



Home » 20 Common Car Seat Mistakes

Parents often don't ealize they are considered seats incorrectly. Mistakes can be as small as clipping the harness in the wrong spot or all big as using a seat that no longer meets safety standards. These mistakes are dangerous because they increase the risk of injury to the child in the event of a potor vehicle crash. Learn 20 common car seat mistakes, their dangers, and how to not the child in the event of a potor vehicle crash. Learn 20 common car seat mistakes,

Road injuries are the most common cause of preventable injuries and death among children. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), car seat use reduces the risk of injury for children from car accidents by 71B82 percent, compared with seat belt use alone. Car seats can reduce the risk of death in passenger cars by an estimated 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for children ages one to four, According to The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Safe Kids Worldwide [GU1] [CW2], a nonprofit advocacy group focused on child safety, estimates that more than 2,600 children under 13 are involved in car accidents daily. Despite these statistics, parents often fail to use car seats or have installed them improperly, exposing children to avoidable risks.

Proper car seat use can help protect children in the event of a car accident. Here are some key elements that parents should be aware of when it comes to car seats:

- It is essential to read and carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions for using the car seat above all else
- Car seat placement matters, so it's important to ensure the seat is in the right spot and installed at the correct angle.
- As the owner's manual outlines, parents should always move and tighten shoulder straps based on the individual child
- To reduce the risk of injury caused by incorrect car seat use, here are the most common car seat mistakes

Car Seat Mistakes

According to NHTSA, 46 percent of car seats have been installed incorrectly. However, 96 percent of parents are confident they have installed car seats correctly. Make a note of these common mistakes when installing a car seat for your child.

1. Car Seat Is Too Loose

Leaving the car seat too loose is a common installation mistake. To test this, try to wiggle the bottom of the car seat. You should not be able to move the seat forward, back, or side-to-side more than one inch. If you can move it more than that, the car seat is too loosely installed and could fail to protect your child in an accident.

2. Harness Chest Olip Is in the Wrong Spot

Another common mistake is to have the chest clip in the wrong spot. The purpose of the chest clip is to keep the harness straps secured and in the proper place on your childÕs body. The chest clip should be level with your childÕs armpits and in the center of the chest. This will keep the harness straps in the right spot.

If the chest clip is not secured in the right spot, the harness straps can fall off the childÕs shoulders. If a car crash occurs, the child is not protected and could be thrown forward and severely or fatally injured.

3. Shoulder Straps Are at the Wrong Height

Many parents make the mistake of having the shoulder straps at the wrong height. When your child is in a rear-facing seat, the shoulder straps should be at or just below their shoulders. When your child is in a forward-facing car seat, the straps should be at or just above shoulder level. You must adjust the straps of height as your child grows.

4. Straps Are Too Loose

If the harness straps are too loose, your child may be thrown forward during a crash. You can use the pinch test technique to test if the straps are too loose.

Try to pinch the harness strap near your childÕs shoulders. If you can pinch a significant amount of harness material, then the harness is not tight enough. Tighten the harness until you cannot pinch the strap to ensure your childÕs safety.

5. Not Using Top Tether if Available

The top tether is a strap on car seats that fastens the car seat to a point behind the caros rear seat. It keeps the car seat secure so it doesnot sway, bounce, or move forward.

Many parents do not make use of this feature. DonÕt make this mistake, as it increases the risk to your child in an motor vehicle accident.

6. Improper Angles/Recline in Rear-Facing Seats

The angle and recline of rear-facing seats are important. Your childÕs breathing may be impaired if the seat is angled too far upright. On the other hand, if the seat is reclined too far down, the child may be less protected in a crash.

Always pay attention to the manufacturerÕs instructions. Usually, they explain at what angle or recline the car seat needs to be installed. On average, the acceptable recline angle is between 30 and 45 degrees.

7. Installing the Seat in the Wrong Spot for Your Vehicle

The conventional wisdom is that the middle of the back seat is the safest place to put a childOs car seat because it is the farthest from the airbags. However, not all cars are equipped for this, and it may not be the best place for the car seat in your car. To determine the recommended spot for your vehicle, consult your ownerÕs manual for your vehicle. Check the index for Ochild safety seats. O

The best option is to ask the advice of a certified car seat technician to determine in your car[GU1] [CW2] [GU3]. Car seat technicians will inspect your seat free of charge in most cases. You can find one by using the car seat inspection finder tool on NHTSAÕs website.

