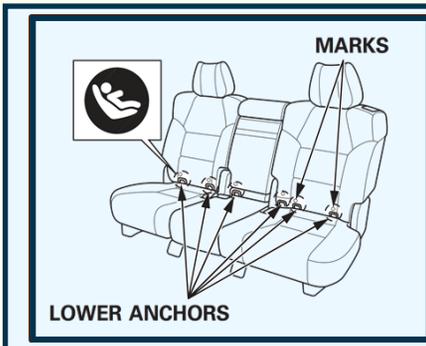


Installation

Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH)

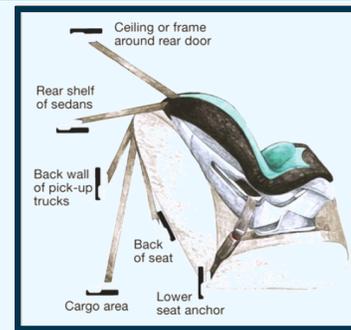
- ◆ LATCH is used to install car seats in the vehicle. LATCH has two lower anchors and one tether.
 - ◆ Never install a car seat using lower anchors and the seat belt at the same time unless specifically allowed by both the car seat and vehicle manufacturer.
- ◆ Read and follow the LATCH use instructions provided by the car seat manufacturer instructions and vehicle owner's manual.
- ◆ Always look in the vehicle owner's manual to locate the lower anchors and tether anchors in the vehicle, and to determine which vehicle seating positions have the LATCH system or only a tether anchor.
 - ◆ Only seating positions that have the lower anchors and tether, as defined by the vehicle owner's manual, should be used for LATCH installation.
 - ◆ The center seating position or other vehicle seating locations may not have a designated LATCH system. Check the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual to determine if a car seat can be installed with LATCH by using the lower anchors from a designated LATCH seating position. Unless both the car seat instructions **and** the vehicle manual allow borrowing, install the car seat with the seat belt.



The lower anchor connectors are located on the lower part of the car seat.

- ◆ The **lower anchor connectors** on the car seat attach onto the lower anchors in the vehicle.

Lower anchors are the metal bars located in the vehicle seat bight.



The **tether** is located on the upper part of the back of the car seat.

- ◆ The tether hook attaches to the tether anchor in the vehicle.

Tether anchor location will vary based on what type of vehicle you drive.

Understanding Lower Anchor Weight Limits

- ◆ The vehicle lower anchors have weight limits set by the vehicle manufacturer. The lower anchor weight limit is 65 pounds.
 - Weight of the child + weight of car seat = 65 pounds**
- ◆ Do not exceed the maximum weight limit of the lower anchors.
 - If the vehicle manufacturer does not state a weight limit, do not use the lower anchors if the child + the car seat combined weight is greater than 65 pounds.**
- ◆ If the car seat does not have a label that states the maximum weight of the child when using the lower anchors, you can determine the maximum allowable child weight by subtracting the weight of the car seat from 65 pounds.
- ◆ **Lower Anchor Connectors with Belt-Positioning Booster Seats:** Lower anchor weight limits do not apply to booster seats. The lower anchor connectors secure the belt-positioning booster seat and the seat belt secures the child.

Understanding Tethers

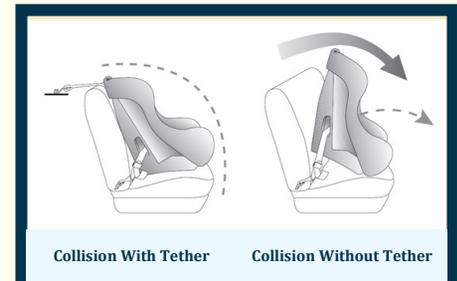
- ◆ A tether holds the back of the car seat against the vehicle seat to reduce the amount of forward and side movement in a crash.

A tether can reduce the distance that the child's head moves forward in a crash by 4 to 6 inches, lessening the risk of head injuries.

