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Products

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FAQs

[Recalls and Safety](#)

[Notifications](#)

[Product Registration](#)

[Product Instructions](#)

[Care & Maintenance](#)

[Order Parts](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[About Graco](#)

Customer & Product Support

Frequently Asked Questions

Car Seats

- [Are all Graco bases LATCH compatible?](#)
- [Can I purchase additional bases for my infant seat?](#)
- [Can I use a locking clip with the TurboBooster® car seat?](#)
- [Can I use a tether or the LATCH with my TurboBooster car seat?](#)
- [Can I use LATCH in the center position of my vehicle seat?](#)
- [Can I use my car seat on an airplane?](#)
- [Can I use the harness tie from a different car seat on my child's car seat?](#)
- [Does your company have a compatibility list between car seats and types of cars?](#)
- [How can I tell if my car seat is installed tightly enough?](#)
- [How do I assemble my Graco CarGo™ booster seat harness?](#)
- [How do I know which Harness/Shield System is the safest?](#)
- [How do I re-assemble my booster car seat harness straps?](#)
- [How do I re-assemble my convertible car seat five-point harness straps?](#)
- [How do I re-assemble my convertible car seat overhead shield harness straps?](#)
- [How do I re-assemble my infant car seat?](#)
- [How do I use a locking clip with a car seat?](#)
- [How should I adjust the harness straps on my child's car seat to accommodate bulky winter clothing in cold weather?](#)
- [I have a Graco infant seat that is not LATCH equipped \(did not come with a LATCH belt\). Can I use it with a Graco infant seat base that is LATCH equipped?](#)
- [I have an infant carrier. Can it be used as a car seat too?](#)
- [I only have lap belts in the back seat of my car. Do you make a seat that will work with lap belts only?](#)
- [I own a Convertible Car Seat. Why does the instruction booklet say that the harness straps must only be in the top slots when facing forward?](#)
- [I was recently in an accident. Do I have to replace my child's car seat? There doesn't appear to be any damage.](#)

- [Is my car seat properly installed?](#)
- [My child has exceeded either the weight or height limit of the SnugRide car seat, but not both, can I continue to use the seat?](#)
- [My child is within the height and weight requirements of the car seat I bought, but the harness straps seem short. What can I do?](#)
- [My owner's manual states to regularly inspect my car seat. What should I be looking for?](#)
- [What are the child passenger safety laws in my state?](#)
- [What are the size limits for my SnugRide infant car seat/carrier?](#)
- [What base can I use with my Graco infant car seat?](#)
- [What if my vehicle head rest interferes with the back of the TurboBooster car seat?](#)
- [What if the child moves the shoulder belt under his arm or behind his back when in the TurboBooster car seat?](#)
- [What if the TurboBooster car seat's back is above the back of the vehicle seat?](#)
- [What is a tether and when should I be using one?](#)
- [What is the best way to clean my car seat?](#)
- [What is the new LATCH system?](#)
- [What is the right car seat for a preterm or low birth weight baby?](#)
- [What is the suggested life span of my car seat and why?](#)
- [What position in the car is safest for my baby?](#)
- [When can I turn my baby around to face forward in the car?](#)
- [When can my child use adult seat belts safely?](#)
- [Where can I find harness instructions for my Graco or Century car seat?](#)
- [Where can I find tether instructions for my Graco or Century car seat?](#)
- [Where do I find the owner's manual for my infant car seat?](#)
- [Why is facing rearward so important?](#)

Question: Are all Graco bases LATCH compatible?

Answer: No. However, you may be able to update your Graco base by equipping it with a LATCH belt, depending on the type of base you have. To see if your base is one that may be updated, please click on the link below to view the Graco LATCH kit instructions. (See page 3 in the LATCH instruction booklet for Use Restrictions.) [LATCH kit instructions.](#)

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: Can I purchase additional bases for my infant seat?

Answer: You may be able to purchase an additional base for your infant car seat. Please enter the model and serial number or manufacture date in the Order Parts section of our website under Customer and Product Support at on this website. If there is a base available for your model, it will be on the parts list. If there is no base on your parts list, then one is not available for your model. The appropriate price will be listed there as well. Also, some Toys R Us retailers may carry bases. Any Graco base will work with any Graco infant seat.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: Can I use a locking clip with the TurboBooster® car seat?

