

DON'T SKIP A STEP

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY: DO YOUR PART

- Always buckle up.
- Pay attention behind the wheel.
- Car seats must be properly installed to prevent injuries.
- Follow the car seat instruction manual for correct installation.
- Follow the motor vehicle owner's manual to determine the safest seating position for every occupant.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Car seat is not secured tightly enough — should not shift more than one inch side to side or front to back.
- Harness is not snug against the child.
- Retainer clip is too high or too low — should be at the child's armpit level.
- Child is in the wrong seat or facing the wrong direction for the child's height and weight.

AIRBAGS

- Airbags are designed to work with seat belts to keep occupants in a safe position during a crash — airbags are not effective when the occupant is not belted.
- It's recommended to keep your child in the back seat until age 13 to avoid airbag injuries.

SEAT BELT SAFETY

- In a crash, unbelted occupants can slam into and injure other occupants — make sure everyone buckles up in every seating position, every time you drive.
- Wear the lap belt low and snug across the hips and the shoulder strap across the chest. Never tuck the shoulder belt under the arm or behind the back — not only is this unsafe, it's illegal.

PREGNANCY AND SEAT BELTS

- Pregnant women should wear the lap belt snugly under the stomach, as low on the hips as possible and against the upper thighs.

BUCKLE UP AND OBEY THE LAW

MINNESOTA SEAT BELT LAW

Minnesota's seat belt law says that drivers and passengers in all seating positions must buckle up or be in the correct child safety seat. A seat belt ticket can cost more than \$100.

MINNESOTA CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW

When transporting a child who is under age 8 or shorter than 4 feet 9 inches, use a child restraint that is appropriate for the child's height and weight.



Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Office of Traffic Safety

buckleupkids.dps.mn.gov

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DON'T SKIP A STEP

A GUIDE FOR CAR SEATS
AND SEAT BELTS FOR CHILDREN

DON'T SKIP A STEP: FOUR OUT OF FIVE CAR SEATS ARE USED INCORRECTLY

Find car seat installation videos, inspection locations and more at buckleupkids.dps.mn.gov



REAR-FACING SEAT (INFANTS AND TODDLERS)

- All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat until they have reached the height and weight limits allowed by the car seat manufacturer.
- Adjust the harness according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Rear-facing seats should be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. If a car seat must be used in the front seat, airbags must be turned off.
- It is safest to keep children rear-facing up to the maximum weight limit of the car seat.



FORWARD-FACING SEAT WITH HARNESS (TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS)

- Children who have reached the height and weight limits of the rear-facing car seat should use a forward-facing seat with harness until they reach the weight limit of the harness allowed by the car seat manufacturer.
- Adjust the harness according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Follow the vehicle owner's instruction manual when using the top tether and lower anchors in the vehicle. Weight limits for lower anchors can be different in vehicles.



BOOSTER SEAT (SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN)

- School-age children who have reached the height and weight limits of the forward-facing seat should sit on a booster seat.
- Booster seats keep the lap belt positioned low on the child's hips and the shoulder belt across the chest.
- High-back and no-back booster seats must be used with a lap and shoulder belt.
- It is recommended to keep a child in a booster seat based on height rather than age.



SEAT BELT (OLDER CHILDREN)

- Children at least 8 years old or have reached 4 feet 9 inches tall should wear a seat belt.
- It is recommended to keep your child in the back seat until age 13.
- The back seat is always the safest place for your child to sit.
- A child is ready for a seat belt when they can sit with their back against the vehicle seat, knees bent comfortably over the edge of the vehicle seat without slouching, and feet touching the floor.

ALWAYS READ YOUR CAR SEAT AND VEHICLE OWNERS' MANUALS FOR PROPER INSTALLATION