Convertible Child Restraint System for children 5 to 65 lbs (2.3 to 29.5 kg).

Approved in accordance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213.

Only suitable for use in vehicles with 2-point (lap), 3-point (lap & shoulder) seat belts and LATCH anchorages.


Please read instructions prior to installation. Store this manual in the seat base.
Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle. Prevent Child Heatstroke in Cars

Even great parents can forget a child in the back seat. Unfortunately, heatstroke is one of the leading causes of death among children. Be sure to follow these three important rules to prevent child heatstroke in your car:

1. Never leave a child alone in a car
   - It’s never OK to leave a child alone in a car, even for a few minutes, and even if the car is on.
   - Opening windows will not prevent heatstroke.
   - Heatstroke happens even on cloudy days and when outside temperatures are below 70 degrees.
   - Don’t let kids play in an unattended vehicle.

2. Look Before You Lock
   - Always check the back seats of your vehicle before you lock it and walk away.
   - Keep a stuffed animal or other memento in your child’s car seat when it’s empty, and move it to the front seat as a visual reminder when your child is in the back seat.
   - If someone else is driving your child, or your daily routine has been altered, always check that your child arrived safely.

3. Take Action if You See a Child Alone in a Car
   - Don’t wait more than a few minutes for the driver to return before calling.
   - Don’t worry about getting involved in someone else’s business—protecting children is everyone’s business. “Good Samaritan” laws offer legal protection for those who offer assistance in an emergency.
   - If you see a child alone in a hot vehicle, call the police. If they are in distress due to heat, get them out as quickly as possible and spray the child with cool water. Call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.
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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the RECARO family of high quality child safety products and thank you for purchasing your new RECARO Child Restraint System.

RECARO has over 100 years experience in the design and manufacture of premium automotive products. To assure all products RECARO manufactures are worthy of the name, we've subjected them to a comprehensive development program complying with American FMVSS 213 safety standards.

Although each RECARO child restraint system is equipped with state-of-the-art safety features such as Side Impact Protection (SIP), it is not a guarantee that this child restraint will prevent injury or death. However, if you stress careful driving and proper use of your child restraint, it can lower the risk of injury or death.

Therefore, please make sure to carefully review all information in this instruction manual to properly restrain your child. Also, before using your new child restraint for the first time, please review all components carefully to make sure nothing has been damaged during shipping. Failure to follow these instructions and the labels on the seat can result in serious injury or even death.

The RECARO child seat you have purchased is a high quality product. Its different settings and its stable and ergonomic design ensure that the RECARO child seat is a safe and comfortable place for your child to sit when traveling in your car. However, before you use it, you need to
adjust it to your child’s size and then install it carefully so that the seat will perform as required. These instructions will help you do this, so please read them carefully.

Remember, parents are a child’s best examples. Be sure to ALWAYS buckle your seat belt and your children will be much more likely to do the same. Thank you again for choosing RECARO and enjoy your child restraint. If you have any questions or need assistance of any kind please contact us at:

RECARO Child Safety, LLC
1600 Harmon Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Tel: 1-888-9RECARO
Internet: www.recaro.com
E-mail: info-usa@recaro-cs.com


Sincerely,

The RECARO Child Safety Team
Section 1: Safety Warnings

⚠️ WARNING! DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

• Failure to follow warnings provided on the child restraint labels and stickers could cause serious injury or death.

• Use only with children who weigh between 5 and 65 pounds (2.3 and 29.5 Kg) and whose height is 49 inches (125 cm) or less. **Rear-Facing 5 - 40 pounds (2.3 and 18.1 kg)** and **Forward-Facing 20 - 65 pounds (9.1 and 29.5 kg)** and at least 1 year of age. Do **NOT** use for a child who weighs more than 65 pounds (29.5 kg).

• Do **NOT** use the lower anchors of the child restraint anchorage system (LATCH system) to attach this child restraint when restraining a child weighing more than 45 pounds (20.4 kg).

• Do **NOT** use this child restraint system until you have read and understood the instructions in this manual and in your vehicle’s owner’s manual. Do **NOT** let others install or use this child restraint system unless they understand how to use it.

• **NEVER** give this child restraint to someone else without also giving them this manual.

• Discontinue use of your child restraint **six (6) years** after “**manufactured in**” date located on a sticker on the side of the seat structure.

• Do **NOT** make any technical modification to the child restraint system and use it only as outlined in these instructions unless specified by RECARO. Otherwise, the safety function of the seat will be reduced or completely voided.

• Before each use, inspect the child restraint. Make sure nothing on the child restraint is damaged, loose or broken. If anything on the child restraint appears damaged, loose or broken, do **NOT** use the restraint.
• If the child restraint has been in a crash or vehicle accident, it must be replaced; do NOT use the child restraint again. A crash can cause unseen damage and using the child restraint again can cause serious injury or death.

• This child restraint must NOT be used in the home, boats or other non-certified applications.

• NEVER leave a child unattended even when sleeping.

• The child restraint should be securely belted to the vehicle, even when it is not occupied, since in a crash an unsecured child restraint system may injure other occupants.

• Do NOT place a child restraint in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag. According to accident reports, children under the age of 12 are safest when properly restrained in the back seat.

• Snugly adjust the belts provided around your child.

• A snug strap should NOT allow any slack. It lies in a relatively straight line without sagging. It does NOT press on the child's flesh or push the child’s body into an unnatural position.

• Secure this child restraint with the vehicle’s child restraint LATCH anchorage system if available or with a vehicle belt.

