

# Car Seat Spring Cleaning Checklist

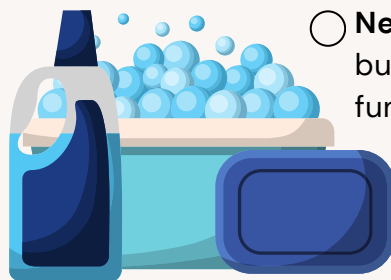


## Read & Follow Car Seat Manufacturer's Instructions

- Each car seat manufacturer has specific instructions on cleaning their car seats.
- Follow the cleaning instructions provided by the manufacturer.

## Wash as Directed

- Car Seat Pad:** Confirm whether the pad is machine washable or must be cleaned by hand washing. Plan on air drying the pad, unless the instructions say using the dryer is permitted.
- Soap and Water Temperature:** Use mild soap and the water temperature as directed by the car seat manufacturer's instructions when washing the car seat pad and parts.
- Car Seat Harness:** Many harnesses cannot be immersed in water. Manufacturers recommend cleaning the harness by wiping with mild soap and water and allowing the harness to air dry.
- Car Seat Shell:** Clean with mild soap and water and dry with a soft cloth. Take care not to damage any labels when cleaning the car seat.
- Never** use an iron or heat on the car seat pads or harnesses. The heat can damage the fibers.



## Maintain Car Seat Between Cleanings



- Spot clean the car seat when necessary.
- Vacuum food and crumbs and wipe down the car seat regularly.

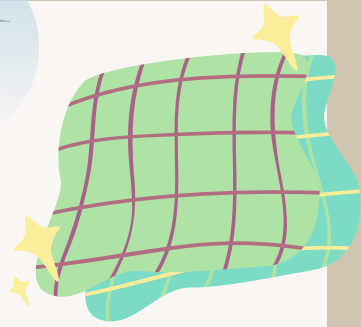
## Evaluate the Buckle

- Check the Crotch Buckle:** Clean as needed to ensure the buckle is functioning properly and is free of debris.
- Cleaning the Buckle:** Remove the buckle from the car seat and rinse with warm water.
  - Do Not submerge the buckle webbing into the water.
  - Do Not soak the buckle or use soap, household detergents or lubricants.
  - Remove the buckle from the water and shake out any excess water.
  - Allow the buckle to air dry.
- Test the Buckle:** Fasten and unfasten the buckle tongues on both sides of the buckle until you hear a click. If you do not hear a click for each buckle tongue you may need to repeat the cleaning process.
- Never** use oil lubricants or chemicals in the buckle as it may change the way the buckle functions.





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## Allow Time for Cleaning the Car Seat

- Time:** Make sure you allow time for the car seat padding, buckle and all the cleaned parts to fully dry. Air drying may take several hours or even a day.
- Plan Ahead:** Make other arrangements for children who need to be transported during this time.
- Replacement Parts:** Consider ordering replacement parts for any extra dirty messes when cleaning a part is not enough.
  - Manufacturers offer replacement parts for their car seats.
  - Contact customer service to determine if a replacement part is available for the car seat.
  - Be sure to have the model number and manufacture date available when ordering a replacement part.

## Reassemble the Car Seat Correctly

- Car Seat Instruction Manual:** Carefully follow the car seat instructions to assemble the car seat correctly.
- Pictures:** Take pictures of the car seat parts and harness assembly before taking the car seat apart. The pictures will serve as a guide as you reassemble the car seat.
- Video:** Record the removal of car seat parts and refer to video when you reassemble the car seat.
- Harness:**
  - Make sure the harness is not twisted.
  - Pull on the harness system to make sure it is securely installed.
- Follow the car seat instructions to correctly insert the buckle through the shell and pad of the car seat.



## Use Caution When Adding Products That Did Not Come With the Car Seat

Children can be messy in the car. Can the vehicle seat be protected with a Car Seat Protector Pad placed between the vehicle seat and the car seat?

- Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for guidance on protecting vehicle seats.
- Some car seat manufacturers have a car seat Protector pad that is approved for use with their car seat.
- Some car seat manufacturers have approved the use of specific seat pads, protector pads, and/or towels.
- Contact the car seat manufacturer to see if they allow the use of products that did not come with their car seat.

