

Quick Checklist for Safety Seat Misuse

Check for these common and dangerous mistakes:

- 1. Child not using the safety seat or sitting in the seat without using the harness.
- 2. Baby facing the front of the car. Children should face the rear until at least age 2.
- 3. Rear-facing child riding in front seat of car with passenger air bag. Air bags are fatal for infants!
- 4. Toddler or older child riding in front. If car has passenger air bag and back seat is full, slide front seat back as far as possible, adjust shoulder straps snugly, make sure child does not lean forward.
- 5. Too many people in the car. There must be one safety belt per person.

Car seat problems:

- 6. Unsafe used seat (rusty, cracked, broken, bent, over 5-10 years old, involved in crash or not known).
- 7. Child too big for seat (weight above maximum per instructions or head not supported).
- 8. Child too small or too young for seat (shield in front of infant's face or neck; 2-year-old in booster).
- 9. Harness straps threaded incorrectly (check instructions) or too loose (should not be able to pinch a fold in the strap between the thumb and finger).
- 10. Harness straps on the arms or under the arms (straps must go over the shoulders).
- 11. Buckle not attached. Listen for the "click."

Installation problems:

- 12. Safety seat attached to car incorrectly. Check manuals for car seat and vehicle.
- 13. Loose installation (should not move more than 1" when pushed toward front of car or sideways).
- 14. Older child using safety belt incorrectly. Use a booster for safe belt fit and child's comfort.
- 15. Booster used with only a lap belt (lap-shoulder belt must be used).

Important: This is a partial list designed to help parents, drivers, and law enforcement officers recognize obvious misuse. It is not to be used as the basis of a detailed inspection.

How to find out more about keeping your child safe in the car

Nine out of ten of the car seats inspected at checkups have something wrong, and some of the problems could cause serious injuries to the child. Read the manufacturer's instruction booklet carefully to make sure you are using your seat correctly. To order the instruction booklet or to find out if your seat is covered by a recall, call the company that made the seat. Most recalled seats can be fixed by ordering free replacement parts from the manufacturer. When you call, have the seat in front of you so you can describe it. Look for the label stuck to the side or back of the seat and write down the following information:

Manufacturer _____ Model name and # _____ Date made _____

Contact information for some major car seat companies:

Britax 888-427-4829 www.britaxusa.com	Chicco 717-735-6200 www.chiccousa.com	Combi 800-992-6624 www.combi-intl.com	Mia Moda 866-642-6632 www.miamodainc.com
Dorel Juvenile Group 800-544-1108 www.djgusa.com	Evenflo Company 800-233-5921 www.evenflo.com	Graco 800-345-4109 www.gracobaby.com	Learning Curve 888-899-2229 www.learningcurve.com
Peg Perego U.S.A. 800-671-1701 www.perego.com	Recaro 248-364-3818 www.recaro-nao.com	Sunshine Kids 888-336-7909 www.skjp.com	Team-Tex America 877-912-1313 www.tta-kids.com

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. P.O. Box 553, Altadena, CA 91003 www.carseat.org
310/222-6860, 800/745-SAFE (English) 310/222-6862, 800/747-SANO (Spanish)

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#75 (9-13-09)