• Secure the top anchorage strap provided with this child restraint.

• Do NOT lubricate buckles, fasteners or any part of the child restraint.

• Do NOT add accessories, toys, padding or other items to the child restraint unless provided by RECARO.

• NEVER allow a child to play with the child restraint; it is NOT a toy.
Placing your child in a hot child restraint may result in burns. There is no guarantee that the child restraint will prevent injury or death in a particular crash. However, if you stress careful driving and proper use of the child restraint, it can lower the risk of injury or death in most crashes.

NEVER use a used child seat unless you know its complete history.

**Extreme Weather**

When it is **HOT**, RECARO recommends the following tips to reduce possible injury or discomfort to your child:

- Park your vehicle in the shade to help keep the restraint cooler.
- Cover the child restraint with a sheet or blanket when not in use.
- **ALWAYS** check surface temperatures of the child restraint before placing a child in it.

When it is **COLD**, RECARO recommends the following tips to reduce possible injury or discomfort to your child:

- Remove the child’s bulky clothing before restraining the child. This will help belts and other safety features function properly.
- After restraining the child in the seat, cover the child and the restraint system with a blanket or their jacket to maintain warmth and comfort of the child.
Section 2: Register Your New Child Restraint

Child restraints could be recalled for safety reasons. You must register this restraint to be reached in a recall.

Send your name, address, email address if available, and the restraint’s model number, serial number and manufacturing date to:

RECARO Child Safety, LLC
1600 Harmon Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

or call: 1-888-9RECARO

or register online at:
http://www.registermyrecaro.com

For recall information, call the U.S. Government’s Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153) or go to http://www.NHTSA.gov.

ALL information provided to RECARO on the registration card or on the online registry will NOT be sold, distributed, or used for any purposes other than to contact you in the event of a recall.
Section 3: Getting to Know Your Child Restraint

This child restraint is known as a convertible child restraint because it converts from a **Rear-Facing** into a **Forward-Facing** restraint system as your child grows.

It is important to know the difference between these two use modes, be able to choose which mode is appropriate for your child, and be able to choose which sections of this instruction manual apply to the mode that you desire.

To facilitate choosing the right set of the instructions for the mode that you desire, look for color codes on the sides of the pages in this instruction manual.

**Rear-Facing** instructions are indicated in **BLUE**, and **Forward-Facing** instructions are indicated in **PINK**. Note that general information and information applying to both user modes is **GRAY**.

**NEVER** use the child restraint system for a child who is not within the height, weight, and age ranges recommended in this instruction manual.

RECARO strongly encourages keeping children rear-facing up to the maximum **Rear-Facing** weight or height limits of your child restraint.
Child Fit Information and Requirements

Rear-Facing:

The child restraint is **NOT** appropriate for all children. You must confirm the child meets **ALL** of the height, weight and other fit requirements. Please measure and weigh the child to verify the Performance RIDE / ProRIDE is the correct seat for them.

**NOTE:** If the child does **NOT** meet **ANY** of the height, weight or other fit requirements for this child restraint, the child **CANNOT** use it. If that is the case, please see the other fine child restraint systems that are offered by RECARO.

A child **CAN** use the child restraint in the **Rear-Facing** position **ONLY** if:

- The child’s weight is between **5** and **40 pounds (2.3 kg and 18.1 kg)** **and,**
- The harness **CAN** be positioned **AT** or **BELOW** the child’s shoulders, when the child is seated **and,**
- The child’s seated height* is **LESS** than **22.5 inches (57 cm)** **and,**
- When sitting in the child restraint the top of the child’s head is **NOT** closer than **1 inch (2.5 cm)** from the top edge of the headrest.

**NOTE:** A child’s seated height measures the distance from the top of their head to the bottom of their tailbone, when they are sitting.
Forward-Facing
A child **CAN** use this child restraint in the **Forward-Facing** position **ONLY** if:

- The child is at least 12 months of age and,
- The child’s weight is between **20** and **65 pounds** (9.1 kg and **29.5 kg**) and,
- The harness **CAN** be positioned **AT** or **ABOVE** the child’s shoulders, when the child is seated **and**,
- The child’s standing height* is **LESS** than **49 inches** (125 cm) **and**,
- When the child is sitting and the headrest is in the highest position, the top of the child’s ears must be **BELOW** the top of the headrest.
- If **ANY** portion of the child’s head exceeds the top edge of the child restraint, there must be a vehicle headrest support.

**NOTE:** A child’s standing height measures the distance from the top of their head to the bottom of their feet, when they are standing.

**Safety Stripe System™**
Your child restraint is equipped with the easy-to-use RECARO Safety Stripe System™. You will notice that your harness has a white stripe on the outside edges. This added safety feature will allow you to ensure that your harness is not twisted. The white stripe should always remain at the outside edge of the harness above the lower buckle. If it is not, please loosen your harness system and remove any twist prior to use.
Child Restraint Features:
It is important to become familiar with the features of your child restraint system. These diagrams help you identify key features.

- Integrated 5-Point Harness
- Headrest
- Trim Cover & Comfort Padding
- Chest Clip
- Latch Plates (2)
- Buckle
- Chest Clip Pockets (2)
- Seat Base
- Level Line
- Harness Release Lever
- QuickFlip Recline Under Base (Select Models)
- Harness Adjuster Strap
- Recline Adjuster
- Side Impact Protection
Child Restraint Features:

It is important to become familiar with the features of your child restraint system. These diagrams help you identify key features.

