

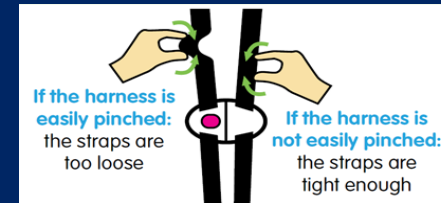
Winter Car Seat Harnessing Tips

Four Steps to Correctly Place a Child in a Car Seat

1. Place the child all the way back in a car seat. The child's back and bottom should be in contact with the back and bottom of the car seat.
2. Place the harness straps in the correct harness slots for the child.
 - ♦ Rear-Facing: The harness is placed AT or BELOW the child's shoulders.
 - ♦ Forward-Facing: The harness is placed AT or ABOVE the child's shoulders.
3. Tighten the harness straps snugly.
 - ♦ "A snug strap should NOT allow any slack. It lies in a relatively straight line without sagging. It does not press on the child's flesh or push the child's body into an unnatural position."
4. Place the harness retainer clip at armpit level.

How Tight Should the Harness Be?

- ♦ Pinch the harness webbing vertically at the shoulder with the thumb and forefinger.
- ♦ Your fingers should slide off easily and you should not be able to pinch any webbing between them.
- ♦ The harness should lie flat, and fit snugly (not uncomfortable) at the child's shoulders and hips.



A Child's Coat May Be Too Big to Wear in a Car Seat

Determine if a child's coat is too bulky and not safe to use in a car seat.

1. Put the coat on the child. Place the child in the car seat and secure with a snug harness.
 - ♦ 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 the harness and remove the child from the car seat.
3. Remove the coat and secure the child back in the car seat. Buckle the harness straps, but do not tighten the harness. The harness tightness remains adjusted to the same tightness as when the child was wearing the coat.
4. Pinch the webbing between your thumb and forefinger. The coat is too bulky if the webbing can be folded between your thumb and forefinger.

Car Seat Tips for Infants in Cold Weather

- ♦ Dress the infant as if they were going to be indoors. A thin sweater or jacket can be worn by the child.
- ♦ Store the car seat carrier in the house when not in use.
- ♦ Warm the vehicle, when possible, before taking the infant outside.
- ♦ Secure the child in the carrier of the rear-facing only car seat making sure the harness straps are snug. Position the harness retainer clip at armpit level.
- ♦ Place a blanket over the harnessed infant in the car seat and then carry to the vehicle.
- ♦ Use only car seat manufacturer approved covers / fitted blankets designed to provide warmth. Approved covers have been tested with the car seat and will not compromise the child's safety.
- ♦ Remove covers / blanket, if needed, during travel. Replace the blanket for warmth when the child is taken out of the vehicle.



Car Seat Tips for Toddlers and Preschoolers in Cold Weather

- ♦ Dress the child in the coat and hat necessary for walking to the vehicle.
- ♦ Remove the coat in the car and secure the child in the car seat. Buckle and tighten the harness to fit snugly on the child.
- ♦ Turn the coat around and put it on backward. Slip the child's arms through the sleeves. The back of the coat will cover the child to keep them warm during travel.
- ♦ Purchase winter coats that provide warmth without bulk and allows the car seat harness to fit the child correctly.

Winter Driving Guide for Families



Winter Travel Tips



Prepare your Vehicle



- ◆ **Service your Car:** Have a mechanic check your battery, belts, defrosters, and make any necessary repairs.
- ◆ **Lights:** Check the headlights, brake lights, turn signals and emergency flashers.
- ◆ **Windshield Wipers:** Make sure the windshield wipers work and replace worn wiper blades.
- ◆ **Windshield wiper fluid:** Fill the reservoir to keep the windshield clean and free of dirt and grime.

Plan your Route

- ◆ Before starting your trip, check the weather, road conditions, and traffic.
- ◆ Allow plenty of time to get to your destination safely.
- ◆ Let others know your route and your planned arrival time.



During Travel

- ◆ **Stay Alert:** Avoid risky driving behavior. On long trips, stop to stretch, get something to eat, and to return calls and texts.
- ◆ **Reduce your Speed on Snowy and Icy Roads:** Driving slowly helps you stay in control. Speed limits are intended for dry weather; it will take much longer to stop a car on a slick surface. Exercise extreme caution on bridges and interstate/freeway entrances and exits, as these are often the first areas of the road to freeze.
- ◆ **Headlights:** Turn on your headlights to see and be seen.
- ◆ **Sharing the Road With Snow Plows:** For your safety, it is recommended that you stay a safe distance behind the snowplows. If you are caught in the cloud of snow dust, you are too close.
- ◆ **Avoid passing snowplows:** Visibility can be reduced by blowing snow and snow plow operators may need time to stop or move over to avoid stranded vehicles.
- ◆ **Clear Snow and Ice off Your Vehicle:** Brush the snow off the headlights and taillights frequently.



In An Emergency

- ◆ **Emergency Planning:** If you stall or get stuck, tie a colored banner to your antenna or hang it out a window. At night, remove the cover from your dome light and turn the light on.
- ◆ **Stay in your Vehicle:** Walking in a storm can be very dangerous.
- ◆ **Prepare a Winter Emergency Travel Kit:** Select items that can be used to dig out of a snow bank or to help stay warm while assistance is on the way.



- ◆ Ice scraper
- ◆ Broom
- ◆ Small / Foldable shovel
- ◆ Sand or cat litter
- ◆ Flares/Jumper Cables
- ◆ Cell phone and charger
- ◆ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ◆ Matches and candles

- ◆ Bottled Water
- ◆ Non-perishable food
- ◆ Blanket
- ◆ Extra warm clothing and gloves
- ◆ First aid kit
- ◆ Other items, as necessary (medication, baby supplies, pet food, etc.)

Protect All Passengers - Every Trip, Every Time

- ◆ **Always wear your seat belt and insist that everyone in the vehicle is correctly buckled.** Parents and adults who wear their seat belt are important role models for children learning good safety habits in car.
- ◆ **Selection:** Select the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt based on the child's age, weight, height, and developmental level. The car seat or booster seat must fit in the car, and be used correctly every time.
- ◆ **Direction:** Face the car seat in the correct direction for the age, height, weight, and developmental need.
 - ◆ Pennsylvania law requires children to remain rear-facing until two years of age.
- ◆ **Location:** Place the child in a vehicle back seat position that allows for correct use following the car seat manufacturer's instructions and the vehicle owner's manual.
- ◆ **Harness Adjustment and Fit:** Secure the child with a snug harness.
 - ◆ **Rear-facing:** At or Below the child's shoulders.
 - ◆ **Forward-Facing:** At or Above the child's shoulders.
- ◆ **Installation:** Install the car seat / booster seat correctly using the vehicle seat belt or Lower Anchors and Tethers for CHildren (LATCH).



Driving in the winter can be hazardous. Take extra precautions while driving to prevent crashes and keep yourself and your passengers safe!
Winter driving requires drivers to be careful and alert, but the most important tip for winter driving is to SLOW DOWN!