

Child car safety seat installation tips

1. Securing the child safety seat

Always install the seat tightly, using your body weight to tighten and fasten the seatbelt or the Universal Anchorage System (UAS). There should be no more than 2.5 cm (1") of movement of the seat from side to side or forward where the seat belt or UAS is routed through the base. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Only use seat belt or UAS, not both.



2. Tether straps with forward-facing safety seats

Tether straps (usually located on the rear of the child safety seat) must be used for forward-facing child safety seats. Ensure the tether is secured to an anchor point in the vehicle that is specified for this purpose. Check the vehicle owner's manual to be sure. If there is no anchor available, see your vehicle dealership to get one installed.



3. Using Universal Anchorage System (UAS)

All new Canadian vehicles manufactured on or after September 1, 2002 come with lower universal anchorage points. Consult the vehicle owner's manual before using the UAS system to determine where the anchorage points are located and ensure that the child safety seat manufacturer's instructions are also followed.



4. Using locking clips

If a vehicle seat belt does not have a lock in the retractor or the buckle system, a locking clip may need to be used. Install the locking clip on the seatbelt within 13 mm (1/2 inch) of the latch plate. Consult your vehicle's owner's manual to see if you need one.



5. Using harness slots

Make sure the harness straps are fed through the correct child safety seat slots by checking the child safety seat manual. Rear-facing child safety seat harness straps should sit at or below the child's shoulders. Forward-facing child safety seat harness straps should sit at or above the child's shoulders.



6. Securing your child in the harness

Ensure harness straps lie flat and they do not twist or fold. For infants you should only be able to fit one finger between the harness and the collar bone. For a child that is forward-facing, adjust the harness so that one finger can fit between the child's chest and the harness. Chest clip should be at armpit level.



7. Installing away from active air bags

Always install child safety seats away from active front air bags. The safest place for children younger than 13 years of age is in the back seat of the vehicle.



8. Installing rear-facing child safety seat on a proper angle

Infant child safety seats should face the back of the vehicle seat and rest on a 45-degree angle. If necessary, use a tightly rolled towel or a foam bar (pool noodle) under the front of the base of the child car seat to adjust the angle. Eighty per cent of the child car seat must be supported by the vehicle seat.



9. Booster seats

Booster seats raise a child up so that the adult seatbelt works effectively. A lap and shoulder belt combination must be used with all booster seats. Your child's head must be supported by the top of the booster, vehicle seat or headrest. The shoulder strap must lie across your child's shoulder and the middle of their chest and the lap belt must cross low over the hips.



10. Check for the safety label

All child safety seats manufactured for sale in Canada must have a Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (CMVSS) label or statement of compliance on the seat. Also check your child safety seat for an expiry date. If there is no expiry date, do not use a seat that is older than 10 years from the date of manufacture. Child safety seats without this label or compliance statement do not meet CMVSS requirements.



For more information on child car seat safety visit:

www.mto.gov.on.ca

