

Car Safety

Child Car Seats

Your child must be in a car seat every time he travels in a car, no matter how short the trip.

Ensure your car seat has:

- a CMVSS label
- at least 2 sets of slots for shoulder harness straps and 2 sets for crotch straps



Infant seat, child seat or booster seat?

Step 1: Infant seat – Use from birth until your child reaches the seat’s weight limit.

Step 2: Rear-facing child seat – Use until your child is at least 1 year old **and** weighs at least 9 kg (20 lb).

Step 3: Forward-facing child seat – Use until your child weighs at least 18 kg (40 lb).

Step 4: Booster seat – Use until your child is 9 years old or 145 cm (4 feet 9 inches) tall.

Rear-facing or front-facing?

A rear-facing seat is safest for your child, and **must be used until he’s at least 1 year old and weighs at least 9 kg (20 lb)**. Continue to keep your child facing the back of the car – even if he has to fold his legs a bit – until he reaches the rear-facing weight limit of the seat or his head is within 2½ cm (1 inch) of the top of the seat. At that point, it’s time to either find another model that he can use rear-facing, or switch his current seat to face the front of the car.

New or used?

Second-hand seats aren’t recommended. If you do use one, inspect it carefully and check for recalls and for its expiration date. Don’t use a seat that’s been in a crash.

3-point or 5-point harness?

If possible, use a more-secure 5-point harness, which holds your child at his shoulders and hips.



DANGER

If an airbag inflates and hits your child’s seat, he could be seriously hurt or killed.

- Never place a rear-facing car seat where there’s an airbag.
- If you have to put your toddler in the front seat, turn off the airbag and put the seat as far back as it will go.
- Keep your toddler’s seat away from side airbags.



HOW TO Install a rear-facing car seat

1. Place it facing the back window in the back seat following the manufacturer’s instructions.
2. Tilt it back a maximum of 45°. If your child’s head falls forward, the seat needs to be tilted back more.
3. Secure the seat with its universal anchorage system or with the car’s seat belt. Check your car’s owner’s manual to see if you need to use a locking clip.



HOW TO Put your child in the car seat

1. Fasten the harness snugly so that only 1 finger fits between it and your child’s collarbone.
2. Raise the chest clip to your child’s underarms.
3. Ensure the harness straps are at his shoulders or slightly below. Raise the harness straps when his shoulders are level with the next highest slot.
4. Dress him in clothes that have sleeves and legs and aren’t too heavy.
5. If he needs a blanket, put it on after he’s strapped in.

General Car Safety



DID YOU KNOW

The safest place for your child in the car is the centre position of the back seat.

- ✓ Hold hands in the street and in parking lots.
- ✓ Use the appropriate car seat for your child, and wear your seat belt.
- ✓ Pull over and stop if you need to focus on your toddler.
- ✓ Remove any loose objects that could fly around and small objects that could roll under the brake pedal.
- ✓ Put pets in carriers or behind screens.
- ✓ Lock power windows.
- ✓ Before raising or lowering windows, check that your toddler's fingers, head and arms are inside.
- ✗ Never leave your toddler alone in a car, even for a few minutes. Your child can quickly get too hot if left in a parked car, and this can cause serious injury or even death.
- ✗ Never leave your child alone when he's sleeping in a car seat – in or out of the car.
- ✗ Don't place your child in his car seat on a counter, on the car or on any raised surface.
- ✗ Don't drive while texting or talking on your phone.

