

Non-Approved Products & Car Seat Safety

What are non-approved car seat products?

Car Seat accessories that are not included with the original purchase of the car seat.

Examples include:

- ◆ Infant Head Support Inserts,
- ◆ Harness Covers,
- ◆ Mirrors,
- ◆ Toys,
- ◆ Seat Protectors, and
- ◆ Shoulder Belt Positioning Devices.

These accessories are sometimes called “non-regulated” because there are no safety standards or federal regulations to ensure they are safe to use. Products added to the car seat may change how it performs during a crash impacting the child’s safety.

⚠ WARNING! DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur,

- **DO NOT** attach additional padding, toys or other devices not made by Evenflo, or described in these instructions, to the child restraint. Items not tested with the child restraint could injure the child.

Evenflo Instruction Manual

Approved Products

A number of car seat manufacturers have designed accessories that can be used with their car seats or belt-positioning booster seats. Only car seats approved by the car seat manufacturer are acceptable to use. Check both the car seat instruction manual and the manufacturer’s website for information on use of these products.

Only the car seat manufacturer can determine if a product is safe to use with a car seat or belt-positioning booster seat. If there is a concern with child comfort or fit in a car seat, read and follow the car seat manufacturer’s instructions, visit the car seat manufacturer’s website or call the customer service phone line. Child Passenger Safety Technicians are available to assist parents learning how to install and secure a child in the car seat. A list of Car Seat Fitting Stations is available at www.pakidstravelsafe.org.

Evenflo Loan Programs Seats APPROVED Car Seat Accessories*

Evenflo does produce and allow the use of some accessories with their car seats. These items can be found at:

<https://www.evenflo.com/collections/car-seat-accessories>

<p>Universal Arm Cushion For Infant Car Seat Handles</p>  <p>Provides comfort while carrying an infant car seat. Soft, self-wicking fabric covers a padded interior with a Velcro fastener. Textured, non-slip backing helps keep the cushion in place while carrying. The universal size fits all Evenflo infant car seats. Easy to care for, this arm cushion is machine-washable and designed for durability.</p>	<p>Undermat Seat Protector for Car Seats and Booster Seats</p>  <p>Designed to help protect vehicle seats from indentations, scratches, and everyday wear and tear. Tested and approved for use with all Evenflo car seats and boosters. Dual-sided, non-slip material stays securely in place and will not interfere with proper car seat installation. Materials are easy to wipe clean..</p>	<p>Universal Backseat Baby Mirror for Rear-Facing Child</p>  <p>Lightweight, clear, shatter-resistant mirror has adjustable straps that attach the mirror to the vehicle head restraint. The mirror can be attached horizontally or vertically.</p>
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*The approved car seat accessories can be used with Evenflo car seats only.

Infant Inserts, Head Supports, Body Pillows: Inserts and padding that come with the car seat can be used to assist with positioning and comfort of the child. Follow the car seat manufacturer’s instructions to safely use these items. Products sold separately can be used only if approved by the manufacturer of the car seat. Always check with the manufacturer of your car seat before using any additional products. **NOTE:** Some inserts provided with the car seat are have weight limits or their use may be optional. Use the inserts as directed in the car seat instructions and remove when required.



Shoulder Harness Covers: Harness covers provided with the car seat can be used as directed in the instruction manual. Adding non-approved shoulder harness covers may add bulk to the harness that will interfere with adjusting the harness snugly and positioning the harness retainer clip at armpit level. A loose harness increases the forward movement of the child in a crash, increasing the risk of injury. Always follow the car seat manufacturer’s instructions to secure the child with a snug harness for maximum protection.



Vehicle Seat Protectors: Some car seat manufactures allow the use of a towel or offer a seat protector that is approved for use with their car seat. Check with the car seat instructions or manufacturer’s website for recommendations to protect vehicle seats when using their car seat.



TIP! To help protect the vehicle upholstery, place a towel beneath and behind the child restraint.