- ◆ Use the tether when installing forward-facing car seats, whenever possible. Car seats can be secured using:
 - ◆ Lower anchors and the tether; or
 - ◆ Seat belt and the tether.
- ◆ Tether anchor locations are identified in the vehicle manual. Tether anchors have weight limits that vary by vehicle manufacturer. Anchor weight limits are not always stated in the vehicle owner's manual.

If the vehicle manufacturer does not state a weight limit, do not use the tether if the weight of the child + the car seat combined is greater than 65 pounds.

- ◆ To provide optimum protection, a tether must be tightened and attached properly.



Installation

Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH)

General Method to Obtain a Correct Installation



- ◆ Read both the vehicle owner's manual and the car seat instructions.
- ◆ Position the car seat on the vehicle seat in the correct direction. Place the car seat at the correct angle: reclined, semi-reclined, or upright angle.
- ◆ Thread the lower anchor connectors through the correct belt path. Attach each lower anchor attachment (hook) from the base of the car seat onto its own lower anchor found near the area where the vehicle seat back meets the bottom seat cushion.
- ◆ Tighten the lower anchor connector, allowing no more than 1-inch of side-to-side movement when pulled at the belt path. Press down and back on the car seat while tightening.
 - ◆ When installing a forward-facing car seat, attach the car seat's tether strap to the tether anchor, following the direction provided in the vehicle manual. Pull to tighten the tether connector webbing.
- ◆ The installation should be checked for tightness each time the car seat is used.
- ◆ Some belt-positioning booster seats can be secured with the lower anchor connectors to position and keep the booster seat in place.

Lower Anchor Belt Path Basics for Installation

Selecting the correct lower anchor belt path is critical for a child's protection. Here are some tips to make sure you are using the right belt path during installation:

- ◆ Use the lower anchor belt path that is closest to the vehicle seat back, as designated by the car seat instructions.
- ◆ Look for labels on the car seat that show the rear-facing and forward-facing lower anchor belt paths. Some car seat manufacturers color code their belt paths to assist in identifying the correct belt path location.
- ◆ Route the lower anchor webbing through the belt path making sure the webbing is free of twists.



The risk of using the wrong belt path: When a car seat is installed with the lower anchor connectors in the wrong belt path, the car seat will not perform as designed and crash-tested, placing the child's safety at risk.



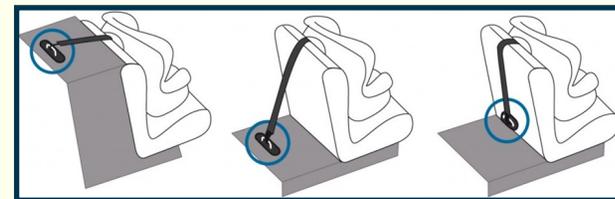
Tether Use Basics

Use When Installing a Forward-Facing Car Seat

- ◆ The tether is located on the top part of a convertible, combination, and all-in-one car seats. Tethers have adjustable webbing with a tether hook on one end that attaches to the vehicle's tether anchors. The webbing may be a single or V-shaped strap.

Tethering the Car Seat

- ◆ Locate the tether anchor by looking in the vehicle manual.
- ◆ Remove the tether from its storage location on the car seat and lengthen the strap.
- ◆ Lay the tether over the vehicle seat back so it is easy to attach once the car seat installation is complete.
 - ◆ Some car seat manufacturers recommend that you attach the tether before installing the car seat, then to tighten the tether after the car seat is installed.



Tether Routing in the Vehicle

- ◆ Read and follow the vehicle manual's instruction for tether routing.
 - ◆ If a head restraint can be moved up, typically the tether connector will go under the head restraint and straight back to the tether anchor.
- ◆ Vehicle manufacturers may limit the use of tether anchors based on the weight of the child and car seat.
 - ◆ Some vehicle manufacturers defer to the car seat manufacturer for tether anchor use weight limits
 - ◆ Unless prohibited due to weight limits by a manufacturer, it is recommended to use the tether for all forward-facing car seat installations.