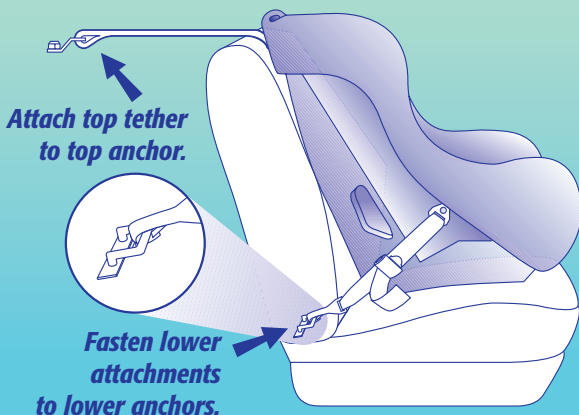


The Simple Facts About LATCH

Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children



- LATCH is a system that makes child safety seat installation easier—without using seat belts. LATCH is required on child safety seats and most vehicles manufactured after September 1, 2002.
- LATCH is not required for booster seats, car beds, and vests.
- Attachments on a LATCH-equipped child safety seat fasten to lower anchors and a tether anchor in a LATCH-equipped vehicle.
- The top tether strap is located at the top rear of convertible child safety seats, forward-facing toddler seats, and combination seats. Most rear-facing infant seats do not have a top tether strap or hook as they do not generally use this equipment for installation.
- The lower anchor straps are attached to the rear of the child safety seat. Most U.S. child safety seats come with flexible lower attachments. There are a few models of child safety seats that have rigid lower attachments. Be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions.
- LATCH-equipped vehicles have lower anchors in the right and left rear seat positions. If the center seat doesn't have lower anchors, you can install your child safety seat securely using a seat belt.



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- There are a minimum of three tether anchors (metal loops) in the vehicle. In sedans, these are usually located behind the vehicle's rear seat on the rear shelf. In some larger vehicles such as vans, pickup trucks, and SUVs, these anchor points may be found on the rear of a vehicle seat itself, on the floor, the roof, or other location. Be sure to carefully read your vehicle owner's manual to find out where they are in your particular vehicle and to avoid confusing them with other vehicle hardware such as luggage tie-downs.
- If your vehicle isn't LATCH-equipped, use the seat belt to install the child safety seat and, if available, a top tether.
- If your child safety seat isn't LATCH-equipped, it's still safe to use as long as it has been correctly installed using a seat belt, hasn't been recalled, and hasn't been damaged.
- For correct installation and use of ALL child safety seats, ALWAYS follow your vehicle owner's manual and child safety seat manufacturer's instructions.
- Remember, children of all ages are safest when properly restrained in the back seat.

For a child safety seat inspection by a certified technician, call 888-327-4236 or visit www.nhtsa.gov.



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