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THE NEW PARENT'S GUIDE TO
PRACTICAL CAR SAFETY







CONGRATULATIONS!

You are about to set forth on an amazing journey with your baby, and it is important to make sure they are as safe as they can be while they travel with you.

We're going to explain the most important aspects of keeping your baby safe in the car, across three key areas: choosing the right restraint, proper installation, and using your restraint correctly each and every day.



CHOOSING THE RIGHT CHILD RESTRAINT

Choosing the right child restraint can sometimes seem overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be!

All children under 7 years old, must use a child restraint. The driver is responsible to ensure children aged under 7 are secured by an approved child restraint suitable for their age and height.

We're spoilt for choice in Australia, thanks to our extremely stringent safety standard, so no matter which child restraint you choose, you can rest assured it's one of the safest in the world.

As a first time parent, the most critical feature you need to look for is that your seat is rearward facing. You're required by law to rearward face your child until they are 6 months old (Approximately), or until they reach the forward facing height marker. It's safest to keep your child rearward facing for as long as the restraint allows.

Other considerations should include how the restraint fits in your car (try before you buy), ease of use, safety features and what your budget allows.

It is important to remember, only purchase a child restraint that meets the Australian Standards (AS/NZS 1754). Look for the 5 tick label!



CHOOSING THE RIGHT CHILD RESTRAINT

Types of Rearward Facing Restraints

Capsules are dedicated rearward facing child restraints. Some Capsules can be detached from the base and attached to a pram (these are sometimes called 'Travel Systems' or 'Infant Carriers'.)

Convertible Car Seats start off as rearward facing child restraints. Once your baby's shoulders reach the appropriate height marker, the car seat is turned around to forward facing mode, for your now older and larger child.



INSTALLING YOUR CHILD RESTRAINT

What Is ISOFix?

ISOFix is a child restraint installation system that involves clipping the car seat into anchorage points manufactured into your vehicle. ISOFix secures your child restraint onto two metal bars (anchor points) and is an alternative installation method to using a seatbelt.

If your car is not ISOFix compatible, you will still be able to install your child restraint using the traditional seat belt installation method.

All Child Restraints will still require the use of the Top Tether Strap. ISOFix Child Restraints are thought to be quicker and easier to install, therefore considered 'safer' as there is less chance for error. However, rest assured no matter which InfaSecure child restraint you choose, you're in safe hands!



INSTALLING YOUR CHILD RESTRAINT

Is ISOFix Right For You?

Consider the following when deciding whether ISOFix is right for you.

Check if your vehicle is ISOFix compatible, the best thing to do is to check your car manufacturer's manual.

Check how many ISOFix anchor points you have in your vehicle. If you're a growing family or require 3 across in the backseat, ISOFix installation may be a challenge and seatbelt install may be more suitable.

ISOFix is only available on selected child restraints which fit children up to the age of 4 (approximately).

ISOFix also comes at a slight premium so you'll need to consider your budget against the pros and cons.



PROFESSIONAL FITTING & INSTALLATION

Professional Fitting & Installation

When fitting a child restraint it is important to follow your manufacturer's instructions, as a restraint which is not fitted or used correctly significantly reduces the safety protection provided by the restraint.

If you are unsure on how to fit your InfaSecure restraint correctly or would like your restraint checked, you can locate an authorised fitter here.





USING YOUR CHILD RESTRAINT

Rearward Facing

It is recommended to keep your baby rearward facing for as long as your child restraint allows. You're required by law to keep your baby rearward facing until approximately 6 months of age or until they have outgrown the height marker. However, many seats on the market allow for much longer than that.

Your baby is safest in a rearward facing position until their body has developed enough to face forwards. Use the shoulder height markers sewn into the cover of your child restraint as a visual guide to know when it's time to turn your child forward facing, upgrade to a new restraint or exit the restraint.



USING YOUR CHILD RESTRAINT

The Harness & Top Tether Strap

One of the most important parts of your child restraint is the internal harness, and how it fits your baby. The harness needs to sit snug against your baby's torso and shoulders. You shouldn't be able to pinch the harness webbing - If you can, the harness needs to be tightened.

The harness should be positioned in the shoulder slots at or above your baby's shoulders, never below. The center of the red button on the crotch buckle should be sitting in line with the top of the child's thighs, not above or below.

It is important that baby is positioned correctly in the restraint. Ensure the rearward restraint is installed at the correct angle outlined in your user manual. Baby should not be slouching and there should be no gaps between the restraint and their shoulders or bottom. Parents should be able to place one finger between baby's chin and chest to assist with optimal head positioning.

The top tether strap should have all of the slack removed, but shouldn't be over-tightened. The child restraint lifting off the vehicle seat can be an indication of an over-tightened top tether strap.



SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Pay It Forward!

It's important to remember that a lot of other people probably feel the same way you do. If you know someone who is having their first child, pass your knowledge along, send them a copy of this guide, or get them to contact us! Together, we can make this part of becoming a parent a little easier for everyone!

Don't forget to enjoy!

Bringing a new baby into the world is beautiful, wondrous and supremely rewarding, but it can also be a stressful experience, especially the first time around.

By following the advice in this guide, you'll be creating the safest travel environment possible for your new precious cargo. Cut through the confusion and focus on more important things, like beautiful baby cuddles!

If you have any questions or comments, we're here for you. You can connect our Customer Care team via phone 1300 924 632 or on our Website, Live Chat or Email customer care@infa.com.au
Enjoy your new baby!

From Our Family, To Yours,

The Infa Group Team



ABOUT THIS GUIDE

At InfaSecure, we're passionate about educating parents and caregivers on best practice use of child restraints. This guide has been written with this in mind.

Advice given is broad in nature. We recommend that you contact your specific child restraint manufacturer directly for any specific help with your restraint.

All information is as future-proof as possible, and accurate as of January 2024.

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InfaSecure is a 4th generation Australian Owned and Operated brand, committed to keeping children safe. We're just like you - Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Brothers and Sisters. We want what is best for our own children and that hard wired protective nature drives everything we do. Our Child Restraints are engineered with our trademark technologies which are designed to meet and exceed the Australian Standard - The strictest in the world.



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