Child Safety Seat Installation

Is your child safe?

Simsbury Police Department Community Services
Traveling Safely with Children

- Everybody needs a child safety seat, booster seat, or safety belt.
- There must be one safety belt for each person.
- People who are not buckled can be thrown from the car or around inside the car causing injury to themselves or others.
Child Passenger Safety Facts

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children of all races ages 2-14.
- Child safety seats, when properly installed, reduce the risk of death by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers.
- In Connecticut, 95% of all child safety seats are improperly installed.
Getting started…

- The child safety seat you choose should fit the age, weight and length of your child.
- Not every seat fits every vehicle.
- It is recommended that you know the history of the seat. Buying or borrowing a seat without knowing if it has been involved in a previous crash, recalled or has all of its parts can be dangerous.
- READ both the seat and vehicle manufacturer instruction manuals.
Safety Issues

- If the registration card was not returned upon purchase, the owner of the seat may not be aware of a seat recall. Call the manufacturer or register the seat online.

- Many parents install or attach toys, window shades and mirrors which may disengage and hurt the child.

- No one seat is best, the “best” seat is the one that fits your child and can be installed correctly in your vehicle.
#1 Infant Seats (rear facing)

- Designed for newborns and infants between 5 - 20 pounds, some may be larger or smaller.
- Safest position is in the middle of the back seat.
- Safety seat should not move more than 1” from side to side (near the seatbelt) and should rock slightly from front to back.
- No part of the infant seat should touch the rear of a front seat.
#2 Convertible Seats
(rear or forward facing)

- A convertible safety seat is recommended when a child is not yet 12 months of age but is at or above the weight limit of an infant seat.

- Some convertible seats have weight limits up to 35 pounds rear-facing and 40+ pounds forward-facing.
#3 Booster Seats

- A belt-positioning booster seat is preferred for children between 40-100 pounds.
- A belt-positioning booster seat is used with both the lap and shoulder belt.
- The lap and shoulder belt system alone will not fit most children until they are at least 4’9” and weigh about 80 pounds.
Any person who transports a child under the age of 7, AND weighing less than 60 pounds must provide and require the child to use a restraint system.

All drivers and front seat passengers who are not covered by the child restraint law must wear safety belts. Children between the ages of 4 and 16 must also use safety belts in the back seat.
Connecticut Law

- Infant seats cannot be in front of an airbag
- Children in booster seats must be secured with a lap and shoulder seat belt
Safety Suggestions

- If your vehicle has a passenger air bag, it is recommended for children under 13 to ride in the back seat.
- Refrain from attaching any item within the passenger compartment by using a suction cup, Velcro, or plastic clips.
- Secure and remove all passenger compartment items from being possible projectiles.
Once you have installed your child safety seat, you may make an appointment by calling the Simsbury Police Department at 658-3100 to have your seat inspected.

A safety seat technician will check your work and assist you with correcting any errors, if needed.
For further information contact…

- Connecticut Safe Kids
  - www.ctsafekids.org

- CT. Department of Transportation
  - http://www.ct.gov/dot

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
  - www.nhtsa.gov