

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

- Check your vehicle owner's manual. Before going shopping, look at the manual for specifications and proper placement of the child seat.
- 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.
- 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.
- Check the belt path. For convenience and ease of use, make sure the child's seat belt path is easily accessed.
- 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.
- Choose two-piece retainer clips. These clips are important in helping the child stay securely in the seat.
- Look for accessible harness adjusters. These make it easier and more convenient for parents to move the child in and out of the seat.
- 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.
- Look for color coding if necessary. Many brands offer color-coding to denote age and weight ranges for their seats.

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.