


ALWAYS REMEMBER...

- Put your child in a safety seat every time you travel – even on short trips.
- Safety experts recommend that all children under 13 ride in the back seat.
- Never hold a child on your lap while riding in either the front or back seat.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for correct safety seat installation.
- The center rear seat is the safest place in the car.
- Use the car's seat belt or the LATCH system (detailed in vehicle owner's manual) to anchor the child safety seat to the car.
- Make sure the safety seat's harness fits snugly.
- Tether straps greatly reduce head injury. If your seat is equipped with a tether, refer to your vehicle owner's manual for the location of the anchor hook-up for the tether strap.
- Set a good example by wearing your seat belt every time you travel. All drivers and front seat passengers must wear a seat belt in New Jersey. It's the law.
- A lap and shoulder belt system restrains the upper body and head from forward movement better than a lap belt only.
- Studies show that when children are buckled up correctly, they are less likely to be injured during a crash.
- Never use a child safety seat that has been in a crash. Obtain a new child safety seat.
- Use only federally approved child safety seats that are less than 6 years old.



NEW JERSEY LAW REQUIRES

- Children under age 8 who weigh less than 80 pounds must ride in a child safety or booster seat in the rear seat of the vehicle. If there is no back seat, the child must sit in the front seat secured by a child safety or booster seat. ***NOTE*** Never install a child safety seat in the front seat with a passenger side airbag without knowing all the warnings. For important information about airbags and child safety seats, go to www.njsaferoads.com, click on the child safety seat icon , and then click on child passenger safety law.
- Once a child reaches either of these milestones, age 8 or 80 lbs., s/he must wear a seat belt anywhere in the vehicle.
- Passengers ages 8 to 18 (regardless of weight) must wear a seat belt when riding in a vehicle.
- Motorists in violation of the law (Title 39:3-76.2a) can be stopped by police and issued a summons.

4 STEPS FOR KIDS



ARE YOU USING YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY SEAT CORRECTLY?



LEARN THE FOUR STEPS



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Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for children over the age of six months in the United States. The proper use of child safety seats is one of the simplest and most effective methods available for protecting the lives of our young children in the event of a motor vehicle crash. It is also effective in preventing injury and reducing the need for hospitalization.

Please make sure that children are properly protected while traveling in a motor vehicle. Only the correct use of child safety seats will offer optimal protection.

The “right” seat for your child is largely a matter of personal choice. Choose a seat that fits your child and your car, read the instructions carefully, and use the seat correctly every trip. There are many different models of child safety seats on the market today. Each one must meet federal safety standards and all provide good protection for your child when used correctly. Both state and national studies show that many child safety seats are used or installed improperly. It’s important for all parents and persons who transport children to read the child safety seat manufacturer’s instructions, as well as the vehicle owner’s manual for proper use and installation. This brochure is designed to help you learn about child passenger safety and how to get additional information if needed.

PURCHASE AND INSTALL

*** 3 WEEKS ***





BEFORE YOUR DUE DATE

Remember, adults should wear seat belts, too. Set an example for the children in your car. When you’re an expectant mother, it’s important to always wear your seat belt to protect you and your unborn child. Wear the lap belt across your hips and below your belly with the shoulder belt across your chest (between your breasts). Plan on having your child safety seat (infant seat) installed in your vehicle at least three weeks before your baby’s due date. Follow the four-step process to ensure your child is restrained safely and properly.


GROWING UP SAFE: It’s a four step-process.

As children grow, how they sit in your car, truck or SUV should change.


Save your child from injury or death by observing all four steps:

- 1 REAR-FACING SEATS**  For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until age 1 **and** at least 20 pounds.
- 2 FORWARD-FACING SEATS**  When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at least age 1 **and** 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).
- 3 BOOSTER SEATS**  Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4’9” tall).
- 4 SEAT BELTS**  When children outgrow their booster seats (usually at age 8 or when they are 4’9” tall) they can use the adult seat belt in the back seat, if it fits properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest).

GET HELP!

ON THE WEB: Go to www.njsaferoads.com and click on the child safety seat icon . The site includes child safety seat installation tips, product ratings, recalls and other useful information.

BY PHONE: For more information about child safety seats, booster seats, inspection/fitting stations in your area, seat belts, air bags, and other highway safety issues, call the DOT Vehicle Safety Hotline at: 1-888-327-4236.

NEAR YOU: A certified child passenger safety technician can check your child’s safety seat and answer any questions you may have. To find a technician or an inspection station near you, go to www.njsaferoads.com, click on the child safety seat icon , and then click on the Seat Check Schedule link.