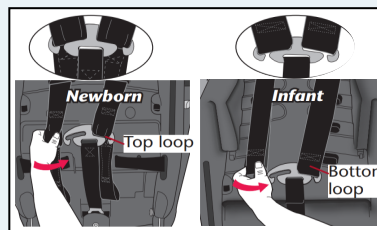




Car Seat Tips for Low Birth Weight Babies & Premies

Selection

- Choose a car seat that accommodates the infant's weight and height. A few rear-facing only car seats have a minimum weight range that starts at 3 pounds. Many rear-facing only and convertible car seats have a 4 pound minimum weight.
- Choose a car seat that has a harness that fits a small baby.
 - Multiple harness slots offer more opportunities to adjust the harness height to accommodate small but growing infants.
 - The distance from the harness slots to the bottom of the car seat is short enough to position the harness at or below the infant's shoulders, with the harness retainer clip at armpit level.
 - The distance from the crotch strap to the back of the seat is small enough for the crotch strap to be close to the child so the baby's bottom is held back against the car seat and does not slide forward. Car seats often have inserts/padding to fit a small infant.
 - If there is a gap between the child and the crotch strap, check with the car seat manufacturer to determine if a rolled diaper, wash cloth, or receiving blanket can be placed between the crotch strap and the infant to prevent the infant from sliding forward.
 - The harness can be tightened for a snug fit. Some harnesses have two loop positions on the harness straps. Using the top loop shortens the harness webbing for newborn use. The bottom loop is for use as the child grows.



Direction / Location / Harness Adjustment and Fit / Installation

- Place the car seat in a back seat facing the rear of the vehicle. The infant should remain rear-facing until age 2 or until the child reaches the highest weight and/or height allowed by the car seat manufacturer.
- Place the infant in the car seat with the child's back and bottom flat against the back of the car seat. The harness should be snug and no excess webbing can be pinched when checked at the child's shoulder.
- Place the harness retainer clip at armpit level.
- Use only the head-support systems or infant inlays that come with the car seat. Avoid any head supports or additional padding that are sold separately, unless approved by the car seat manufacturer.
 - If your infant is very small and needs more head and body support, a blanket roll may be placed on both sides of the infant. Read the car seat instructions or contact the car seat manufacturer to learn if adding the support is permitted.



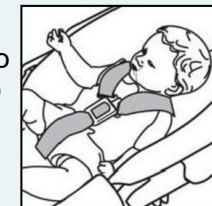
Other considerations

- Minimize travel.
- Use a car seat only for travel. Do not use a car seat outside of the vehicle when children are sleeping.
- Never place the car seat in the front seat with an active passenger-side airbag.
- Travel with an adult in the back seat to observe the baby.
- Never leave your child unattended in a car seat, in or out of the car.

Car Bed Basics

Car Bed Use is Reserved for Infants / Children Who Exhibit a Medical Necessity

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that low birth weight or premature infants undergo a period of observation in a car seat before hospital discharge. If the child cannot safely travel in a car seat, a car bed may be needed. Observation in a car bed before discharge is also recommended to ensure the child can travel safely. When the physician determines the baby may be ready to move to a rear-facing car seat, a follow-up period of observation is recommended to make sure the baby is ready to transition to a semi-reclined rear-facing car seat.



Installation tips for car beds:

- Always read and follow the car bed manufacturer's instructions.** If you are unsure, seek the advice of a nationally certified child passenger safety technician.
- Make sure the car bed is installed with the baby's head facing toward the center of the vehicle. The baby's head should NOT be next to a vehicle door.**
- Install the car bed using either the lower anchor connectors or the seat belt.
- Follow the car seat instructions for correct routing of the lower anchor connectors or the seat belt.
- Follow the vehicle manual to:
 - Locate the lower anchors,
 - Learn how to lock the seat belt.
- Secure the car bed tightly against the vehicle seat. The car bed is tightly installed when it does not move more than one-inch from side-to-side or front-to-back when pulled at the belt path.
- Secure the infant snugly in the harness system following manufacturer's instructions.

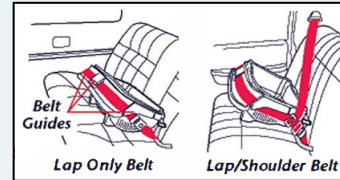
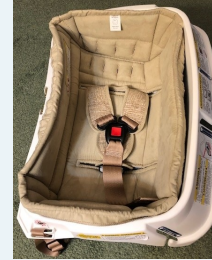
Car Beds and Car Seats for Low Birth Weight Children

Car beds are designed to transport children lying down. Car beds may be necessary for children with special health care needs who cannot be secured in a semi-reclined or upright car seat. The following is a list of currently available car beds:

AngelRide: Manufactured by Merritt Manufacturing, Inc.