*Stored in slots on the side of the seat.
ProRIDE

Performance RIDE

*Only provided with Performance RIDE
Section 5: Adjusting the Harness System to Fit Your Child

Place your child in the child restraint prior to installing in the vehicle and determine if the shoulder strap height needs to be adjusted.

- When using in **Rear-Facing** mode, the shoulder straps must be located AT or BELOW the child’s shoulders.
- When using in **Forward-Facing** mode, the shoulder straps must be located AT or ABOVE the child’s shoulders.

1. Loosen the harness system. Press the harness release lever and pull the shoulder straps forward.

2a. Rotate the harness system adjustment knobs to raise the shoulder straps or to lower the shoulder straps.

2b. Refer to the labels, near the harness system adjustment knobs.

**NOTE:** The headrest will move up and down. **STOP when resistance is felt.**

3. Pull shoulder straps to ensure the system is secure.
Section 4: Securing the Child in the Child Restraint

1. Loosen the harness system. Press the harness release lever and pull the shoulder straps forward.

2. Open the chest clip by squeezing the tabs and separating.

3. Open the buckle by pressing the red button. Place the harness straps to the side or place the chest clips into the harness pockets to hold.

4. Seat the child in the child restraint with his/her bottom fully into the seat. Position the harness straps around the child and fasten both latch plates into the buckle.
5. Fasten the chest clip.

6. Pull up on each shoulder strap to tighten the lower section of the harness.

7. Tighten the harness by pulling adjuster strap straight out. The harness webbing should be snug around the child in both the lap and shoulder sections. Adjust the chest clip so it is at the child’s armpit level.

8. The harness is tight enough when you cannot pinch a loop of webbing.

9. If you find the harness is not tight fitting, a newborn insert may be required.

Please contact 1-888-9RECARO and RECARO will ship you a newborn insert and instructions.
Section 5: Choosing a Seating Location in Your Vehicle

Forward-Facing vehicle seats must ALWAYS be used with this child restraint. If your vehicle does not have rear seats, consult your vehicle owner’s manual to help identify safety features in your vehicle or contact the vehicle manufacturer.

Do NOT install this child restraint into any of the following types of seating positions:

- NEVER install on a rear-facing vehicle seat.
- NEVER install in the rear seat of small extended cab pickup.
- NEVER install on a side-facing vehicle seat.

If the vehicle backrest angle is adjustable, adjust vehicle’s backrest into the upright position. Be sure this area is flat and clear of objects that might get in the way of installing the child restraint.
Do NOT place rear-facing child seat on front seat with air bag.

The high pressure deployment of the airbag can cause serious injury or death to a child.

If your vehicle is equipped with front passenger airbags, consult your vehicle’s owner’s manual for installation instructions for child restraints.

If your vehicle does not have rear seats, consult your vehicle’s owner’s manual to help identify safety features in your vehicle or contact the vehicle manufacturer.

RECARO and the U.S. Department of Transportation warn that children age 12 and under MUST ride in the rear seat away from front airbags.

Restraint systems should be securely belted to the vehicle, even when they are not occupied, since in a crash an unsecured child restraint system may injure other occupants or store it somewhere outside the passenger cabin so that it cannot injure anyone while the vehicle is in motion. RECARO recommends storing the child restraint in a cool and dry location.
Section 7: Learning About Your Vehicle Safety Systems

It is important to become familiar with the features of your vehicle so that your child rides as safely as possible. Read the vehicle's owner's manual to learn about the safety features and adjustments available for safe travel. Below is a diagram that helps you to identify key features. Not all vehicles will have all features described here.

Some vehicles may have inflatable seat belts. As this is new technology, please refer to www.recaro.com for updates.
Because the design and operation of vehicle belts vary, make sure to observe the following guidelines:

- Do NOT use motorized passive restraint shoulder belt systems.
- Do NOT use passive restraints lap or shoulder belt mounted on a door.
- Do NOT use vehicle lap and shoulder belt systems that have independent retractors for the lap and shoulder portion of the vehicle seat belt system.

**NOTE:** If you have a seat belt system described above, check your vehicle’s owner’s manual for advice on where and how to install a child restraint. Your vehicle dealer may have a replacement lap belt that when installed will hold the child restraint tightly.

**IMPORTANT!**
Check to be sure which type of seat belt system you have in the chart on the next page. Some vehicles have more than one type of belt system depending on the seating position. The center rear position may have a lap only belt while the side seating locations may have a lap/shoulder system. If you are not sure which system you have, check your vehicle owner’s manual or contact your vehicle dealer or manufacturer.
# Types of Seat Belt Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seat Belt System</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Installation Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LATCH</td>
<td>LATCH straps are provided with the seat.</td>
<td>Page 22-25</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Page 33-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switchable Retractor w/ Sliding Latch Plate</td>
<td>One of the most common systems. To activate, pull the shoulder belt out fully. As you feed the shoulder</td>
<td>Page 29-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>belt back, a clicking sound will indicate the belt is locked. Note that the latch plate slides freely.</td>
<td>Page 40-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Locking Retractor with Locking Latch Plate</td>
<td>The latch plate locks when buckled. The belt can be pulled to tighten but the lap portion cannot be</td>
<td>Page 29-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>loosened without unbuckling. The shoulder belt retractor locks only in an emergency.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Locking Retractor with Switchable Latch</td>
<td>The latch plate will have a button or “switch” to move from the adult pre-crash position to the child</td>
<td>Page 29-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plate</td>
<td>pre-crash position. The shoulder belt retractor locks only in an emergency.</td>
<td>Page 40-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lap Belt Only</td>
<td>Most common in the rear middle seating position, only the lap portion of the seat belt is present.</td>
<td>Page 26-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Page 38-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Locking Retractor with Sliding Latch Plate (MUST use lock off)</td>
<td>The latch plate has no locking features and no moving parts. The shoulder belt retractor locks only in an emergency.</td>
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<td></td>
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Section 8: Installing the Child Restraint Rear-Facing in Your Vehicle

⚠️ WARNING! DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

LATCH Installation – Rear-Facing
If your vehicle has lower anchors, the LATCH connector system can be used. Check your vehicle’s owner’s manual to determine if lower anchors are available and their applicable seating locations. If lower anchors are not available, the vehicle seat belt must be used.

