

Child Safety Seats



Presented by the
California Highway Patrol

What is the law?



- California law states that children *MUST* be properly restrained in an appropriate child passenger restraint system in the rear seat of a motor vehicle (safety seat or booster seat) until they are at least six years of age or weigh at least 60 pounds.

Best Practice



- Keep them in a safety seat until the seatbelt fits like an adult.
- If the seatbelt crosses their neck or stomach, they should still be in a seat
- Traffic collisions are the leading cause of death for children
- In 2006 there were 1,334 injuries and fatalities in California involving unrestrained children under 14.

Four Steps

- Infants
- Toddlers
- Boosters
- Safety belts



Infants



Rear facing only seat

Bases for Infant Carriers



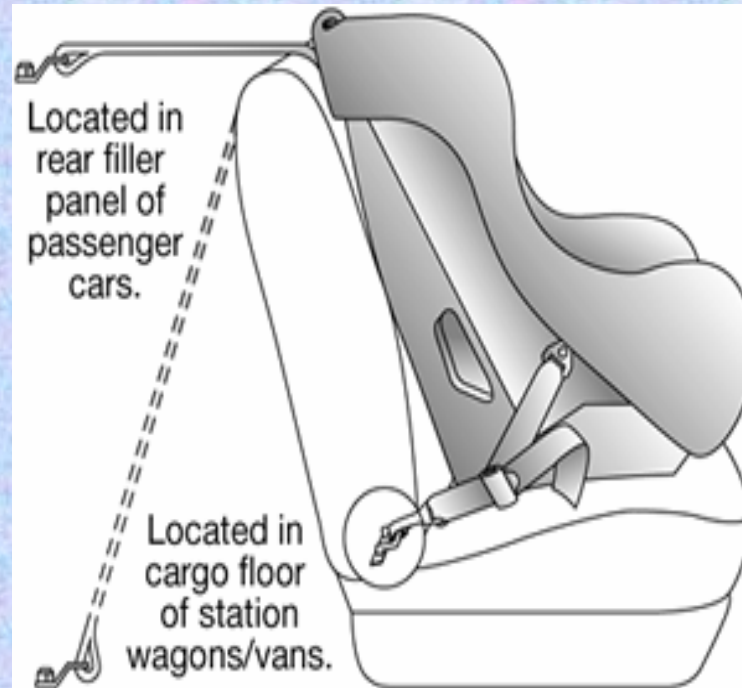
Install bases in multiple cars
for convenience

Install



- Use seatbelt
- Locking clip required for most lap shoulder belt combinations in rear facing position
- Use LATCH (Lower Anchor and Tethers for Children)
- Be sure there is LATCH in the seat position you choose and do not combine with seatbelt
- Rear center seat is the best
- Maintain proper angle, try to get child at 45 degrees. A pool noodle may be necessary
- Harness must be **SNUG!**
- Retainer clip (chest clip) across chest at top of armpit level

Latch System



Latch Continued



Must Have Features



5 Point
Harness

Front
Tighten
Strap

When do they turn around?



- Minimum is 1 year old and 20lbs.
- Best to leave rear facing to maximum weight and height limit of seat
- Child is safest rear facing due to crash dynamics
- If seat has been involved in a crash, **REPLACE IT**. California law requires insurance companies to replace the seat
- Do not buy used seats.

Toddlers



Convertible seats start rear facing and transition to forward facing.

Toddlers



- Be sure to monitor weight and height limit on seats.
- Most seats go to 40 lbs forward facing in harness
- Some seats go up to 65 or 80 lbs in harness
- When child has exceeded limits, move on to different seat, booster or seatbelt.

Booster Seats



Booster seats are used with seatbelts.

High back and low back booster seats

Used to properly position seatbelt

Seatbelt



Strong points of the body:
Clavicle and hips

If the seatbelt hits child's neck
or stomach they need a booster

Avoid lap only belts if at all
possible

Keep children in rear seat until
age 13



Most Important



- Set the example!
- Wear your seatbelt every time for every trip.
- Be aware of loose items in cars
- A can of corn coming forward at 20 mph can cause a lot of damage.
- Do not add aftermarket items to your car seat.

Set an appointment



- Call your local CHP office for your appointment
- Temecula CHP 951-506-2000
- Riverside CHP 951-637-8000
- Inland Division Officer Hesser
- 909-806-2487