



Convertible Car Seats

Convertible Car Seat Rules

- Rear-facing car seats are safest. Select a model with a higher weight limit (40 to 50 lbs.) and keep your child rear-facing for as long as possible. Children must ride rear facing until age 2, but the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends they remain in a rear-facing car seat until the child reaches the upper weight limit of the car seat.
- **Rear Facing:** Keep the harness straps at or below the shoulders.
- A recline is needed for newborns and infants while rearfacing. Read the owner's manual for the recline indicator on the side of the car seat.
- Make sure you use the correct seat belt path or lower anchors (LATCH) intended for rear-facing car seats.
- Children should be in a forward-facing car seat when they reach the weight limit for rear-facing car seat, or if the top of their head is within an inch of the top of the shell of the car seat.
- **Forward Facing:** Keep the harness straps at or above the shoulders.
- Some models require the use of top harness slots while front-facing. Check the owner's manual.
- Frontfacing car seats that sit upright with no recline are the best choice, unless the manufacturer's instructions indicate otherwise.
- The combined weight limit for LATCH is 65 lbs., (child's weight plus the weight of the car seat) for most vehicles. Check the vehicle's owner's manual. If child and car seat weigh more than 65 lbs., please use the vehicle seat belt.
- Tethers (the strap behind the car seat by the child's head) should always be used for forward-facing seats.
- **All Car Seats:** Keep chest clip at armpit level, not on the neck or tummy.
- There should be no twists or folds in the harnesses, or seat belt / LATCH systems.
- The center seat is the safest place for car seats, but only if it can be properly installed in that location.
- Make sure that the harness fits snugly enough on your child, that you can't pinch any webbing at the shoulder. The car seat fits tight in your vehicle, and that your vehicle seatbelts or lower anchors are locked properly. The car seat should not move more than 1 inch from side to side or front to back.
- Thoroughly read the owner's manuals for your vehicle and car seat.
- Avoid used car seats, expired car seats or those with an unknown history that may have been in a crash. Do not use a car seat that shows any form of cracks or damage, or those with missing labels, model number, manufacturing date, instructions or parts.