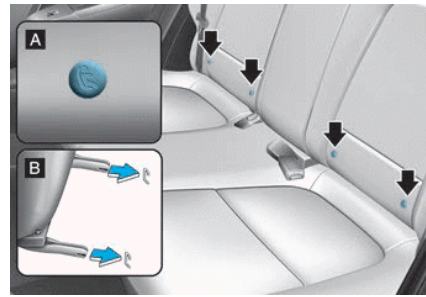


The Road to Safely USING LATCH

Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children

Check the Vehicle

Consult your owner's manual to find the LATCH system in your vehicle and to determine which seating positions are authorized for LATCH use.



A: Lower Anchor Marking
B: Lower Anchor Connector on Car Seat

Check the Car Seat

Make sure your car seat is compatible with the LATCH system. It should have lower anchor connectors. The lower anchors can be two rigid metal connectors or two flexible straps with metal hooks.



Attach the Lower Anchors

Attach the lower anchor connectors, found on the base of the car seat, to the designated lower anchors in the vehicle. The lower anchors are usually located where the back of the seat meets the seat cushion.

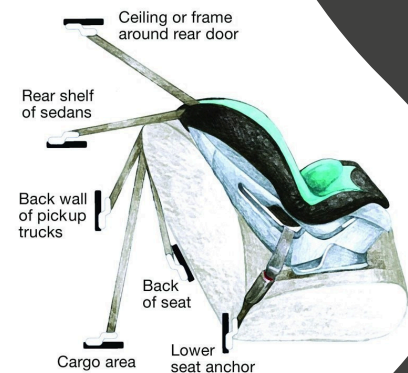


Tighten the Lower Anchor Webbing Strap

Pull the lower anchor webbing to tighten and secure the car seat.

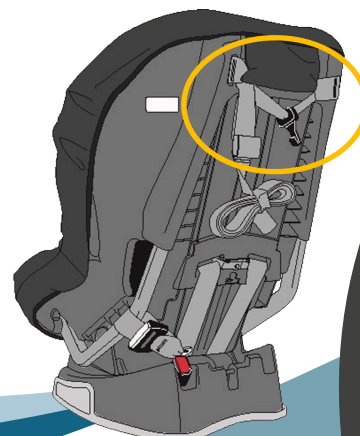
Check the Installation

The seat should be tight enough that you cannot move it more than one-inch from side-to-side or forward when testing the seat where the LATCH belt goes through.



Attach the Tether

Attach the tether strap to the correct tether anchor location when installing a forward-facing car seat. Tethering a forward-facing car seat will help reduce the distance that the child's head moves forward in a crash.



What you need to know when



USING LATCH

Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children

What is LATCH?

Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH) is a system used to secure a car seat - rear-facing, forward-facing, and some booster seats - to the vehicle seat without the use of the vehicle's seat belt system. Most car seats and passenger vehicles manufactured after September 1, 2002 are required to have LATCH systems.

Do I use both the seat belt and LATCH?

Use either the LATCH system or the vehicle's seat belt to secure the car seat. Check the vehicle manual and the car seat instructions to learn what options are available.

Using the seat belt and lower anchors to install the car is often not permitted. Use both methods for the same installation only when permitted by both the car seat and vehicle manufacturer.

Can LATCH be used in all seating positions?

Always check the vehicle owner's manual to determine the designated LATCH seating positions. Vehicle manufacturers must provide at least two seating positions with lower anchors, typically the outboard seating positions in the back seat.

Some vehicle manufacturers permit securing a car seat in the center seating position of the back seat. Always check both the vehicle manual and the car seat instructions for guidance on whether a car seat can be installed in this seating position.

Is there a weight limit for LATCH?

The weight limit for the LATCH system is 65 pounds, determined by the weight of the child plus the weight of the car seat.

When the combined weight of the child and car seat reaches 65 pounds, the car seat should be secured using the vehicle seat belt in place of the lower anchors. The car seat tether can also be used if permitted by the vehicle manufacturer.

When do I use the tether?

A top tether is used to secure the top of a forward-facing car seat. Check the vehicle manual to determine the designated tether anchor location in the vehicle.

A top tether prevents the car seat from moving forward in a crash or sudden stop. Without it, the child's head could hit the back of the front seat, other occupants, or other parts of the vehicle.

A few car seat manufacturers permit using the tether when installing a car seat rear-facing. Check the vehicle manual to confirm that the vehicle manufacturer also permits rear-facing tethering.

