

LATCH ONTO CHILD SAFETY WITH VOLVO



FACTS ABOUT HOW VOLVO MAKES CHILD CAR SAFETY MORE DEPENDABLE

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. And surveys have shown that almost 60 percent of conventional child car seats are fitted incorrectly. These two facts make it easy to understand why Volvo not only expends considerable energy and effort in improving child safety and making each vehicle as safe as possible, but is also dedicated to simplifying the whole process of installing child restraints.

That's exactly what the LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for CHildren) system is designed to do: make it easier for parents to install child seats and help make travel as safe as possible for their children. In fact, Volvo was the first vehicle manufacturer to introduce connections meeting the LATCH attachment system

standard in vehicles in 2000. All Volvo vehicles manufactured today have LATCH connections as standard equipment, which are known as ISO-FIX in Europe.

The LATCH system is the latest safety development in child seat technology and is designed to ensure the child seat is always installed correctly. Connections meeting LATCH standards make it simple for parents to correctly install and remove child car seats.

The system allows the child seat to be anchored at the crease of the car seat, between the seat back and bottom, without needing to use the vehicle's seatbelts. With LATCH, the infant seat fits directly onto a base unit attached directly to the vehicle's LATCH mountings.

VOLVO MAKES CHILD SAFETY EASIER

Volvo introduced the world's first rear-facing child seat in 1972, based on the conviction that rear-facing rear seat travel is the safest mode for children up to age four. Making child restraints easier for parents to install correctly every time, thanks to LATCH, is one more way Volvo helps ensure safe travel for its youngest passengers.



HOW TO POSITION CHILD SEATS

Even though an infant may feel light in your arms, during a 40 mph crash, a 20 pound baby can create a force equal to approximately 800 pounds. So it's essential for a child to be properly restrained.

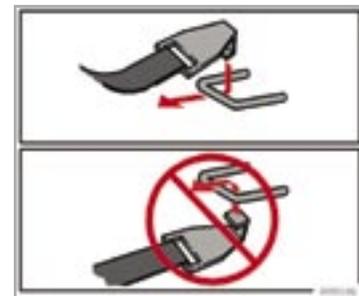
Infants should ride in rear-facing seats until they are at least one year old and weigh 20 pounds, according to NHTSA. In addition, Volvo recommends that both infants and toddlers remain in rear-facing seats as long as possible, up to age 4. This is because children's heads are large in proportion to their bodies and spines, and neck muscles are not yet developed. In a frontal collision, the child's back, which is the strongest part of the body, will take the brunt of the impact instead of the child's underdeveloped neck.

The ISO-FIX lower child restraint anchors are only intended for use with child seats positioned in the outboard seating positions. These anchors are not certified for use with any child restraint that is positioned in the center seating position. When securing a child restraint in the center seating position, use only the vehicle's center seat belt.



USING THE LATCH LOWER CHILD SEAT ANCHORS

Lower anchors for LATCH-equipped child seats are located in the rear, outboard seats, hidden below the backrest cushions. Symbols on the seat back upholstery mark the anchors' positions. To access the anchors, parents simply put the child restraint into position, and then kneel on it to press down the seat cushion, and locate the anchors. Then they can fasten the attachments on the child seat's lower straps to the LATCH anchors and adjust the lower child seat straps, as recommended by the child seat manufacturer.



USING THE LATCH TOP TETHER ANCHORS

To use the top tether anchorage points, parents place the child restraint on the rear seat, route the top tether strap under the head restraint, and fasten its attachment to the anchorage as shown. Then they can adjust the tension of the top tether strap. It is easier to tighten the top strap first then adjust the lower anchor straps. All slack should be removed from the top tether strap.

Child seats should be installed as snugly (or firmly) as possible. Movement in any direction should be minimized or eliminated, if possible.

