

## Car seats: New or Used?

That's an important question with some things to consider. Our friends with Buckle Up For Life offer these tips when considering buying a new car seat or opting for a used one. If you do choose to go the "used route", remember to never purchase these at a second-hand store or from a person you don't know. Knowing the crash history is important and a seat purchased from a thrift store does not allow you to obtain that information. Buying it from someone you don't know poses the danger that they may misrepresent the car seat's history. If choosing a used seat, be sure it is from a trusted friend or family member and follow these tips below.

### Buying a new car seat

#### Some things to consider:

- Because all brands and models of car seats must meet or exceed the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, a less expensive model will usually work as well as a more expensive model. The difference is that higher-priced models may have added convenience features.
- Is the seat's harness easy to use? Buckle and unbuckle the harness a number of times to try it out.
- Can you easily get a child in and out? Practice with a child, if possible.
- Make sure the seat fits tightly in your vehicle.
- The right car seat is one that is correct for the weight, height, and age of your child, fits in your vehicle while in the correct position, and you can install it properly every time.

### Choosing a used car seat

It is best to use a new seat because you know it's up to date and hasn't been compromised in any way. If you have to use a secondhand seat, make sure:

- The seat has not been involved in a crash.
- You can read the manufacturer's model number and date. This information is typically printed on a sticker that is on the back or bottom side of the car seat.
- The seat is not past the expiration date.
- The seat has all its parts and a car seat manual.
- The seat has not been recalled.
- The seat does not show signs of wear and tear on the harness, padding, shell or frame.



**Buckle Up for Life**

**TOYOTA**

