

NHTSA Releases Info on Common Mistakes with Children and Cars

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has released information about the five most common mistakes that parents and other caregivers make when they are using or installing car seats for children or booster seats for children in their vehicles. Installing and using these devices properly can literally be a matter of life and death for children, so it's important to understand how to use them properly.

Common Mistakes

According to the release, the most common mistakes include the following:

- Using the wrong harness slot
- Positioning the harness test clip over the abdomen instead of the chest
- Installing the car seat too loosely
- Having the harness too loose
- Placing the seatbelt incorrectly

Any one of these mistakes can be fatal for a child. During a car crash, the amount of force generated by the impact is tremendous. If all of the restraint systems that a child is using to stay safe are not used correctly, it can end in disaster for the child and the entire family. Car seats come with instructions telling you how to use them correctly. Follow them to the letter to avoid making these mistakes.

After Accidents

Another area where parents and other caregivers need to be particularly careful is in the aftermath of an accident. There have been cases in the news recently where drivers have been struck by vehicles going on the road after they have tried to flag down assistance. Remember that a child may end up wandering off into harm's way when you are dealing with the other driver or dealing with the problem. After you call in a [car accident, roadside assistance](#) may take a while to arrive. During this time, make sure to keep an eye on your children if they are out of the car. Don't get distracted by dealing with the other driver. In fact, you're probably not going to want to deal with the other driver at all, as you may end up saying something that could reduce your chances of being able to sue them if they caused the accident.

Preventing a child from being harmed during a car accident and after a car accident is a big responsibility that requires your full attention. Understand how to use restraint systems and, in the event of an accident, make sure you attend to your child to be certain that they are not wandering out into traffic or exposing themselves to other dangers.