



- Before you even start to shop, check your vehicle owner's manual for specifications and proper placement of the child seat.
- Check with your state DOT for any regulations concerning the upper age/weight limit for children requiring a car or booster seat.
- Buy a seat that is versatile. For example, a seat with a large base will not fit in smaller vehicles. Choose one with a narrow base to accommodate all vehicle sizes.
- Check for clear installation instructions on the seat itself - a diagram as well as text is more helpful. Instructions should be written in a clear, concise manner with proper illustrations.
- Make sure the child's seat belt path is easily accessible
- A great alternative to the traditional locking clips are built-in locking clips. There is less of a chance that a built-in clip will break or detach.
- Choose two-piece retainer clips to help the child stay securely in the seat.
- Accessible harness adjusters make it easier and more convenient for parents to move the child in and out of the seat.
- Note the weight limit, which is usually printed on the seat. For infants, it is best to use a rear-facing, convertible seat with a weight limit up to 30 pounds.
- Many brands offer color-coding to signify age and weight ranges for their seats.
- Seats made with a smooth fabric are easier to clean than textured fabric.
- Do not purchase a car seat second hand.