

Connecticut State Police

T I P S

Topics in Public Safety

CAR SEAT SAFETY

Connecticut law is specific about keeping children safe when traveling in cars. The State Police reminds motorists that they should follow the law in order to avoid tragedies on our roads.

Both new and experienced parents are strongly urged to always read the child safety seat instruction manual and the vehicle owner's manual regarding specific instructions on the proper use and installation of child safety seats. Drivers are reminded that the safest place for all children under the age of 12 is in the back seat.

As of October 1, 2005, a new state law requires children up to age six or weighing 60 pounds to be restrained in an approved car seat or booster seat. Child passengers seven or older or weighing more than 60 pounds must use safety belts.

Rear-Facing Infant Seats



These seats are designed for infants from birth to 12 months old, weighing up to 20 pounds.

Face these seats toward the rear only, keep the carrying handle down, recline the seat to a 45-degree angle, harness straps at or below the infant's shoulders and harness chest clip at armpit level.

An infant's head should remain at least two inches below the top of the child seat. If the infant is tall but not 20 pounds, or if the infant weighs more than 20 pounds but is not one year old, move the infant into a convertible seat facing the rear. Adjust harness straps at or below infant's shoulders and chest clip at infant's armpit level.



Convertible Seats

These seats are designed to be used forward facing for children from 20 to 40 pounds and more than a year old. Harness straps should be at or above child's shoulders and the harness chest clip should be at a child's armpit level.



High Back Booster Seat with 5-point Harness

These seats are recommended for use by children 20-40 pounds, when used with a harness. Straps should be at or above the child's shoulder and the chest clip should be at the child's armpit level. When the child is 40 pounds, the harness may be removed and the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt may be used.



Belt-Positioning Booster Seats

Styles of these seats include high back, no back and base only. They are used with an adult lap and shoulder belt. These seats should be used for children up to 60 pounds and six years old.



The shoulder belt goes across the chest, resting snugly on the shoulder, and the lap belt rests low across the upper thighs. Never put shoulder belts under arms or behind backs. The vehicle seat back cushion should not be above the ear level of the child.



Compliments of:

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