Car Seat Safety - Boys Town Pediatrics & National Safety Council Nebraska

Tim Tichy, Public Safety Manager

Tim Tichy:

Car seats are very important because car crushes are the number one killer of children so it’s very important than you have your car seat installed correctly because that’s the number one thing you can do to protect them.

What should I look for when buying a car seat?

Tim Tichy:

Look for one that is going to be easy to use, fits your pocket book, and is appropriate for your child’s height, weight, age, and development.

What should I avoid when buying a car seat?

Tim Tichy:

You shouldn’t buy second hand seats because you don’t know if they have been in a crash. Products to avoid are after-market products. Those would be the toys and such that you hang off the handle. Anything that didn’t come with the seat is considered an after-market product. Except for the fact if you look at the owner’s manual they will have accessories you can buy and those were crash tested with the seat.

Where can I find safety information on different car seats?

Tim Tichy:

You can go to our website www.safenebraska.org and we have some sources there. www.safercar.gov is one. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has an actual site you can go to and it’s called ease-of-use for car seats and it actually grades and scores every car seat out there on how easy it is to install, how easy the labels are to read and understand, how easy the manual is to read and understand and it totally rates the seat top to bottom.

What are some common installation mistakes found by certified car seat technicians?

The common problem they have is that they don’t have the seat belt locked or the seat belt’s not tight enough. It might be locked but it’s not tight enough is probably the number one thing and they don’t use the harness correctly. They don’t have the shoulder belts adjusted correctly and they don’t have the harness tight enough. It’s always good to have a second set of eyes to double check your work.

The ultimate goal is that the child leaves safer then they arrive.