**NOTE:** Your child restraint seat is shipped with the LATCH connectors installed for the **Rear-Facing** mode.

- Use ONLY in reclined position when installed **Rear-Facing**.

1. Adjust the child restraint into the recline position by pulling the recline adjust handle and rotating the seat back. Rotate until the recline adjust handle locks into position.

2. Locate the LATCH connectors at the side of the shell; press the red buttons and remove the connectors from their storage.
3. Lengthen the LATCH strap by pressing the LATCH adjuster release button and pulling the webbing to full length.

4. If the LATCH strap is currently routed through the **Forward-Facing** belt path, unroute one LATCH connector so both connectors sit on the side of the seat where the LATCH strap is attached to the shell.

5a. Lift the trim cover at the front and route the LATCH strap through the **Rear-Facing** belt path (circled in blue). Make certain the LATCH strap is routed behind the crotch belt.

5b. Make sure the arrows molded on the LATCH connectors are facing up and replace the trim cover.
6. Place the child restraint on the vehicle seat facing rearward. Attach each LATCH connector to the lower anchors in the vehicle.

7. While pressing down on the seating surface on the same side as the adjuster, pull the loop on the LATCH strap to tighten.

Repeat as needed until the child restraint cannot be moved more than 1 inch (2.5 cm) in any direction at the belt path.

8. The level line indicator on the seat base should be level with the ground when the vehicle is parked. The backrest should be at approximately a 45-degree angle.
9. If the level to ground line is not level, more recline is needed. Loosen the LATCH belt and place a tightly rolled towel or foam pool noodle under the base below where the child’s feet will be located. **On select models**, flip forward the QuickFlip recline wedge from its storage to reach a more reclined position.

**NOTE:** *Do NOT* place anything under the base, except as shown in Fig. 9.

10. Follow steps 1-8 to secure the child restraint after adjusting the angle.

11. After adjusting the recline angle, check that the child restraint is tight and properly secured. The child restraint should not move more than **1 inch (2.5 cm)** in any direction **at the belt path**.

12. To remove the LATCH connectors from the vehicle, first loosen the adjuster by pressing the adjuster button and lengthening the strap (see Fig. 3). Press the red buttons on the LATCH connectors and remove from vehicle lower anchors (see Fig. 6).

13. Reroute the LATCH connector strap through the **Forward-Facing** belt path and replace them into the storage slots on the side of the seat.
Lap Belt Only Installation – Rear-Facing

Do NOT use this method of installation with an emergency locking retractor.

• Use ONLY in reclined position when installed Rear-Facing.

1. Adjust into the recline position by pulling the recline adjust handle and rotating the seat back. Rotate until the recline adjust handle locks into position.

2. Lift the trim cover and foam at the front and locate the Rear-Facing belt path (circled in blue).

3. Place the child restraint on the vehicle seat facing rearward. Slide latch plate to the end of seat belt webbing.
4. Route the seat belt through the **Rear-Facing** belt path. Make certain the vehicle belt is routed behind the crotch belt.

5. Make sure the seat belt is not twisted, then buckle the seat belt. Replace the trim over the front edge of the seat bottom.

6. While pressing on the seating surface, pull the end of the seat belt strap to tighten or feed back into the automatic retractor. Repeat as needed until the child restraint cannot be moved more than **1 inch (2.5 cm)** in any direction at the belt path.

7. The level line indicator on the seat base should be level with the ground when the vehicle is parked. Refer to the label on the side of the base.
8. If the level to ground line is not level, more recline is needed. Loosen the LATCH belt and place a tightly rolled towel or foam pool noodle under the base below where the child’s feet will be located. **On select models**, flip forward the QuickFlip recline wedge from its storage to reach a more reclined position.

**NOTE:** Do NOT place anything under the base, except as shown in Fig 8.

9. Follow Steps 1–7 to secure the child restraint after adjusting the angle.

10. After adjusting the recline angle, check that the child restraint is tight and properly secured. The child restraint should not move more than 1 inch (2.5 cm) in any direction at the belt path.
Locking Lap/Shoulder Belt Installation – Rear-Facing

• Use ONLY in reclined position when installed Rear-Facing.

1. Adjust into the recline position by pulling the recline adjust handle and rotating the seat back. Rotate until the recline adjust handle locks into position.

2. Lift the trim cover and foam at the front and locate the Rear-Facing belt path (circled in blue).

3. Place the child restraint on the vehicle seat facing rearward. Route the lap/shoulder belt through the Rear-Facing belt path. Make certain the vehicle belt is routed behind the crotch belt.
4. Make sure the seat belt is not twisted, then buckle the seat belt. Replace the trim cover over the front edge of the seat bottom.

If necessary, switch the retractor or the latch plate to the locked mode according to your vehicle’s owner’s manual.