Answer: No, Graco does not recommend the use of a locking clip with the TurboBooster. The purpose of the locking clip is to convert or lock the vehicle belt to properly tighten a child restraint with a harness. The means of restraint of a belt-positioning booster is the vehicle belt system, and altering that system in any way could compromise the performance of that system.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: Can I use a tether or the LATCH with my TurboBooster car seat?

Answer: No. The TurboBooster is not equipped with mounting areas for a tether or the LATCH system. The federal government does not require these systems on belt positioning seats. This style of seat relies on the adult lap and shoulder belt to restrain the child.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: Can I use LATCH in the center position of my vehicle seat?

Answer: LATCH is defined as anchorages 280mm (11.02 inches) on center. As a manufacturer, we do not recommend using the LATCH system in the center position if it exceeds this length. If you have further questions regarding LATCH usage, please contact NHTSA at 1-888-327-4236 or www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: Can I use my car seat on an airplane?

Answer: Most Graco and Century carseats are certified for use in aircraft when used according to manufacturer's instructions. The booster seats are only certified when used as a five-point harness carseat. Please refer to your owner's manual for specifics on any seat. However, even though the seat is FAA approved when used according to the manufacturer's instructions, we do recommend calling the airline you are traveling with ahead of time as each airline has its own policies.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: Can I use the harness tie from a different car seat on my child's car seat?

Answer: Due to safety testing, we recommend that the car seat harness of your car seat remain unchanged, unless the parts which you are adding/replacing are certified by our company to work with your particular model.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: Does your company have a compatibility list between car seats and types of cars?

Answer: Because there are hundreds of types of cars, with at least that many different car seat styles, our company does not offer a compatibility list. However, we do manufacture a variety of different car seats that are specifically designed to work with as many varying seat angles and styles as possible. To ensure the seat that you are buying works with your car, we recommend that you try out the seat prior to purchasing. Many retailers, especially those specializing in baby products, will allow you to test a floor model car seat in your car prior to purchasing. Additionally, you can contact your car dealership or manufacturer for a recommendation on the best seat to fit your auto.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: How can I tell if my car seat is installed tightly enough?

Answer: For a rear facing seat, grip the top edge and try to push it downward. The back of the safety seat should stay firmly in place at the same angle. It is normal if the seat can be flipped toward the rear of the car. For a forward facing seat with a harness, grip the top edge of the seat and try to tilt it forward and sideways. If it moves more than 1 inch toward the front of the car or tips to the side, re-adjust using the locking clip or try another seating position.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: How do I assemble my Graco CarGo™ booster seat harness?

Answer: The following steps are some basic guidelines for assembling your carseat harness. For more detailed instructions, please refer to your owner's manual. If you do not have one, depending on your model, you may be able to view the instructions on the Product Instructions section of this website.

Note: The assembly process may vary between models.

Always check that you have all the parts before assembling your product. If any parts are missing, contact Consumer Services.

Harness Removal

1. Lift up adjuster lever and pull harness straps toward you. Unhook the right side harness tie from the harness strap.
2. Push the red button and release the harness tongues. Remove the harness strap loops from the splitter plate (metal oval plate) on the back of the carseat. Pull harness straps out of slot.
3. Remove the harness tie from the harness strap. Remove the harness straps from harness tongues.
4. Turn the carseat upside down and remove the harness straps from slots in seat area.
5. Turn the carseat upright again and remove the seatpad.

Harness Assembly

1. Turn the carseat upside down and from the bottom side of the carseat, thread one end of the harness strap through the slot in the side of seat area.
2. Bring the strap across the bottom of the seat underneath and thread the other end of harness strap through the side in opposite side of seat area. Be sure harness strap is not twisted under carseat. Note: The harness strap must cross over the top of the lower adjuster strap.
3. Turn the carseat upright. Lay seatpad in carseat loosely and thread both the harness straps through the slots in the sides of seat area.
4. Insert the harness (metal) tongues into the buckle.
5. Thread the harness strap from back of seat to front through slots in tongues. Do not twist the harness strap. Adjust the harness strap so that the loose ends are the same length.
6. Thread the harness tie on the left harness strap. The tie must be on correctly. The strap should come from the back top of the tie, over the middle and back down through the bottom and out the back again.
7. Thread both harness straps through slots in seatpad and carseat shell. See instructions for correct harness strap position for your child.
8. Slide each harness strap loop onto the (metal oval or square) splitter plate on the back of the seat.
9. Make sure the splitter plate strap passes between the recliner stand and the carseat shell. Note: The splitter plate strap must not be twisted.
10. Attach the seatpad.

