

Your Child's Safety Seat/Belt



Remember that not all seats fit all cars.

Please follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding installation. To make sure your child's safety seat is appropriate and correctly installed, have it inspected. For inspection information, call the San Diego Safe Kids Coalition or Buckle Up San Diego.

Turn over for photos.

A. Infants under 1 year old and less than 20 pounds

- Never put an infant in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag.
- The infant must ride in the back seat facing the rear of the vehicle. This offers the best protection for the infant's neck.
- Put harness straps in *lower* slots at or below shoulder level. Keep straps snug, and fasten harness clip at armpit level.
- Put safety seat carrying handle down.
- Recline a rear-facing seat at a 45-degree angle. (A firmly rolled-up towel under the seat may help.)

C. Children between 40-80 pounds

- Never put a child in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag.
- Children 40-80 pounds should be in belt-positioning booster seats. These kids are too small to fit correctly in adult safety belts alone.
- The booster seat makes lap and shoulder belts fit correctly: low over hips and upper thighs and snug over the center of the shoulder, not across the neck or face.
- Booster seats must be used with both lap and shoulder belts.

B. Children over 1 year old and 20-40 pounds

- Never put a child in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag.
- Children who are over age one and between 20 and 40 pounds can be in forward-facing seats.
- Put harness straps in the *upper* slots at or above the shoulder level.
- Fasten harness clip at the armpit level and keep straps snug.
- Place car seat in the upright position.

D. Kids who are over 4 feet 8 inches tall and 80 pounds

- Children under 12 should not ride in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag.
- To fit correctly in a safety belt, kids must be tall enough to sit with knees bent at the edge of the seat without slouching.
- Never put shoulder belts under kids' arms or behind their backs.
- The lap and shoulder belts should fit low over hips and upper thighs and snug over the center of the shoulder.

Inspection places and additional information on child safety seats/booster seats.

Safe Kids Coalition

Call.....858-576-1700
ext. 5704

San Diego Police Department

Call.....858-495-7822

Recall Information

To find out if a child safety seat has been recalled by the manufacturer

Buckle Up San Diego

Call.....619-758-9009

Safety-Belt Safe

Call.....1-800-745-SAFE
(English)
1-800-747-SANO
(Spanish)

U.S. Auto Safety Hotline

Call.....1-800-424-9393

Or visit:

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

The ABCD's of Child Safety Seats

What are the 3 most common errors made when installing safety seats?

1. The child safety seat is not securely fastened in place. You should not be able to move the safety seat more than one inch from side to side. **Turn over for installation information.**
2. Harness straps are not adjusted properly to hold the child securely in place. The straps on the chest should hold the child snugly, not too tightly or loosely.
3. The seat is not appropriate for age and/or weight of the child.

What is the most appropriate safety seat/belt for your child?

A. Infants until at least 1 year old **AND** at least 20 pounds should be in rear-facing car seats.



B. Kids over 1 year old **AND** between 20-40 pounds can be in forward-facing car seats.



C. Kids between 40-80 pounds (usually 4 to 8 years old) should be in booster seats.



D. Children who are over 4 feet 8 inches tall **AND** at least 80 pounds can fit correctly in lap/shoulder belts.