5. While pressing on the seating surface, remove slack from the shoulder belt.

Repeat as needed until the child restraint cannot be moved more than 1 inch (2.5 cm) in any direction at the belt path.

6. The level line indicator on the seat base should be level with the ground, when the vehicle is parked. Refer to the label on the side of the base.
7. If the level to ground line is not level, more recline is needed. Loosen the LATCH belt and place a tightly rolled towel or foam pool noodle under the base below where the child’s feet will be located. **On select models**, flip forward the QuickFlip recline wedge from its storage to reach a more reclined position.

**NOTE:** Do **NOT** place anything under the base, except as shown in Fig 7.

8. Follow Steps 1–6 to secure the child restraint after adjusting the angle.

9. After adjusting the recline angle, check that the child restraint is tight and properly secured. The child restraint should **NOT** move more than **1 inch (2.5 cm)** in any direction at the belt path.

10. Ensure that the vehicle belt is locked based on your seat belt system and the chart on page 21.
Non-Locking ELR Lap/Shoulder Belt Installation – **Rear-Facing**

If you have this seat belt configuration you will require a locking clip. Please contact 1-888-9RECARO and RECARO will ship you a locking clip and installation instructions.

Some older vehicles (typically pre-1996 model year) have lap/shoulder belt systems which remain loose and cannot be locked for use with a child restraint unless a separate locking clip is used. These systems use emergency locking retractors which lock only during a sudden stop or crash. Check your vehicle’s owner’s manual to determine which type of seat belt system is in each seating location. There may be a label located on the door side of the seat belt with instructions for use with a child restraint.

- Use **ONLY** in reclined position when installed **Rear-Facing**.
Section 9: Installing the Child Restraint Forward-Facing in Your Vehicle

WARNING! DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

LATCH Installation – Forward-Facing
Refer to your vehicle’s owner’s manual to determine if lower anchors and top tether anchors are available and for what seating positions.

If your vehicle has lower anchors, then the LATCH connector system on your child restraint can be used. If lower anchors are not available, then the vehicle seat belt must be used.

Your vehicle may also have top tether anchors located behind the vehicle seats. The top tether can be used with the vehicle seat belt or LATCH connector system. Do NOT use a cargo tie down for the top tether attachment.

Lower anchors and top tether anchors are designed to a maximum limit that can vary by vehicle. Due to this variation, the Performance RIDE/ProRIDE requires use of the vehicle seat belt for any child weighing more than 45 lbs (20.4 kg).

NOTE: The child restraint is shipped with the LATCH strap in the Rear-Facing belt path. If you are switching the child restraint from Rear-Facing to Forward-Facing, you will need to reroute the LATCH strap through the Forward-Facing belt path.

• Use ONLY the fully up-right position when installed Forward-Facing.

• Select Models: The QuickFlip recline wedge MUST be in the stored position, when used Forward-Facing.
1. Adjust into the upright position by pulling the recline adjust handle and rotating the seat back upright. Check to be sure it locks into position.

2. Locate the LATCH connectors at the side of the seat, press the red buttons and remove the connectors from the storage slots.

3. Lengthen the LATCH strap by pressing the LATCH adjuster release button and pulling the webbing to its full length.

4a. Place the child restraint on the vehicle seat facing forward. Route the LATCH connector through the **Forward-Facing** vehicle seat belt path.
4b. Make sure the arrows on the LATCH connectors face up and the strap is not twisted.

5. Before attaching the LATCH connectors, locate the top tether anchor behind the seating position. Refer to your vehicle’s owner’s manual if it is difficult to find. Remove the restraint’s top tether from its storage pouch and attach it to the anchor but do not tighten.

**NOTE:** Do **NOT** use a cargo tie down for tether attachment. Check your vehicle’s owner’s manual if you are not sure of the tether anchor location.

6. Attach each LATCH connector to the anchors in the vehicle.
7. While pressing down on the seating surface, pull the loop on the LATCH strap to tighten. Repeat as needed until the child restraint cannot be moved more than **1 inch (2.5 cm)** in any direction **at the belt path**.

8. Snugly tighten the top tether by pulling the free end of the tether strap while pressing the top of the child restraint back into the vehicle seat.

9. Check the tightness of the LATCH strap and retighten if needed. This strap may become loose when the top tether strap is tightened.

Recheck that both the LATCH strap and the top tether strap are tight and properly secured.
10. To remove the LATCH connectors from the vehicle, first loosen the adjuster by pressing the adjuster button and lengthening the strap (see figure 3). Press the red buttons on the LATCH connectors and remove from the vehicle lower anchors.

11. To remove the top tether, press the release button on the tether adjuster and pull the restraint forward to loosen. It may be necessary to press the top of the child restraint into the vehicle seat back to depress the release button on the tether adjuster. Unhook the top tether hook from the vehicle anchor.

12. Fold the top tether strap and place it in the storage pouch when not in use. Place the LATCH connectors in their storage locations when not in use.
Lap Belt Only Installation – Forward-Facing

Do **NOT** use this method of installation with an Emergency Locking Retractor.

RECARO recommends always using the top tether when an anchor is available, regardless of the type of installation. If you do not have a top tether anchor in your vehicle, we recommend using a 3-point lap/shoulder belt for installation.

- **Use ONLY** the fully upright position when installed Forward-Facing.
- Select Models: The QuickFlip recline wedge MUST be in the stored position, when used Forward-Facing.

1. Adjust the child restraint into the upright angle position by pulling the recline adjust handle and rotating the seat back upright. Check to be sure it locks into position.

