



Buckle Up for Life

How to Install Car Seats in Vehicles Older Than 2002 Model Years

Proper Car Seat Installation

USE THE PROPER SEAT BELT SLOTS ON THE CHILD SAFETY SEAT.

Each seat has at least one correct way for the belt to go. Follow the safety seat manufacturer's instructions.

- With a few exceptions, Rear-facing safety seats may route the vehicle seat belt over or under the child's feet or lap, while others route it through a detachable base.
- Most child safety seats used in the forward-facing position route the vehicle seat belt through slots at the back of the seat.

FASTEN THE CHILD SAFETY SEAT TIGHTLY.

Push the child safety seat down firmly into the vehicle seat while tightening the vehicle seat belt around the child safety seat. For a small person, it may help to push down on the seat with your knee.

TEST HOW TIGHTLY THE VEHICLE SEAT BELT IS HOLDING THE CHILD SAFETY SEAT.

A seat should not move more than an inch from side to side (or from the back of the vehicle seat) when rear- or forward-facing.

IN SOME SMALL CARS, A CONVERTIBLE SEAT IN THE REAR-FACING POSITION MAY REST AGAINST THE BACK OF THE FRONT SEAT.

As long as the safety seat is at the proper angle, this is a safe position. (The back of Evenflo infant seats should not touch the back of the front vehicle seat.)

PLACE A CONVERTIBLE SEAT IN THE FORWARD-FACING POSITION SO THAT IT SITS UPRIGHT.

(follow manufacturer's instructions)

SOME VEHICLE SEAT BELTS CAUSE THE SEAT TO BECOME LOOSE UNLESS SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN.

Certain vehicles, because of the shape of the seats or how the vehicle seat belts are placed, make fastening a child safety seat tightly nearly impossible.

PLACE AN INFANT SEAT OR REAR-FACING CONVERTIBLE SEAT SO THAT YOUR BABY IS RECLINING ABOUT HALFWAY-AT ABOUT A SEMI-RECLINED ANGLE.

(follow manufacturer's instructions)

This helps to support an infant's heavy head and weak neck and maintain an open airway. For passenger comfort, the seats of many vehicles slope down toward the back of the seat. This causes a rear-facing seat to tilt too far upright. Many seats have a way to adjust the recline position of the seat and an indicator to show if the recline angle is correct. If your seat does not have a recline adjuster, a tightly rolled bath towel or a pool noodle cut to size and placed under the front of the safety seat, where the vehicle seat and seat-back meet, will help keep the baby in the proper position. Do not tilt the seat back more than 45 degrees.

READ YOUR VEHICLE OWNER'S MANUAL TO FIND OUT IF YOU WILL NEED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- A regular locking clip that comes with all safety seats
- A heavy-duty or belt-shortening clip that can be purchased at Ford dealers
- An additional buckle or belt
- A change in the way the vehicle seat belt works (it might work one way for a passenger but differently for a child safety seat)

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For more information and to view a car seat installation video in English or in Spanish, visit, BuckleUpforLife.org