

Install baby's car seat rear facing

1. Always read instructions that come with the car seat.

Also, in your car manual, read the sections on seat belts, LATCH, air bags, car seats, and child safety.

2. Place the car seat in the back seat, facing the rear window.

The back seat is safer than the front seat in all cars, especially cars with front air bags.

3. Use the seat belt or LATCH belt to install the car seat.

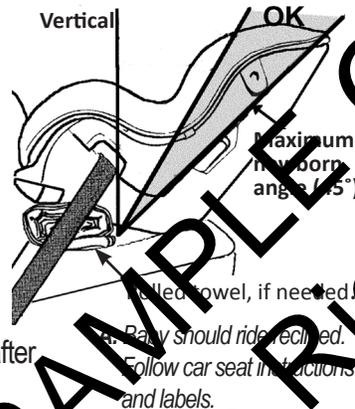
Do not use both at the same time unless both instructions say it is okay.

4. Make it tight.

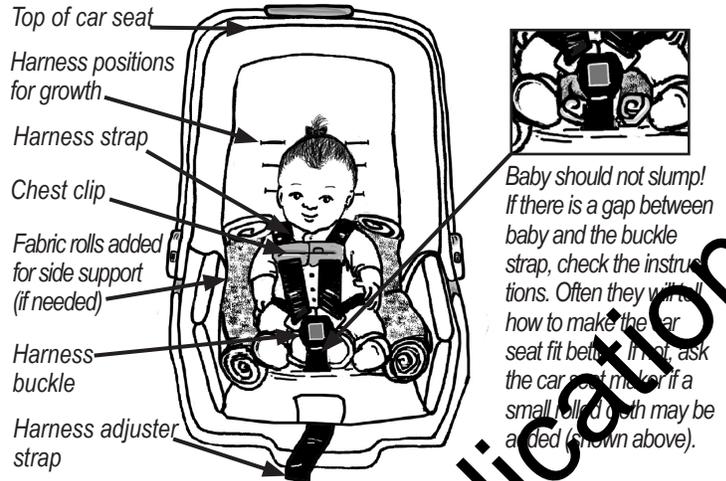
If the car seat is not installed tightly, your child could be seriously hurt in a crash. To check for a tight fit, grab the car seat near where the LATCH belt or seat belt goes through the car seat. Pull forward and side to side. The car seat should not move more than 1 inch. (Do not grab near the top of the car seat to check for tightness. The movement there is okay.)

5. Check the recline.

The car seat must recline enough, but not too much. Follow instructions for how to check. If too upright, baby's head might fall forward, making it hard to breathe. If this happens, follow instructions to make the car seat more reclined. If the car seat is still too upright, see if a firmly rolled towel or foam roll may be placed under the car seat to help (A). (Most car seats must be tightened again after making these changes.)



Get to know baby's car seat



Bring baby home safely

- **Check the instructions to be sure the car seat is set up for baby.** Put the shoulder straps in a low position, at or below baby's shoulders. Check for all ways that car seat parts, like straps and padding, can be set up to fit a small baby.
- **Dress baby in clothes with legs,** so the buckle strap can go between the legs. Avoid thick or oversized clothing.
- **Use any support pad or insert** that came with your car seat, following instructions. Do not put other padding, like a blanket or add a cushion, under or behind baby.
- **Adjust the harness straps to fit snugly.** You should not be able to pinch any slack (C). Do not use thick blankets or dress baby in heavy clothes. If you do, the harness might not protect baby in a crash. In cold weather, buckle the harness *first*, and then put a blanket over baby.



- **Put the chest clip at armpit level.**
- **NEVER** take baby out of the car seat while the car is moving. If baby needs to come out, park in a safe place first.

Keep your growing baby safe

Keep baby rear facing as long as possible, per instructions. This is the best way to protect a child's head and spine.

Follow instructions to make a rear-facing car seat fit as baby grows. Move the harness straps up when baby's shoulders are as high as the next position. A car seat may be used rear facing until:

- Baby's head is 1 inch from the top of the car seat, or
- Baby reaches the weight limit of the car seat.

NEVER face baby forward until at least 20 pounds and age 1. Some state laws say baby *must* stay rear facing until age 2.

Air Bag Danger: Put Baby in Back!

A baby riding in front with an air bag (B) is in danger. In even a minor crash, the air bag may open with great force—enough to kill a child. The back seat is safer for all children.

A baby's car seat must face the rear and should be in the back seat. If baby does ride in front, the air bag MUST be off. Look for an on-off switch or air bag light on the dashboard.

Learn about your car's air bags in the owner's manual. Also, read the air bag warning labels in your car.