2. Place the child restraint on the vehicle seat facing forward. Slide the latch plate to the end of the seat belt webbing.
3. Making sure the seat belt is not twisted, route the lap/shoulder belt through the **Forward-Facing** belt path, then buckle the seat belt.

4. Locate the top tether anchor behind the seating position. Refer to your vehicle’s owner’s manual if it is difficult to find. Remove the restraint’s top tether from its storage pouch and attach it to the anchor but do not tighten.

5. While pressing down on the seating surface, pull the end of the strap to tighten or feed back into the automatic retractor. Repeat as needed until the child restraint cannot be moved more than **1 inch (2.5 cm)** in any direction at the belt path.

6. Snugly tighten the top tether by pulling the free end of the tether strap while pressing the top of the child restraint back into the vehicle seat. Recheck that both the lap belt and the top tether strap are tight and properly secured.
Locking Lap/Shoulder Belt Installation – Forward-Facing

RECARO recommends always using the top tether when an anchor is available, regardless of the type of installation.

- Use ONLY the fully upright position when installed Forward-Facing.
- Select Models: The QuickFlip recline wedge MUST be in the stored position, when used Forward-Facing.

1. Adjust the child restraint into the upright angle position by pulling the recline adjust handle and rotating the seat back upright. Check to be sure it locks into position.

2. Place the child restraint on the vehicle seat facing forward.

3. Making sure the seat belt is not twisted, route the seat belt through the Forward-Facing belt path, then buckle the seat belt.

WARNING! DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur
4. Locate the top tether anchor behind the seating position. Refer to your vehicle’s owner’s manual if it is difficult to find. Remove the restraint’s top tether from its storage pouch and attach it to the anchor but do not tighten.

5. If necessary, switch the retractor or the latch plate to locked mode according to your vehicle’s manual. Open the belt lock-off and route the shoulder section of the seat belt up into the slot.

6. While pressing on the seating surface of the child restraint, remove slack from shoulder belt. Repeat as needed until the child restraint cannot be moved more than 1 inch (2.5 cm) in any direction at the belt path.

7. Snugly tighten the top tether by pulling the free end of the tether strap while pressing the top of the child restraint back into the vehicle seat.

Recheck that both the seat belt and the top tether strap are tight and properly secured.
Non-Locking ELR Lap/Shoulder Belt Installation – Forward-Facing

Some older vehicles (typically pre-1996 model year) have lap/shoulder belt systems which remain loose and cannot be locked for use with a child restraint unless a separate locking system is used. These systems use emergency locking retractors (ELR) which lock only during a sudden stop or crash. Check your vehicle’s owner’s manual to determine which type of seat belt system is in each seating location.

NOTE: You MUST use the belt lock-off.

• Use ONLY the fully upright position when installed Forward-Facing.
• Select Models: The QuickFlip recline wedge MUST be in the stored position, when used Forward-Facing.

1. Adjust the child restraint into the upright angle position by pulling the recline adjust handle and rotating the seat back upright. Check to be sure it locks into position.

2. Place the child restraint on the vehicle seat facing forward. Fully extend the seat belt while holding the lap and shoulder sections together.

3. Making sure the seat belt is not twisted, route the lap/shoulder belt through the Forward-Facing belt path, then buckle seat belt.
4. Locate the top tether anchor behind the seating position. Refer to your vehicle’s owner’s manual if it is difficult to find. Remove the restraint’s top tether from its storage pouch and attach it to the anchor but do not tighten.

5. Open the belt lock-off and route the shoulder section of the seat belt up into the slot.

6. While pressing on the seating surface of the child restraint, remove slack from the seat belt.

7. Close the belt lock-off over the shoulder belt by pressing the arm down onto the webbing and close the handle.

8. Repeat as needed until the child restraint cannot be moved more than 1 inch (2.5 cm) in any direction at the belt path.

9. Snugly tighten the top tether by pulling the free end of the tether strap while pressing the top of the child restraint back into the vehicle seat. Recheck that both the seat belt and the top tether strap are tight and properly secured.
Section 10: Certification
This child restraint conforms to all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

Section 11: Use in Aircraft
The Performance RIDE / ProRIDE is certified for use in aircraft both Rear-Facing and Forward-Facing. The aircraft seat belt (which is not a LATCH system) must be used since lower anchors are not available on airplanes. Most airlines will allow child restraint use if it is labeled as certified for use on aircraft. Check with the airline to confirm seating is available for use with a child restraint before booking flights. At the armrest height of the aircraft seat, the child restraint is 14.5 in (36.8 cm) wide. Use this information when talking with the airline to ensure the child restraint will fit in the designated seating location.

Rear-Facing Installation:

Forward-Facing Installation:

Place in the window seat to avoid blocking the aisle.
Section 12: Care and Maintenance

This child restraint has been engineered for long life and trouble-free usage. The fabric has been designed to resist stains and soiling. With proper care and maintenance, this premium fabric will retain its beauty for years to come.

To clean the trim cover or harness straps “on the go”, follow these easy steps:

• Remove excess soiling immediately.
• Blot area with dry cloth.
• To remove remaining stain, spray a light mist of soap solution and rub gently in a circular motion with a clean cloth or soft toothbrush so not to damage the fabric.
• Pat dry with cloth.
• When dry, use a soft brush to regain fabric’s smooth feel.

To clean the trim cover or harness straps at home, follow these steps:

• Remove the trim cover as explained in Section 13: “Trim Cover Removal / Installation.”
• HAND WASH using cold water and mild soap.
• Line dry to avoid shrinkage of the trim cover.
• Do NOT bleach, machine wash, or machine dry.