Your carseat is now ready to use.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: How do I know which Harness/Shield System is the safest?

Answer: As you will discover, every parent has a preferred type of shield system that they have used. Every parent has an opinion on which shield system is the safest, and every parent has researched their preferred shield to provide reasons why their choice is the best.

The truth is, all harness/shield systems designed for today's car seats are safe for the weight and stage for which they have been specified, provided they are used properly. Every shield system, from infant to booster seats, is designed to properly distribute the weight of your child in the event of an accident. All types of harnesses work well to protect a child, when used consistently. However, each style does have both advantages and inconveniences.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: How do I re-assemble my booster car seat harness straps?

Answer: The following steps are some basic guidelines for assembling your carseat harness. For more detailed instructions, please refer to your owner's manual.

Note: The assembly process may vary between models.

Always check that you have all the parts before assembling your product. If any parts are missing, contact Consumer Services.

Harness Removal

1. Lift adjuster bar and pull both harness straps out of current slots.
2. Pull harness strap out of carseat, harness tie (chest clip), and tongues.
3. Store all parts for future use.
4. Push buckle and crotch strap down into crotch strap opening.

Harness Assembly

Important: When re-assembling harness system, be sure harness straps are not twisted.

1. Thread end of harness strap down through slot in seatpad, under both clips on bottom and back up through slot in opposite side of carseat pad.
2. Thread ends through tongues or shields (available on some models).
3. Thread ends through harness tie.
4. Thread ends through desired slots and adjuster following instruction manual instructions that are appropriate for your child.
5. Pull buckle out of buckle slot.

Your booster car seat is now ready to use.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: How do I re-assemble my convertible car seat five-point harness straps?

Answer: The following steps are some basic guidelines for assembling your carseat harness. For more detailed instructions, please refer to your owner's manual.

Note: The assembly process may vary between models.

Always check that you have all the parts before assembling your product. If any parts are missing, contact Consumer Services.

Harness Removal:

1. Lift up adjuster lever and pull harness straps toward you. Unhook the right side harness tie from the harness strap.
2. Push the red button and release the harness tongues. Remove the harness strap loops from the splitter plate (metal oval plate) on the back of the carseat. Pull harness straps out of slot.
3. Remove the harness tie from the harness strap. Remove the harness straps from harness tongues.
4. Turn the carseat upside down and remove the harness straps from slots in seat area.
5. Turn the carseat upright again and remove the seatpad.

Harness Assembly:

1. Turn the carseat upside down and from the bottom side of the carseat, thread one end of the harness strap through the slot in the side of seat area.
2. Bring the strap across the bottom of the seat underneath and thread the other end of harness strap through the side in opposite side of seat area. Be sure harness strap is not twisted under carseat. Note: The harness strap must cross over the top of the lower adjuster strap.
3. Turn the carseat upright. Lay seatpad in carseat loosely and thread both the harness straps through the slots in the sides of seat area.
4. Insert the harness (metal) tongues into the buckle.
5. Thread the harness strap from back of seat to front through slots in tongues. Do not twist the harness strap. Adjust the harness strap so that the loose ends are the same length.
6. Thread the harness tie on the left harness strap. The tie must be on correctly. The strap should come from the back top of the tie, over the middle and back down through the bottom and out the back again.
7. Thread both harness straps through slots in seatpad and carseat shell. See instructions for correct harness strap position for your child.
8. Slide each harness strap loop onto the (metal oval or square) splitter plate on the back of the seat.
9. Make sure the splitter plate strap passes between the recliner stand and the carseat shell. Note: The splitter plate strap must not be twisted.
10. Attach the seatpad.

Your carseat is now ready to use.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: How do I re-assemble my convertible car seat overhead shield harness straps?

Answer: The following steps are some basic guidelines for assembling your car seat harness. For more detailed instructions, please refer to your owner's manual.

