

## **10 Tips for Choosing a Child Safety Seat**

1. Check your vehicle owner's manual. Before going shopping, look at the manual for specifications and proper placement of the child seat.
2. Look for versatility. Do not buy a seat with a large base because it will not fit in smaller vehicles. Instead, choose one with a narrow base.
3. Make installation easy. There should be clear instructions on the seat itself. Choose one that explains installation with a diagram as well as text. The instruction booklet should be written in a clear, concise manner with proper illustrations.
4. Check the belt path. For convenience and ease of use, make sure the child's seat belt path is easily accessed.
5. Use built-in locking clips. This feature is a great alternative of the traditional locking clips because there is less chance that a built-in clip will break or detach.
6. Choose two-piece retainer clips. These clips are important in helping the child stay securely in the seat.
7. Look for accessible harness adjusters. These make it easier and more convenient for parents to move the child in and out of the seat.
8. Pay attention to weight limit. This is usually noted on the seat. For infants, it is best to use a rear-facing, convertible seat with a weight limit up to 30 pounds.
9. Look for color coding if necessary. Many brands offer color-coding to denote age and weight ranges for their seats.
10. Choose something easy to clean. Seats made with a smooth fabric will wipe clean more easily than a textured fabric such as corduroy, which can be difficult to wash.