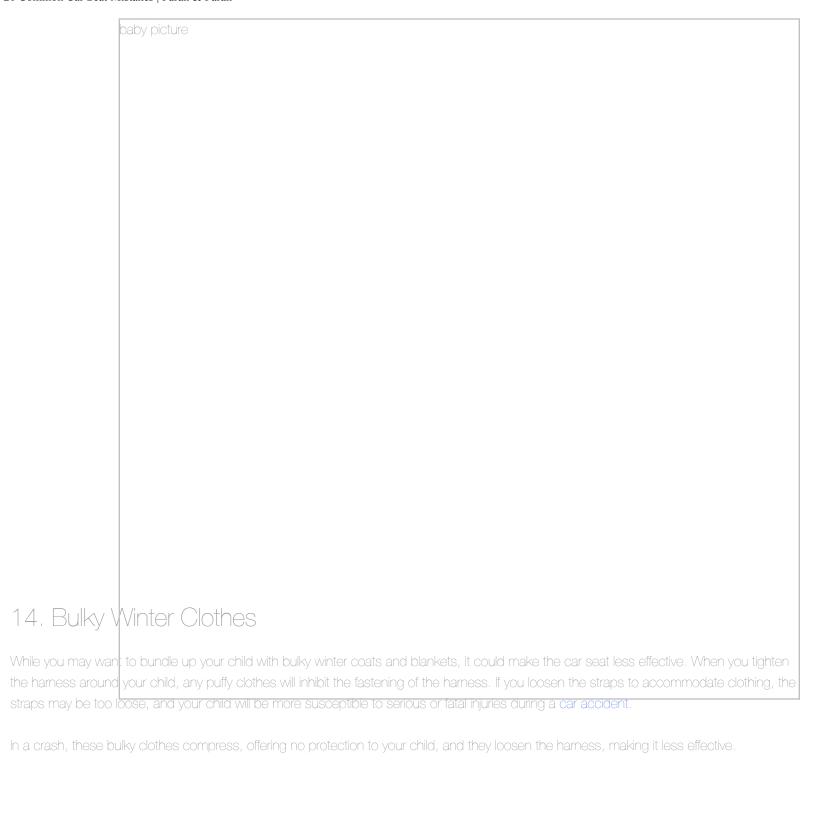
ssues With Car Seats

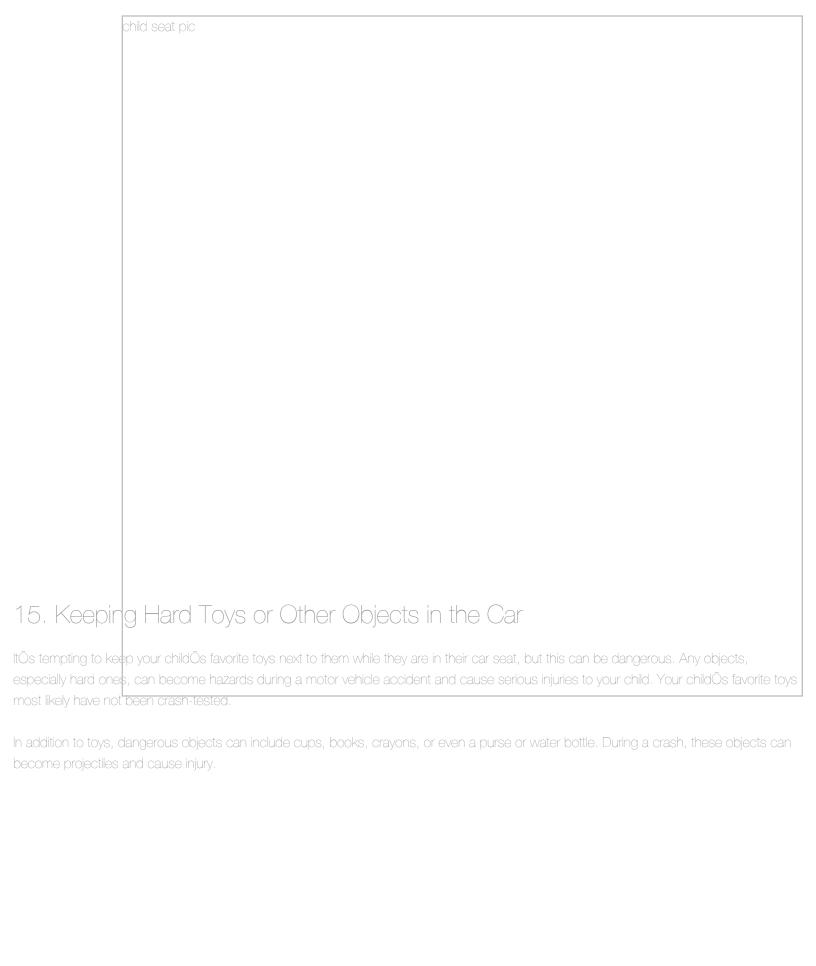
Sometimes, the issue is not that parents improperly installed the seat, but that the seat itself is unsuitable. The following are common issues with the car seat and how a child should be secured

