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Ease of Use Ratings



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Parents...

Are you looking for a new car seat for your infant, toddler or 4 to 8 year old, but continue to hear stories from other parents on how difficult these seats are to use and install? Do you wonder if you'll be able to properly use and install your child's car seat?

Did you know...

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has developed five-star — “EASE OF USE” RATINGS — to inform parents how easy certain features are to use on car seats. Main features tested included:

- How simple is it to secure your child in the seat?
- Does the car seat have features that make it less complicated to install in the car?
- Are the instruction understandable and easy to find?
- Are the labels clear and simple to understand on the packaging and on the seat itself?

For a complete list of features and ratings go to www.nhtsa.gov. Each car seat received an overall rating for each category and an overall score of one to five stars depending on ease of use (one star = most difficult; five-stars = easiest).

NHTSA hopes the new star-rating system will not only help parents find the easiest-to-use model, but also encourage the development of seats that are easier for consumers to use.

Remember...

All car seats rated by NHTSA are certified to meet Federal Safety Standards and strict crash performance requirements. Any certified seat will provide good protection in a crash — if it is used correctly. The star-system only rates how easy certain features are to use.

The best car seat is one that:

- Fits your child properly;
- Fits in your vehicle correctly; and
- You use every time your child rides in a vehicle.

If you have any questions on how to properly install your child safety seat go to a child safety seat inspection station or a certified child passenger technician. To find one near you visit www.nhtsa.gov and look for [Locate a Child Seat Fitting Station](#) or [Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician Locator](#).