



CAR SEAT SAFETY

What is the best car seat to use?

- 1) One that fits your child – car seats are designed for children of different ages, weights and seated heights. Pay careful attention to weight limits on seat. The seat will not protect your child once they exceed the weight limit on the car seat.
- 2) One that fits your car – car seats fit differently in many models of cars and trucks. The shape of the vehicle seat, the seat belt system and the size of the car seat will affect how well the car seat can be installed.
- 3) One that you will use correctly ALWAYS – the car seats have many different features. All car seats must meet the same federal testing standard. The most expensive car seat may not be the best choice for you. It is important to buy a car seat that works best for you, your child and your vehicle.

Always Remember:

- **NEVER** place a rear facing car seat in front of an air bag! This can cause death or severe injury! Babies need to ride rear facing until at least 12 months of age and must weigh 20 pounds. Both benchmarks need to be in place before they can be turned forward facing.
- Harness fit is important. Retainer clips should be at armpit level. Straps should be snug; you should **NOT** be able to pinch any slack. Use lower shoulder slots for rear facing car seats. Use upper shoulder slots for forward facing car seats.
- Place blankets over the straps, not under them.
- Make sure the seat belt holds the car seat tightly and straps are snug.
- Before changing your child forward in the car seat, check with your physician to ensure the child is physically ready. All children develop differently.
- Read the instructions that come with your car seat. They will help you use the cars seat correctly.

Be careful in using used car seats. They may have cracks, sun damage or missing parts. The average life of a car seat is approximately 5 years.

Car seats and seat belts that have been involved in car accidents should be replaced. Contact your insurance company about replacing these items.