

# Safety Belts and Safety Seats

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## Safety Belts Save Lives

- Wearing a safety belt improves survival by 50 percent for front seat passengers during a crash.
- Wearing lap and shoulder belts (combined with air bags) is the most effective way to reduce fatalities and serious injuries in traffic collisions.



## Buckle Up

Safety belts are most effective when used properly.

- Lap belts should fit snugly across the hips, not over the stomach.
- Shoulder belts go over the shoulder and across the center of the chest.
- Never tuck a shoulder belt under your arm or behind your back.

## Here Is the Law

Texas law now requires drivers and all passengers in vehicles to be secured by a safety belt. A safety belt violation can result in fines ranging from \$25 to \$250, plus court costs.

## Safety Seat Guidelines

Safety belts are designed for adults, not children.

Follow these guidelines when buying the proper seat and buckling up children:

### Birth-2 Years

- All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat until they are at least 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car seat's manufacturer. (Check labels on seat for this information.)
- Secure the chest clip even with your baby's armpits.
- Fasten harness straps snugly against your baby's body. You should not be able to pinch the slack at the baby's shoulder.
- Use the harness slot at or below the baby's shoulder for rear-facing.

### Over 2 Years

- Use a forward-facing seat for as long as the safety seat manufacturer recommends it. (Check labels for maximum height and weight information.)
- Fasten harness straps snugly against your child's body. You should not be able to pinch the slack at the baby's shoulder.
- Secure the chest clip even with your child's armpits.
- Use either seat belt or lower anchors to secure the car seat, not both. Always latch the tether strap to the corresponding anchor if your vehicle has one.

### 4-8 Years

- Use a booster seat to the maximum height or weight limit. (Check labels for information.)
- Fasten the lap belt across your child's thighs and hips, not stomach.
- The shoulder belt should rest on the chest, not the neck. Check belt routing on booster for proper placement.

### Over 8 Years Old

- Always use a lap and shoulder belt for maximum protection.
- Anyone under the age of 13 should be restrained in the back seat.

For additional information about child safety seats, call Safe Riders at (800) 252-8255.