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

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. Destroy—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.

Adapted by the Safety Restraint Coalition from the Used Car Seat Checklist
Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Revised September 2008