To clean the child restraint’s plastic structure, follow these tips:

• Clean by hand with a sponge or soft cloth using warm water and mild soap.
• Dry the structure off thoroughly with a soft towel.

NOTE:

• Heavily soiled areas can be spot-treated using non-solvent commercial cleaners. Use only water soluble cleaning agents.
• NEVER use solutions that contain a petroleum or alcohol base. Where light creases occur, they may be removed by light steaming (an ordinary tea kettle will do). Brush the area with a soft brush.
• Though RECARO tests many cleaning solutions, we cannot test them all—we suggest you ALWAYS test in a discrete area first to ensure that the cleaner does not damage the fabric.
Section 13: Trim Cover Removal / Installation

Trim Cover Removal

1. Press the adjuster lever and pull the shoulder straps forward to loosen the harness system.

2. Open the chest clip by squeezing the tabs and separating.

3. Release the harness straps from the buckle by pressing the red button.
4. Remove the back cover if necessary. Holding the harness connector bracket in one hand, remove the shoulder straps by sliding the loops (one at a time) to one side so that the edge can be guided out of the slot in the bracket.

5a. **ProRIDE with Standard Harness System** – Pull the straps out of the child restraint from the front pulling **above** the harness pads.

5b. **Performance RIDE with HERO Harness System** – Pull the straps out of the child restraint from the front pulling **below** the HERO.
• Do NOT remove the latch plates, chest clip or harness strap pad components from the shoulder straps!

6. Adjust the headrest to it's highest position making sure to stop when resistance is felt. **DO NOT TRY TO FORCE ADJUSTMENT PAST THIS POINT!**

7. Reach behind the top center of the headrest and grasp the trim cover. Unfasten the hidden Velcro® strip in the center and peel the cover up and forward over the plastic frame and off the seat.

**NOTE:** The headrest foam may come off with the trim cover. If this happens, simply remove the foam from the cover and set aside. **Do NOT** wash or submerge the headrest foam in water.

Do **NOT** remove the latch plates or chest clip components from the shoulder straps!
8. Loosen the main seat cover by locating and unfastening all clips attached to the outer edge of the trim cover from the seat shell.

9. Carefully slide the buckle, harness adjuster strap and harness straps down through their respective slots in the trim cover.

10. Gently pull down on the main cover to expose the large opening behind the headrest. Pull the opening down around the bottom of the headrest.

11. Slide the cover up and over the headrest and off the seat.

12. The trim cover **MUST** be hand washed. Do **NOT** machine wash the trim cover. Follow the instructions in Section 12: “Care and Maintenance”
Trim Cover Installation

1. Slide the trim cover onto the seat by placing the large opening in the cover over the headrest and sliding it down between the headrest and seat shell.

2. Slide the bottom of the opening under and behind the lower edge of the headrest.

3. Carefully slide the buckle, harness adjuster strap and harness straps through the (4) slots of the trim cover. Make sure the harness straps are not twisted. Ensure the harness strap pads, latch plates, and chest clip components are correctly on the harness straps.
4. Pull the edges of the trim cover out around the seat shell and fasten all the trim cover clips to the seat shell.

5. Place the headrest foam, marked “L” for left and “R” for right, into the headrest cover (left and right side is from seat occupant’s perspective).

6a. ProRIDE with Standard Harness System – Slide head restraint foam and cover onto the plastic frame of the seat.

6b. Performance RIDE with HERO Harness System - Slide head restraint foam and cover onto the plastic frame of the seat. Insert the HERO harness system into the head restraint trim cover slots.

7. Pull the trim cover over the top and behind the headrest and then fasten the Velcro® strips together to secure the cover. Pull the bottom corners of the cover over the corners of the headrest.
8. Insert the latch plates into the buckle making sure they are not twisted.

9a. **ProRIDE with Standard Harness System** - Route the harness straps through the head restraint and seat shell. Make sure the harness straps are not twisted.

9b. **Performance RIDE with HERO Harness System** - Route the harness straps through the HERO, head restraint, and seat shell. Make sure the harness straps are not twisted.
10. Connect the straps to the harness connector bracket, located in the back of the seat, by sliding the loop edges into the slots of the harness connector bracket.

**NOTE**: Make sure the seat LATCH strap is not routed between the harness and the seat!

11. Re-adjust the headrest height to properly fit the occupant prior to use. See Section 4: “Adjusting the Harness System to Fit Your Child”
Section 14: Trouble Shooting

In certain vehicle applications, you may encounter challenges to safely install and position a child in the restraint system. If you do not find an adequate solution, call us at 1-888-9RECARO for assistance.

Problem: The headrest will not raise.
Solution: WARNING! DO NOT FORCE the headrest knob! Severe damage to the child restraint could result! The harness must be loosened before the headrest can be moved upwards. Press the harness adjuster lever and pull the shoulder straps out to loosen then raise the headrest with the knob.

Problem: The vehicle seat belt is not tight fitting to the child restraint.
Solution: Press downward on the child restraint armrest and firmly pull the slack out of the seat belt. Repeat pressing on other armrest while pulling seat belt tight. This will allow the child restraint to compress the vehicle’s seat and allow the seat belt to be further tightened. If seat belt is not locking call 1-888-9RECARO for help. Refer to installation instructions, pages 22-43.
Problem: The child restraint is not stable when driving.
Solution: Check to see if there are items under the base and that the seat belts are tightly secured. Remove anything found. Some vehicle seats are deeply contoured making it difficult to safely install a child restraint. If the child restraint is not stable due to the vehicle seat cushions, move it to another seating location. Also refer to pg. 21 to ensure the seat belt system is locked.