Note: The assembly process may vary between models.

Always check that you have all the parts before assembling your product. If any parts are missing, contact Consumer Services.

Harness Removal

1. Loosen harness straps. Lift adjuster level on front of carseat. Pull harness straps.
2. Remove harness strap loops from splitter plate on back of seat. Pull harness straps out of current slots.
3. Remove harness tie (chest clip) from harness straps.
4. Push red button on lower front of carseat to unbuckle latch tongue. Pull harness straps out of seat.

Harness Assembly

1. With both harness straps toward the carseat and the short strap toward you, insert the anchor into slot on bottom center. Pull harness strap to be sure the anchor does not come out.

2. Buckle latch tongue into opening.
3. Thread right harness strap through right side of harness tie (the child's right).
4. Thread harness through desired slots of seatpad and carseat shell. Important: For rear-facing infants, bottom or middle slots, which are at or just below shoulders, must be used.
5. Slide loop on end of each harness strap onto splitter plate on back of seat (metal oval clip). Make sure splitter plate passes between recliner stand and carseat shell. Splitter plate strap must not be twisted.

Your carseat is now ready to use.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: How do I re-assemble my infant car seat?

Answer: The following steps are some basic guidelines for assembling your carseat. For more detailed instructions, please refer to your owner's manual. If you do not have one, depending on your model, you may be able to view the instructions on the Product Instructions section of this site. Note: The assembly process may vary between models.

Always check that you have all the parts before assembling your product. If any parts are missing, contact Consumer Services.

CENTURY® SMARTFIT® MODEL

Harness Removal:

1. From the front of carseat, push in the red button and release the buckle. On the back of the carseat, press in tab and lift metal rod up and out of slots.
2. Pull metal rod out of loops on harness straps. From the front of carseat, pull straps out of slots and set harness aside.

Pad Assembly:

1. Place the seatpad in the carseat.
2. Carefully instruction manual to adjust harness straps and harness tie. Slip the top and bottom pad flaps over the carseat.
3. Thread the elastic loops through the holes and hook over slanted plastic pegs under carseat.

Harness Assembly:

1. Make sure the harness tie (chest clip) and the buckle are on the straps in the proper positions.
2. Thread each end of the harness strap through the pad and carseat slots that are at or below the infant's shoulders.
3. Insert the metal rod through desired loops on harness strap so that the harness strap fits snugly on the infant.
4. Place the metal rod into two slots on the back of the carseat and push all the way down, securing the rod in place. Make sure the tab locks the metal rod in place to prevent it from moving upward. From the front of carseat pull on the straps to verify they are secure.
Important: Check harness straps on infant to make sure that they are snug and at or just below the infant's shoulders. See instruction manual to adjust harness straps and harness tie.

Your car seat is now ready to use.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: How do I use a locking clip with a car seat?

Answer: Bring the seat belt across the car seat and buckle as usual. Tighten the seat belt as much as possible. Firmly hold the shoulder and lap portions of the seat belt together just behind the sliding latchplate and unbuckle the seat belt. Still holding the seat belts together, weave the locking clip over both layers of seat belt about 1/2" from the sliding latchplate. When you are done, you will see four metal "legs" inlaid with the seat belt. Re-buckle the seat belt; it should still fit tightly. Test for a secure installation by tugging hard on the lap portion of the seat belt and by forcing the car seat from side to side and back and forth. If the lap seat belt loosens, repeat these steps or install the car seat elsewhere in the car.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: How should I adjust the harness straps on my child's car seat to accommodate bulky winter clothing in cold weather?

Answer: During cold weather, parents clothe their children in various winter clothing that includes snowsuits, jackets, coats, and buntings. Through its testing of children dressed in these types of winter apparel, Graco has determined that they may affect the adjustment of the harness by as much as 4 inches compared to a child dressed in summer clothing. With the wide variety of winter clothing available of varying thicknesses, Graco advises caregivers to follow these guidelines.

