

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF ALL CAR SEAT TYPES

- Safety seats should be firmly installed. To test, grasp and tug the seat where it is connected at the belt path or near lower anchors. The seat should not move more than one inch side to side, forward and backward.
- Harness straps should lie flat and snug against the child's body with no slack in the webbing.
- The chest clip should be placed at armpit level.

Car Seat Use After a Crash

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration recommends that car seats be replaced following a moderate or severe crash in order to ensure a continued high level of crash protection for child passengers. Go to www.safercar.gov/parents for further information or consult your car seat owner's manual.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Go to www.chp.ca.gov, Programs & Services, or contact your local California Highway Patrol (CHP) office for assistance with the installation of your child passenger restraint system.

The CHP Also Offers the Following:

- Child Safety Seat Check-Up Events.
- Traffic Safety Presentations.
- Disposal of Child Safety Seats at CHP offices.

IT'S THE LAW

California law states that each child SHALL be properly restrained in a child safety seat, booster seat, or other restraint system in the back seat until the child is eight years old OR at least 4'9" in height.

California law, effective January 1, 2017, states that children under two years of age shall ride rear-facing.

Why Ride Rear Facing?

The car seat law was changed to reflect what studies have shown for years. The American Academy of Pediatrics found that children under two years of age are 75 percent less likely to die or to be severely injured in a traffic collision if they are rear-facing. "A rear-facing child safety seat does a better job of supporting the head, neck, and spine of infants and toddlers in a crash because it distributes the force of the collision over the entire body."

Seat Belt Safety Starts With Good Role Models

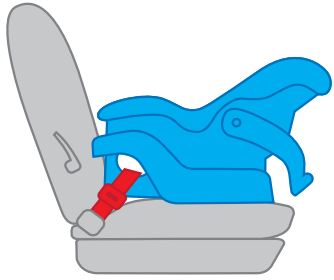
Children imitate adults. Be a good example by wearing your seat belt consistently and without exception. Start a lifelong habit with baby's first ride. Insist the vehicle will not move until everyone in the car is buckled up.



CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAWS & GUIDELINES



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REAR-FACING CAR SEATS

Newborns and Toddlers

CALIFORNIA LAW EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017: Children under two years of age shall ride rear-facing. Exceptions: the child is over 40 pounds or over 40 inches in height.

- Rear-Facing Only Seats (Infant Only)—Should only be used in a rear-facing position.
- Convertible Car Seat—A convertible car seat can be used in both rear-facing and change to a forward-facing position as the child grows.
- Rear-facing car seats should be placed in the back seat of a vehicle.
- NEVER place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active airbag.
- Placing newborns and toddlers in seats that are rear-facing is 5 times safer than forward-facing seats. Children are safer staying rear-facing, until they reach the upper height and weight limits of their particular car seat.
- Harness straps should be at or below the child's shoulders.



FORWARD-FACING CAR SEATS (WITH A HARNESS)

Young Children

Three car seat options are available—convertible, combination, and safety harness:

- Convertible Car Seat—Most can be used rear-facing past two years of age, and can be turned around to a forward-facing position to accommodate a growing child. (Refer to manufacturer guidelines for exact weight and height limits).
- Combination Car Seat—Can be used as a forward-facing car seat and adapted to a booster seat as the child grows. Harness straps should be at or above the child's shoulders.
- Safety harnesses are an acceptable alternative to a booster seat. Check the labels to confirm it meets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.



BELT-POSITIONING BOOSTER CAR SEAT

Older Children

According to California law, children are required to be properly secured in an appropriate child passenger restraint (booster seat) until their eighth birthday or they reach 4'9" in height.

Booster seats are designed to raise the child up to allow proper fit of the adult lap and shoulder belt.

ADULT SEAT BELT

Children are permitted to use a seat belt when they have passed their eighth birthday; however, the seat belt should be checked for proper fit. The child should be able to sit all the way back in the vehicle seat, with knees bending comfortably over the edge of the seat, the shoulder portion of the belt laying across the collar bone and chest, and the lap belt low on the hips across the tops of the thighs. The child must be able to stay seated properly for the entire trip.