



LATCH

Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children

The LATCH system was created to help overcome the growing issue of incompatibility between child safety seats and vehicle restraint systems. It is comprised of 2 portions: (1) the tether system and (2) the lower anchorage system. While this advancement has aided in combating several incompatibility issues, there are a series of new misuse possibilities that have arisen.

- The LATCH system should not be used simultaneously with the safety belt system of the vehicle. Only one of the two systems should be selected for use at a time.
- The safety belt system of the vehicle should be used whenever the LATCH system cannot secure the safety seat tightly or allow for proper alignment.
- Two safety seats should never be attached to the same LATCH anchor bar of the vehicle.
- The LATCH system should be checked after attachment to ensure safety seat anchors are properly secured to the vehicle anchor bars of the vehicle; not attached to the fabric of the vehicle seat.
- Retrofit tether straps or attachment straps should only be added-on the restraint when specifically approved by the safety seat manufacturer.
- The innermost anchor bars of the LATCH systems, located on the inside of the outermost vehicle seating position, should not be used to install a safety seat in the center position unless BOTH the safety seat manufacturer and the vehicle manufacturer instructions allow it.

- Booster seats made with an internal harness can be installed with the LATCH system. When the booster seat is converted into a belt-positioning booster, remove the internal harness and most manufacturers recommend also removing the LATCH anchors and tether straps.
- Convertible seats installed rear facing can be secured using the LATCH system. However, you should always check the safety seat instructions manual to be sure that the tether strap portion of the LATCH system is allowed [to be used] with this particular safety seat when positioned rear-facing.
- The LATCH anchors of vehicles are designed to hold safety seats securing children weighing under 48 lbs. Whenever a safety seat is used for a heavier child, secure the restraint with the safety belt system of the vehicle instead of the LATCH system. Check the manufacturers guidelines for proper usage.