- Clothing that interferes with the proper placement or adjustment of the harness system should never be used. An improperly adjusted harness greatly reduces the effectiveness of the child restraint and can contribute to ejection of the child resulting in serious injury or death.
- Graco recommends that the instruction manual be read and followed completely. Proper adjustment of the harness is critical for optimal use of the child restraint whether inside the vehicle, or when used as a carrier (for infant car seats).
- The harness system should always be snugly adjusted around the child. The thicker the coat, the more attention should be given to the proper snugness recognizing that the winter coat will require the harness to be adjusted more tightly than if the child were only wearing a shirt.
- It is important for the shoulder straps to be properly placed on the shoulders. Do not use clothing that will interfere with the proper placement of the straps on the shoulders; infants wearing snowsuits with hoods in rear-facing seats are of particular concern in this regard. Graco recommends that children in infant seats not be placed in bulky clothing and should be covered with a blanket on top of the car seat in order to minimize the amount of clothing under the harness.
- Always use the chest clip positioned at armpit level. The chest clip helps to keep the shoulder straps on the shoulders and close to the neck.
- Buntings or similar clothing without individual leg openings prevents the harness from being placed between the child's legs and should never be used.
- Always remember to readjust the harness when warmer weather arrives and the winter clothing is no longer worn. A loose harness greatly reduces the effectiveness of the child restraint and can contribute to ejection of the child resulting in serious injury or death.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: I have a Graco infant seat that is not LATCH equipped (did not come with a LATCH belt). Can I use it with a Graco infant seat base that is LATCH equipped?

Answer: Yes. Even if you have an older Graco infant seat that was manufactured before LATCH was introduced, provided the seat was manufactured after September 1, 1997, you can purchase a LATCH equipped base and use it with that Graco seat.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: I have an infant carrier. Can it be used as a car seat too?

Answer: Never use an infant carrier as a car seat. An infant car seat that is designed to be used also as a carrier is built specifically for use in a car. Its secondary use is as a carrier. To be used as a car seat, your infant carrier must be labeled "certified for vehicle restraint use."

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: I only have lap belts in the back seat of my car. Do you make a seat that will work with lap belts only?

Answer: Regarding our Graco and Century car seats, all of our car seats that can be used as boosters do require the lap and shoulder belt combination for safety reasons. You may want to contact your dealer as an after market retrofit seatbelt modification may be an option. Also, you may want to contact NHTSA for additional information on safety seats. That is the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and their website is www.nhtsa.dot.gov. Their number is toll free 1-888-327-4236.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: I own a Convertible Car Seat. Why does the instruction booklet say that the harness straps must only be in the top slots when facing forward?

Answer: The convertible car seat offers the option of both rear facing and forward facing positions. The top harness slots are normally the only slots on the seat reinforced to account for the momentum that would occur in an impact if the child were forward facing. These slots are to be used only when a child meets the weight and height requirements stipulated on the seat for forward facing use.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: I was recently in an accident. Do I have to replace my child's car seat? There doesn't appear to be any damage.

Answer: Yes. You must replace your child's car seat if it was involved in an accident, no matter what. Even if there appears to be no damage to the car seat on the surface, the impact and force of a collision can cause unseen structural damage to the interior of your car seat. Any such damage may prohibit your car seat from properly protecting your child in the event of a sudden stop or crash.

Some insurance carriers will reimburse you for the replacement of a new car seat if it was in a crash. Check with your insurance carrier for more details.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: Is my car seat properly installed?

Answer: To ensure proper installation of your car seat, it is important that you thoroughly read the owner's manual and follow the instructions precisely. Additionally, you should review the section on safety belts and child restraints in your vehicle owner's book. To check the security of your seat installation, try wiggling the seat from side to side, and pushing it back and forth. If your car seat moves more than an inch in any direction, it will not properly protect your child in an accident. The seat must be reinstalled. To find an inspection station where a technician will inspect your car seat to see if it is properly installed, go to www.seatcheck.org or call 1-866-SEAT-CHECK.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: My child has exceeded either the weight or height limit of the SnugRide car seat, but not both, can I continue to use the seat?

Answer: Unfortunately, once the child has outgrown an infant seat, there is no other infant seat to take its place that can be used with the base or with the stroller. The next step would be to put your child in a convertible seat. This is a seat that you can use up to 30 pounds rear-facing (in most cases) and then forward facing up to 40 pounds. Graco manufactures several of these that can be viewed on this website. For current models, please visit the [car seat section](#) of this website. For more information on car seat safety, you may want to visit the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#).