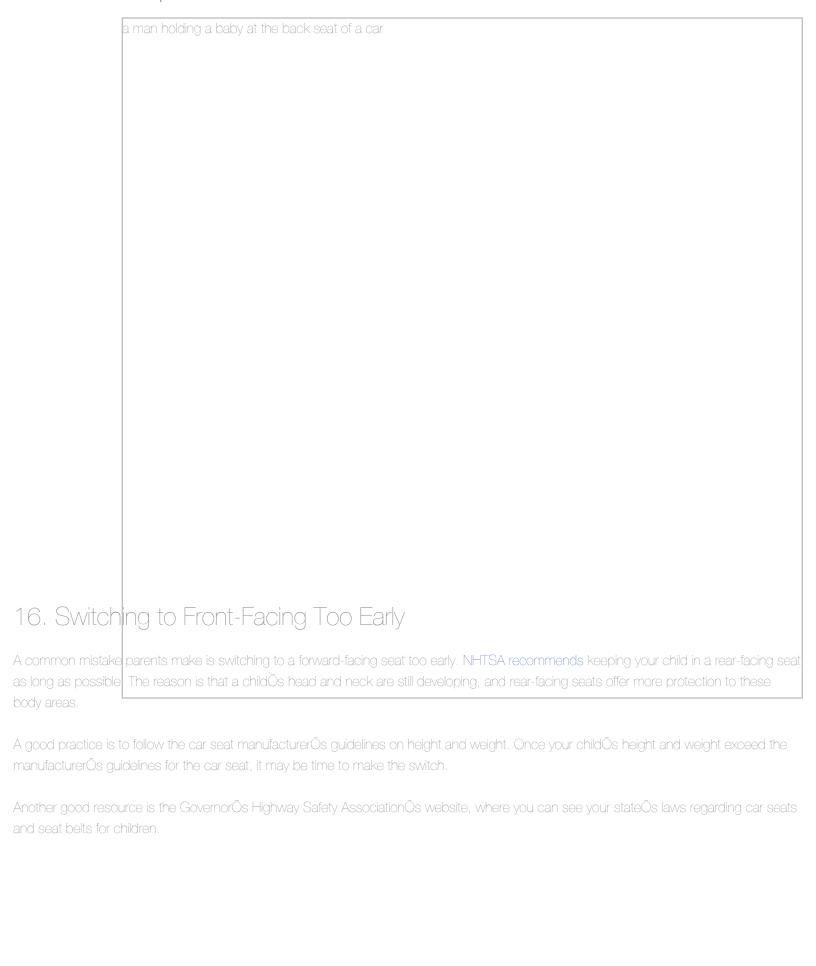
t may sound strange, but car seats have expiration dates. After a while, certain parts begin to malfunction. Many parents donÕt realize this. A car seat can also expire because of updates in safety standards and regulations. Make sure to look at the expiration date of your childÕs car seat and remember to buy a new one before it expires.

