

Second-Hand Car Seat Checklist



1. Has the seat passed its expiration date? Or, was it manufactured more than six years ago?
 No. Continue
 Yes. Destroy the seat! It is no longer safe to use.
2. Is the seat labeled as meeting current Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards?
 Yes. Continue
 No. Destroy! It is no longer safe; do not use.
3. Has the seat been involved in a vehicle crash?
 No. Continue
 Yes. Destroy! It is no longer safe to use.
 Unknown? Destroy! The seat may have hidden damage.
4. Has the seat been recalled for safety defects?
 No. Continue
 Yes. Have the defects been corrected?
 Yes. Continue
 No. Destroy! It is no longer safe.
 Unknown? Call manufacturer for help on how to see if recall has been repaired.
5. Are there any splits, cracks, bends or breaks in the plastic shell or metal frame?
 No. Continue
 Yes. Destroy! It is no longer safe to use.
6. Do you have the instruction book?
 Yes. Continue
 No. Order a new set or print one from the manufacturer's Web site.
7. Does the seat have all its parts: harness straps, pad/upholstery, harness retainer clip, shield (if applicable), tether strap, LATCH connectors, locking clip, etc.?
 Yes. Continue. You **MUST** refer to the car seat instructions to see if all parts are present!
 No. Destroy—or obtain replacement parts from the manufacturer.
8. Are the harness straps worn, damaged or frayed?
 No. Continue
 Yes. Destroy—or obtain replacement parts from the manufacturer.
9. Is there rust in the buckle area?
 No. Continue
 Yes. Throw the seat away—or obtain replacement parts from the manufacturer!
10. Does the buckle mechanism fasten securely, remain fastened, and unfasten smoothly?
 Yes. You may consider using this seat.
 No. Destroy—or, obtain replacement parts from the manufacturer.