Car Seat Safety

Frequently Asked Questions

**What happens if I show up at the fire station without an appointment?**Most likely there will not be a certified car seat technician available. The on-duty staff will schedule an appointment and you will have to return another day.  
  
**How long does an appointment last?**  
Car seat installations last approximately 30 minutes per seat. You will be instructed on the function of your seat, proper fit and installation for your vehicle, and how to accurately secure your child in the seat.  
  
**What should I bring to my appointment?**  
1. The child (whenever possible).  
2. The car seat owner’s manual.  
3. The vehicle owner’s manual.

New seats must be prepared for installation, meaning they are out of the box and all packing material has been removed. Used seats must have their hard surfaces wiped clean and the fabric washed.

**Why are installations by appointment only?**We require an appointment so that we can guarantee you a certified car seat technician available for their entire appointment.  
  
**Why should we have our car seat(s) installed by a trained technician?**Each vehicle, seat belt and car seat present a unique and sometimes challenging situation. Having your seat(s) checked by a trained technician will lower the chance of your children being unnecessarily injured in a crash.  
  
**When can my child sit in the front seat?**  
When properly restrained, children are safest in the backseat of a vehicle. The center, rear position is the safest since there is more vehicle surrounding the child on every side.  Children are particularly vulnerable to the explosive impact of an air bag.

Please visit <http://www.beseatsmart.org/child-passenger-safety-laws.php> for the most current Vermont child passenger safety laws:

* All infants, under one year old and less than 20 pounds, must ride rear facing in an approved child restraint. Infant seats must not be placed in front of an active air bag.
* All children aged 7 or younger must ride in an approved child restraint (car seat or booster).
* All children aged 8 – 18 must ride in an approved child restraint or safety belt system.

Further recommendations include:

* Rear facing until at least 2 years old – the longer, the better.
* Stay in a booster seat until seatbelts fit properly.
* Stay in the backseat until 13 years old.

**What should I do if my child won't stay in their car seat or seat belt?**Children do not always understand the concept of safety. Make it clear they will not be allowed to travel anywhere until they are properly restrained and must remain so for the entire time traveling.  Pull to the side of the road and stop if they unlatch themselves.  Set a good example by always buckling up the moment you get in the car.  
  
**Where can I get more information until my scheduled appointment?**  
Visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration site at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/) or Safe Kids USA at <http://www.usa.safekids.org/> for more help.  Feel free to call the Williston Fire Department with any additional questions at (802) 878-5622.