Problem: The child restraint harness does not stay tight.
Solution: Check to determine if anything is lodged in the adjuster. Remove any objects, food or toys that may have become lodged in the area.

Problem: The child restraint is too upright when used rear-facing.
Solution: A tightly rolled sheet or towel or a foam “pool noodle” can be used to raise the foot end to a proper angle. DO NOT over recline when using additional items. Do not place anything under the base except as shown on page 25. Doing so will reduce the safety of the child restraint.

Problem: Buckle sticks or will not latch.
Solution: Check inside the buckle slots for foreign objects. The buckle may be rinsed with cool water to remove spilled food and juice. DO NOT use lubricants.
Section 15: Replacement Parts and Accessories

RECARO offers a variety of replacement parts and accessories.

**Replacement Parts:** Please email info-usa@recaro-cs.com or call 1-888-9RECARO and speak to one of our customer service representatives for more information about replacement parts for your RECARO product.

**Accessories:** Please visit www.RecaroStore.com or call a customer service representative at 1-888-9RECARO or info-usa@recaro-cs.com for more information about accessories for your RECARO product.
Section 16: Warranty

RECARO Child Safety, LLC warranties this product against defects in materials or workmanship to the original purchaser for a period of 12 months. You must have the original purchase receipt for a warranty claim to be accepted.

The upholstery fabric is subject to a certain degree of wear even from normal use. This kind of normal wear is not covered under warranty.

Exclusions: A Product will not be considered “defective” and this Warranty will not apply, where the claimed defect is attributable to:

a) Improper installation, or misuse;
b) Modification or alteration of the Product;
c) Failure to comply with RECARO’s instructions for service and maintenance;
d) Accident, unauthorized repairs or unauthorized use;
e) Any attachment or replacement part that was manufactured, supplied or added by others and was not part of the Product;
f) Exposure to corrosive materials, the elements (including, but not limited to, cold or freezing temperatures, excessive heat, fire, humidity, and sunlight), or other acts of God;
g) Ordinary wear and tear (including fading and discoloration);
h) Improper loads (including passenger weight in excess of design limits);
i) Removal of the Product from the original application or reinstallation of the Product in the original or another application; or
j) Any other neglect, abuse or misuse.
Section 17: Additional Contact Information

If you need help with installation or usage, please use the following contact information:

RECARO Child Safety, LLC
1600 Harmon Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Phone: 1-888-9RECARO (1-888-973-2276)
E-mail: info-usa@recaro-cs.com
Website: www.recaro.com

For personal assistance in your local area, please contact a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technician. You can find a CPS technician in your area at cert.safekids.org. Click on “Find a Technician”.

Many community groups, fire and police stations schedule car seat checks that you can visit with your child. More information about car seat check-ups is available at www.NHTSA.gov under “Child Safety Seat Inspections Station Locator” or at www.seatcheck.org. You can also call 1-866-SEAT-CHECK to find the next and closest seat check event.
Section 18: Glossary

2-Point Seat Belt (Lap Belt Only): A seat belt system with two contact points, (two hip points), also referred to as a lap belt.

3-Point Seat Belt (Lap/Shoulder Belt): A seat belt with both a lap and a shoulder portion, having three contact points (one shoulder, two hips).

Airbag: A passive (idle) restraint system that automatically deploys during a crash to act as a cushion for the occupant. It creates a broad surface on which to spread the forces of the crash, to reduce head and chest injury. It is considered “supplementary” to the lap/shoulder belts because it enhances the protection the belt system offers in frontal crashes. Also known as SRS - Supplemental Restraint System; SIR – Supplemental Inflatable Restraint; IC – Inflatable Curtain; SIAB – Side Impact AirBag.

Belt Path: The manufacturer’s required place where the safety belt passes around or through the child restraint.

Car Seat/Child Restraint System: Common term for a specially designed device that secures a child in a motor vehicle, meets federal safety standards and increases child safety in a crash. Also called safety seat.


Headrest: Structure at the top of the backrest which is designed to keep the child’s head in the proper position and provide protection for the child’s head during a crash.
HERO™ Harness System: Shoulder harness pad that ensures the highest level of protection and comfort by positioning the shoulder pads to appropriately fit the child’s neck, head, and shoulders.

LATCH: Lower Anchors and Tethers for CHildren. Acronym for standardized vehicle anchorage system. Method to affix child restraint systems to vehicles independent of the vehicle seat belts.

LATCH Anchors: Two small metal bars that can be found in the space where the rear seat back meets the seat cushion.

LATCH Connectors: Two push-on style hooks located on the base. They are used to attach to the lower anchors on the vehicle seat and removable by pushing the red button.

Safety Stripe System: A white stripe on the outside edges of the 5-point harness. The white stripe should always remain at the outside edge of the harness above the lower buckle.

Side Impact Protection (SIP): Safety feature of all RECARO child restraints that have structure design strategically placed in areas on the child restraint where it is especially important to protect the child in a crash.

Standing Height: Measurement of a child from the bottom of their feet to the top of their head.

Top Tether Anchorage: Attachment point in the vehicle for child safety seat tether strap. Refer to vehicle owner’s manual regarding anchor location.

Tether Strap: An additional belt on the child restraint that anchors the child restraint system top to the vehicle frame, keeping the restraint from tipping forward on impact.