Weight: Less than 9 pounds; Height: Less than 21.5 inches

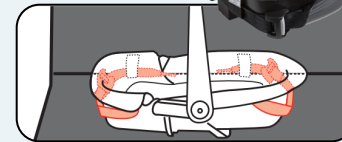
- Allows infants to be positioned on their stomach, back or right-side following manufacturer's instructions. Prone or right side-position must be approved by the medical professional.
- Provides a five-degree surface that raises the infant's head to facilitate breathing.
- Four feet must rest on the vehicle seat and the back car bed is against the vehicle seat back.
- Thread vehicle lap belt through all three car bed belt guides and rear belt adjusters. Vehicle shoulder belt is NOT be placed through car bed belt guides.
- Infant secure with the 3-point harness that wraps around the shell of the car bed.
- The harness must be replaced for each new infant. The pad can be laundered, but the manufacturer recommends replacing the pad for each new infant.
- Expiration date: 4 years from date of manufacture which is printed on the label located under the pad on the shell of the car bed.



Cosco DreamRide Car Bed: Manufactured by Dorel Juvenile Group

Weight: 5 - 20 pounds; Height: less than 26 inches

- Position the child lying down on their back with the head toward the center of the vehicle seat.
- Installing in the back seat is preferred. Secure the infant snugly with the 3-point harness. Position the harness straps over the child's shoulders and the crotch strap between the legs. The buckle should lay at mid-chest, even with the child's armpits.
- Carry handle must be in the upright and locked position when installed in the vehicle.
- The car bed can be secured with lower anchors or the vehicle seat belt.
- Expiration date: 8 years from date of manufacture.



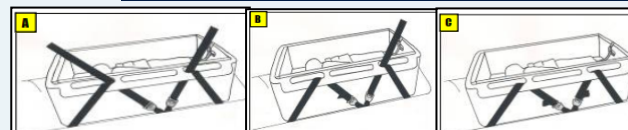
Hope Car Bed: Manufactured by Merritt Manufacturing, Inc.

Weight: 4.5 - 35 pounds; Height: 13 - 29 inches

- Comes with small restraint bag, small cummerbund, three-point harness and large cummerbund to cover the full range of weights.
- Offers 5 different restraint options:
 - Restraint bag with cummerbund in two sizes for supine, prone, or side-facing positions.
 - 3-point harness with cummerbund for supine or prone position.

Restraint type and position must be approved by the medical professional.

- Position car bed on the vehicle seat with the child's head toward the center of the vehicle.
- Install in the rear vehicle seat behind the passenger.
- Use two vehicle belts to attach the car bed to vehicle seat.
- Leveling straps to assist with a snug installation. A foam leveling wedge is available for use on a more sloped vehicle seat, if necessary for a tight installation.
- Expiration date: 6 years from date of manufacture. All pads, cushions, restraints, and components are replaceable and should be serviced and replaced, as needed, during the 6 year life of the product.



**Minimum Weight: 3 Pounds
Rear-Facing Only Car Seats**

Summer Infant Affirm 335



- **Weight: 3 - 35 pounds**
- **Height: 15 - 32 inches**
- Consult with medical professional before using this car seat with a premature, low birth weight, or medically fragile infant.

- The infant body insert is optional for child between 3 and 11 lbs.
- Harness Adjustment:
 - 4 harness slots
 - 3 crotch buckle positions
- Expiration date: 6 years from date of manufacture.

Evenflo LiteMax DLX and SafeMax

- **Updated weight and height ranges are retroactive.**

- **Weight: 3 - 35 pounds**
- **Height: 15.75 - 32 inches**

- Health care provider must approve travel in car seat for preterm and low birth weight infants.

- **Infant insert** use guidelines by manufacture date:
 - **1/1/2018 or newer:**

- **Optional** for child fit.

- **12/31/2017 or older:**

- **Required** for infants who weigh between 3 – 4 lbs., and
 - **Optional** for infants who weigh over 4 lbs.

- **Harness Adjustment:**

- 4 harness slots
 - 3 crotch buckle positions
 - 3 waist strap positions
 - 2 harness loops.

- The harness straps can be shortened for a newborn by using the top loop. The bottom loop is for use as the child grows.

- Head pillow, harness covers, and buckle pad are optional for all LiteMax seats, regardless of the date they were manufactured.
- Expiration date: 6 years from date of manufacture.

