

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.

Adapted by the Safety Restraint Coalition from the *Used Car Seat Checklist*

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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