* Read both the car seat manual and the vehicle manual before use
* Use a seat that meets FMVSS 213 standards
* Use a seat that has no recalls and you know the history of that seat – nothing older than 5-7 years (unless per manufacturer recommendation).
* Make sure your seat is properly and securely installed
* No add-ons (positioners or head-rolls) that do not come with the seat
* Straps snug, harness clip at armpit level – pinch test.

No snowsuits thicker than fleece-type material.

* Follow the angle-indicator on the seat. An infant seat should be at a 45 degree angle (approximately).
* If an infant carrier, please check manual to see the correct travel position of your handle.
* Seat location (check your vehicle manual):
  + Always back seat – never rear-facing in front of an air bag
  + If you have the LATCH system, it is recommended to use if you can get a proper fit
  + Center is best if you can obtain a proper fit
* Straps at or below shoulders for rear-facing





* Seat selection:
  + 5-point harness is safest/best!
  + Make sure your seat fits in your vehicle
* American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) best practice recommends rear-facing until at least age 2 (longer if the child still fits within the weight and height of their rear-facing seat).
* WI Child Passenger Safety Law:
  + Rear-facing in back seat until 1yr and 20lbs
  + Forward-facing CSS in back seat from 1yr until 4yrs (and 40lbs)
  + Booster seat required when child is at least 4yrs, weighs at least 40lbs and less than 4-feet, 9-inches
  + Seat belt required once child is 8yrs old OR weighs more than 80lbs OR is 57 inches or taller

To have the car seat inspected and base properly installed prior to your baby’s birth, please call:

**Watertown Fire Department**

106 Jones St.

Watertown, WI 53094

920.261.3610

**Watertown Department of Public Health**

515 South 1st St.

Watertown, WI 53094

920.262.8090