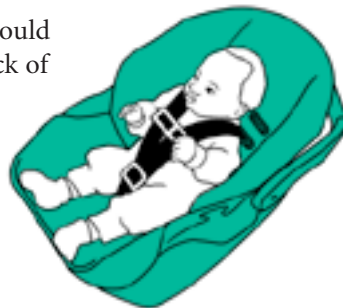
Harnessing Your Baby In The Seat:

Always check the seat's metal and plastic parts before putting your infant in the car seat. In warm weather, they can get very hot.

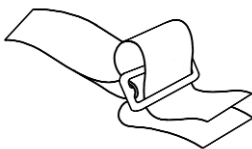


Baby's bottom and back should be flat against the car seat back.

The harness straps should come through the back of the infant seat at the level of, or slightly below, the baby's shoulders; never from above. The harness must be adjusted as the child grows, both for safety and comfort.

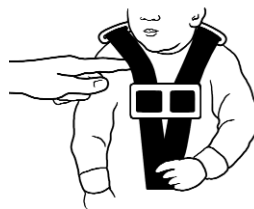


The harness straps must lie flat on the infant's body. Any twists or wrinkles will concentrate the crash forces.



All harness straps that adjust with a strap slide must be "doubled-back" to make sure that they do not slip. Any slipping will create excess slack, and may result in the strap coming undone.

The harness straps should fit snugly. Adjusted properly, you can get no more than one finger between the harness and the baby's collar bone.



Most infant seats come with a chest clip to prevent the harness straps from slipping off the shoulders. It should be placed level with the baby's armpits (at least 8 cm [3 in.] below a newborn's chin). Check your seat's instructions to make sure that you have it threaded correctly.



You can use a rolled diaper or small towel on either side of the baby's head and torso for support. Oversized clothing, bunting bags, sack sleepers etc. can interfere with the

correct use of the harness. If you want to use a blanket to keep your baby warm, harness her in the seat first, then put the blanket over her.

Putting The Seat In Your Vehicle:

The rear seat is a safer place for a child. The centre, rear position is preferred because it is furthest away from the point-of-impact from any direction.

Ideally, 80% of the base of the infant seat should be firmly supported by the vehicle seat.

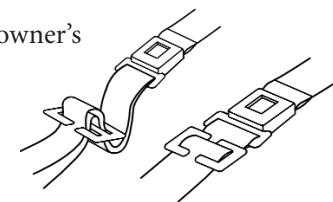
A rear-facing car seat must **not** be installed in a seating position that has an active **air bag**.

Check *your* seat's instructions to be sure that you have it reclined properly. A tightly rolled towel or a "pool noodle" may be placed under the infant seat to regain the correct angle.

Make sure that the infant seat is not reclined too steeply. The baby could slide upward, with force, into the harness straps and be injured, or could completely slide out of the seat.

Check your vehicle owner's manual for information on using your seat belts or Universal Anchorage System (UAS) to secure

an infant seat. Some lap/shoulder belts on older vehicles need a locking clip to prevent them from loosening.





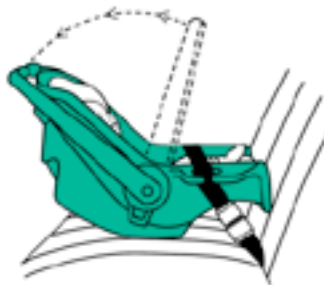
It is important that you put the vehicle seat belt through the proper path. Follow your seat's instructions.

Check to see that the seat belt or UAS is tight enough. This is a common mistake. When tightening the belt, push the infant seat down and into the upholstery. Then, pull the belt as tight as possible. There should be very little movement.



Some infant seats come with a base that can remain belted in the vehicle when you remove the car seat. A base may work better in some vehicles. Since the base remains in the vehicle, you do not have to adjust and tighten the seat belt or UAS every time you put the infant seat in the car. It is important to ensure that the restraint is properly attached to the base.

If your infant seat has a carry handle, it must be down when the seat is used in a vehicle. Some canopies must be down for vehicle use; check your seat's instructions.



It is time for your baby to come out of an infant-only seat when he is over the upper height limit **or** the upper weight limit given in your instructions. He should then go into a convertible car seat, used rear-facing, until it is safe for him to travel facing forward.

An infant who weighs 10 kg (22 lb.) **and** is 1 year old can go forward-facing. New models of convertible seats have been tested rear-facing to 13.6 or 16 kg (30 or 35 lb.) to accommodate heavier infants who are not yet ready to face forward.



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