Evenflo Instruction Manual

Mirrors and Toys: Select items that are approved for use by the car seat manufacturer. Parents may find these products helpful to keep a baby from fussing, but they can be a serious risks in the event of a crash. A mirror could break or come loose from the vehicle head restraint and cause additional injury. Toys hanging from the car seat can hurt the child if contact is made during a crash. If you feel these items are necessary, only select items that are made of soft and flexible materials.



NOT Recommended for Use



The Danger of Winter Coats in Car Seats



Cooler weather requires children to be bundled up to stay warm. Selecting a bulky coat may keep a child warm, but does not allow the car seat harness to be adjusted for a snug fit. A bulky coat can compress in a crash and create slack in the harness. A loose harness does not correctly secure a child in a crash, increasing the child's movement and possible ejection from the car seat. A snug harness keeps the child in the car seat and spreads the crash forces over a large area of the body. The harness provides the best protection when correctly placed on the child and tightened snugly.

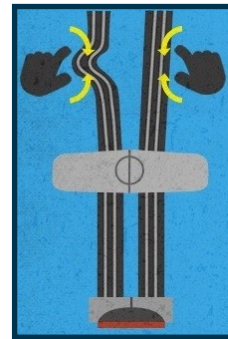
To determine if the child's coat is too bulky and not safe to use under the harness while traveling in the car:



1. Put the coat on the child and correctly place the car seat harness on the child's body. Secure the harness and adjust snugly to fit the child. A snug harness does not allow the webbing to be folded between your thumb and forefinger when pinched at the shoulder.

2. Without loosening the harness, unbuckle and remove the child from the car seat.

3. Remove the coat and place the child back in the car seat. Correctly place the harness on the child's body and buckle the harness straps. If you can pinch the webbing between your thumb and forefinger, the coat is too bulky to be worn under the harness.



Staying Safe and Warm in a Car Seat this Winter

- ♦ Warm up the car in a well-ventilated area prior to taking the child outside.
- ♦ Dress children in thin layers that fit the child.
- ♦ Purchase coats that come in layers or offer warmth with thinner fabrics such as a thin down or fleece jacket.
- ♦ Put the child's coat on backwards once the harness is buckled and tightened.
 - ♦ Secure the child in the car seat with the clothes that will be worn while indoors.
 - ♦ Buckle and tighten the harness snugly. A snug harness does not allow any slack. It lies in a relatively straight line without pressing on the child's body and pushing it into an unnatural position. The harness should be snug enough on the child that you cannot pinch any extra webbing.
 - ♦ Slip the child's arms through the sleeves to wear the coat backwards and over the snug harness.
- ♦ Place a blanket over the child who is secured in a car seat for additional warmth.
- ♦ In the event of a crash, the snug harness will keep the child secure.



Car Seat Instructions

Vehicle Owner's Manual



Install the Car Seat Correctly in the Vehicle

A car seat that is installed correctly provides the best protection in a crash and increases the child's safety in a crash. Always follow the instructions found in the car seat and vehicle owner's manual to achieve a correct installation. Useful tips to obtain a correct installation:

- ♦ **Read the car seat instruction manual and the portion of your vehicle owner's manual covering car seat installation.**
- ♦ Place the car seat in a back seat of the vehicle and secure tightly with a seat belt or LATCH. The tightly secured car seat does not move forward or side-to-side more than an inch when pulled at the belt path.

Secure Children Correctly In the Car Seat

A secure harness keeps the child safer in a crash by spreading the crash forces across the strongest areas of the body. The correct placement of the harness on the child's shoulder will reduce the child's movement in a crash.

- ♦ **Rear-facing:** The harness straps should lie flat and be threaded through the slot that is **at or below** the child's shoulders.
- ♦ **Forward-facing:** The harness straps should lie flat and be threaded through the **reinforced slot** that is **at or above** the child's shoulders.
- ♦ Buckle the harness and secure the chest clip. Tighten the harness until it is snug on the child.
 - ♦ The harness is snug when the webbing cannot be pinched at the shoulder.