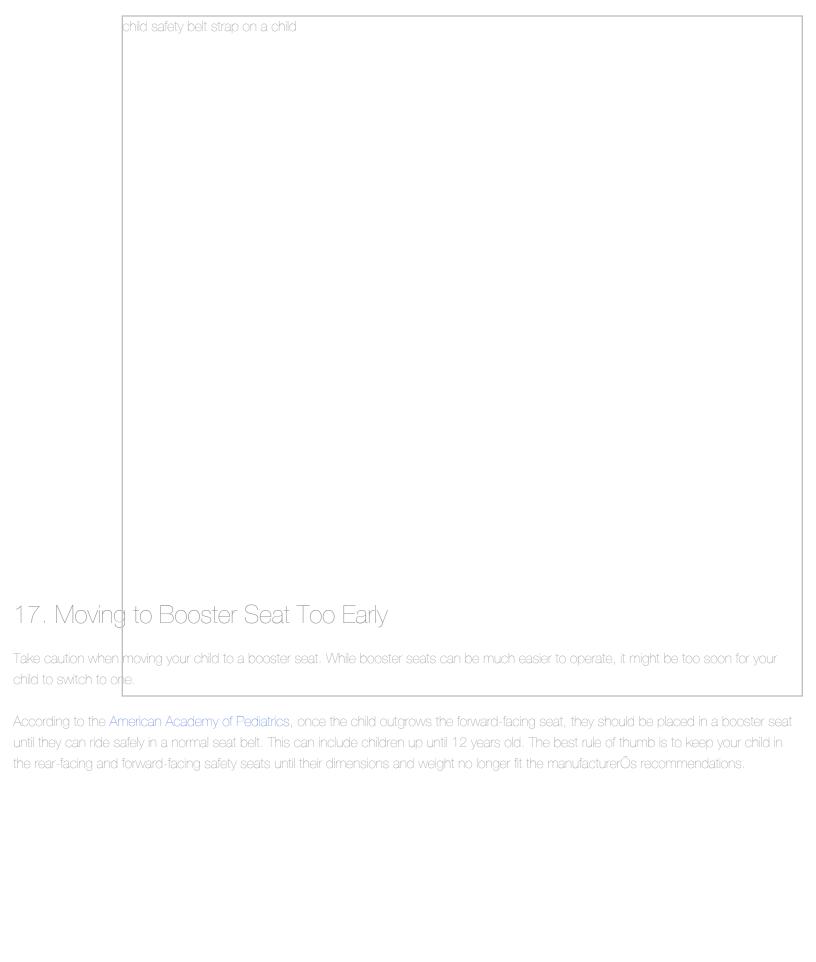
Other Issues

The following are other common mistakes parents make with car seats











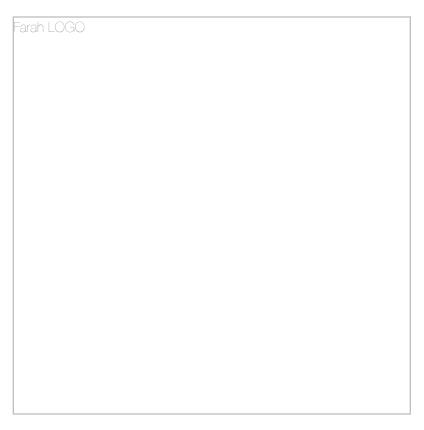
	child seat pic
19. Using (Some Car Seat Accessories
You may be tempte	d to use car seat accessories such as seat covers, head supports, and other cushions. But be wary of them.
Not all car seat acc	 essories have been tested. And not all car seat accessories are compatible with the brand and type of car seat you have.
	rch to ensure the seat accessories were tested specifically with your car seat brand and found satisfactory.
	e brand, specifically with car seats with covers and cushions. But even if the brand is the same or they are packaged with
the car seat, make	certain the car seat has been tested with the accessories to ensure safety.

	A man strapping a child on a child seat
J. Lelling	Your Child Sleep in the Car Seat Outside of the Car
ile it may seem h	narmless to bring your child in the car seat into the house rather than disturb their sleep, that is not always safe. A 2019
	nd that of all the deaths that occur in child safety seats, more than half of those deaths occurred in the childÕs house, not
car.	
e danger of letting	g a child sleep in a car seat outside the car is that the child can suffocate. Inside the car, if installed properly, the car seat
	hat the child sits comfortably. The angle is especially important because while a young childÕs muscles are still
veloping, they ma	ay be unable to hold their head up without support.

Hopefully, this list of common mistakes and suggestions for proper car seat installation will give you the tools to ensure your childÕs seat is safe and secure. Car accidents can be devastating, but they donÕt have to be. Key safety precautions like the proper use of a child car seat

not secured. Therefore, it is best not to use the car seat outside of the car.

Safe Travels with Peace of Mind



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