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: My child is within the height and weight requirements of the car seat I bought, but the harness straps seem short. What can I do?

Answer: Most seats from Graco, including our Century® brand have a multiple position harness loop system that allows for growth of your child. Please refer to the [instructions](#) of your specific car seat to see how to lengthen the harness.

Certain Graco SnugRide® 5-point harness infant seats have an extension strap kit which is available free. Please call Consumer Services at 1-800-345-4109 to see if your seat qualifies for an extension kit.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: My owner's manual states to regularly inspect my car seat. What should I be looking for?

Answer: Regularly inspect your car seat for movement or wear that may inadvertently impair its ability to protect your child in an accident. Test your seat periodically to ensure that it hasn't shifted during use and is still held snugly by the car seat belts. Push the seat side to side and pull it forward. If it moves more than one inch, reinstall the seat and tighten the seat belts. Check for wear on the harness straps and at the buckle. Make certain there are no crumbs in the buckle area, as they may interfere with the latching mechanism.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: What are the child passenger safety laws in my state?

Answer: That information is available on the Governors Highway Safety Association website at www.statehighwaysafety.org. To go directly to their State Child Passenger Safety Laws page, [click here](#).

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: What are the size limits for my SnugRide infant car seat/carrier?

Answer: Graco SnugRide Infant Car Seats are recommended for children up to 20 pounds and who are less than 26" in height.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: What base can I use with my Graco infant car seat?

Answer: Any Graco base is compatible with any Graco infant car seat.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: What if my vehicle head rest interferes with the back of the TurboBooster car seat?

Answer: First, try to remove the headrest to promote a better fit/match to the vehicle seat contour. If you cannot remove the headrest, try another seating position or raise/lower the headrest to minimize the interference. Also, you could recline the vehicle seat slightly to make up for the interference. If the interference is extreme, and other alternatives don't work, and your child is within the correct height and weight, remove the back and use the booster as a backless booster.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: What if the child moves the shoulder belt under his arm or behind his back when in the TurboBooster car seat?

Answer: STOP the car and educate the child that the belt must be worn like mommy and daddy across the shoulder. Any other position of the shoulder belt could cause serious injury. If the child continues, discontinue the use of the seat and move the child into a restraint that will be used properly.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: What if the TurboBooster car seat's back is above the back of the vehicle seat?

Answer: This scenario is OK, and one of the reasons there are such backed booster seats. The BAD scenario is when you have a backless booster and the child's head (by the ears) is above the back of the vehicle seat. In the event of a crash with the child in this scenario, there is a possibility of whiplash because the head/neck is not supported.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: What is a tether and when should I be using one?

Answer: The tether strap is an adjustable strap that is attached to the upper back of the child seat. It has a hook attachment to be secured to a mounting in the rear shelf-area of passenger cars. Properly used, the tether system better stabilizes the seat and reduces the movement of a child's head in a forward crash.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: What is the best way to clean my car seat?

Answer: Our car seats are designed so that the pads and canopies can be removed for washing. Canopies and pads can be machine washed, in cold water. It is recommended that they are hung to dry; however, some can be machine dried on a low heat setting. Refer to your owner's manual for instructions specific to your particular seat. To clean the shell of your car seat, We recommend washing the seat with mild soapy water. DO NOT use household cleaners on your car seat, as some cleaners may weaken certain plastics.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: What is the new LATCH system?

Answer: The new LATCH system (Lower Anchorage and Tethers for Children) refers to the new standardized installation system that you now see in vehicles and child car seats. In the vehicle, the new LATCH system consists of two lower anchor points located at the back of the car seat and one where the vehicle cushion meets the seat back. The upper anchor (for the tether system) will be a ring-like piece, permanently attached to the frame of the vehicle. On the safety seat, hooks, buckles or other connectors snap onto the lower anchors in the vehicle. Additionally, a tether strap from the top of the seat will be attached to the upper anchorage ring. This simple, standardized system offers installation without the variables of improper seat belt adjustments, and is mandatory in most automobiles and safety seats produced after September 2002.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: What is the right car seat for a preterm or low birth weight baby?

Answer: Infants born prematurely, or with a birth weight below 6 pounds, may require a special car seat when traveling. A preterm or low birth weight infant may be at a special risk in a vehicle or on an aircraft, because these babies may have difficulties breathing if improperly reclined in a car seat. It is advisable to have your physician or hospital staff evaluate your infant and recommend the proper car seat or car bed before you leave the hospital. If it is determined that your child should not ride in a standard Infant or Infant/Toddler Car Seat due to low birth weight, it is advisable to check into purchasing an Infant Car Bed. A car bed allows a premature infant to lie almost flat while traveling - a position which allows for better breathing in under-developed lungs. If you have already purchased your Infant or Infant/Toddler Car Seat prior to your baby's birth, check with your hospital about a loaner car bed. Often hospitals will charge you a minimal fee and refund your money when the seat is returned.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: What is the suggested life span of my car seat and why?

Answer: Car seats have a suggested life span of six years. With the changes in legislation, automobiles and technology, we suggest that a car seat be replaced upon its sixth year from the date of manufacture.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: What position in the car is safest for my baby?

Answer: While there is no research to indicate which back seat position in the car is safest, it is recommended that your child's car seat be installed in the back middle position, as the lap belt located there may most securely anchor the seat.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: When can I turn my baby around to face forward in the car?

Answer: When he is at least one year old, and preferably longer. (children in Sweden ride rear-facing until at least three years old in safety seats made to fit larger children.) In a crash, an infant's spinal cord may stretch if she is riding facing forward, and the baby could die or be paralyzed for life. This is true even for babies who have strong neck muscles and good head control. Most convertible safety seats can be used facing the rear up to 30 pounds, so there is no reason to turn your baby forward before age one and risk spinal injury. However, do not use an infant-only seat if your baby's weight is over the maximum (20-22 pounds) or if her head is approaching the top edge of the seat.

This Q&A comes from www.carseat.org (SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.).

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: When can my child use adult seat belts safely?

Answer: When your child outgrows his/her Toddler Seat, you may be tempted to immediately graduate to adult seat belts. However, the adult lap/shoulder harness system of most cars normally does not fit a child until they weigh 80 pounds or more. An adult seat belt system will not properly protect your child until it fits properly. Until this time, a Youth or Booster Seat should be used. To determine when your child is big enough for adult seat belts, try the vehicle belts as he/she grows taller. Your child is big enough to travel without a Youth Seat when:

1. His/her legs are long enough to naturally bend over the edge of the seat cushion. (If a child's legs are too short, he/she will tend to slouch to reach a more comfortable position. Slouching will pull the lap belt up too high on the stomach.)
2. The lap belt must fit low over the child's hips or upper thighs and can be pulled as snug as can be comfortably worn.
3. Your child must be able to sit with his back against the vehicle seat back, with feet touching the floor.
4. The shoulder belt must lie across the child's shoulder's and chest properly. It should not touch the neck or face.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: Where can I find harness instructions for my Graco or Century car seat?

Answer: Harness instructions are now available in the Car Seat Product Instructions section under [Product Manuals for older products](#).

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: Where can I find tether instructions for my Graco or Century car seat?

Answer: Click below to download the tether instructions for your model:

[Graco CarGo](#)

[Graco ComfortSport](#)

[Century car seats](#)

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: Where do I find the owner's manual for my infant car seat?

Answer: If you take the car seat out of the base and turn the car seat over, you should find the owner's manual attached by several small plastic tabs on the back of the seat.

[Back to Questions](#)

Question: Why is facing rearward so important?

Answer: Babies have heavy heads and fragile necks. The neck bones are soft, and the ligaments are stretchy. If the baby is facing forward in a frontal crash (the most common and most severe type of crash), the body is held back by the straps, but the head is not. The head is thrust forward, stretching the neck. Older children and adults wearing safety belts may end up with temporary neck injuries. But a baby's neck bones are soft and actually separate during a crash, and the spinal cord can tear. It's like yanking an electrical plug out of a socket by the cord and breaking the wires. In contrast, when a baby rides facing rearward, the whole body--head, neck, and torso--is cradled by the back of the safety seat in a frontal crash. Facing rearward also protects the baby better in other types of crashes, particularly side impacts.

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[Back to Questions](#)

[Home](#) [About Graco](#) [Site Map](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Legal Notices](#) [Contact Us](#)

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