

Car Seat Safety Tips: Winter Weather



Incorrect



After coat was removed



Correct

- As a general rule, bulky clothing, including winter coats and snowsuits, should not be worn underneath the harness of a car seat.
- In a crash, fluffy padding flattens from the force, leaving extra space under the harness. A child can slip through the straps and be thrown from the seat.

How to Keep Your Child Warm and Safe in the Car Seat

Store the carrier portion of infant seats inside the house. Harness your child in the seat and use blankets to keep them warm.

Dress your child in thin layers. Start with tights, leggings, and long sleeved bodysuits. Then add pants and a warm top, like a sweater or thermal knit shirt. Finish with a thin fleece jacket over the top. As a general rule of thumb, infants should wear one more layer than adults.

Get an early start. Winter conditions require more time to get where you are going. Give yourself time to properly harness your child without bulky clothing.

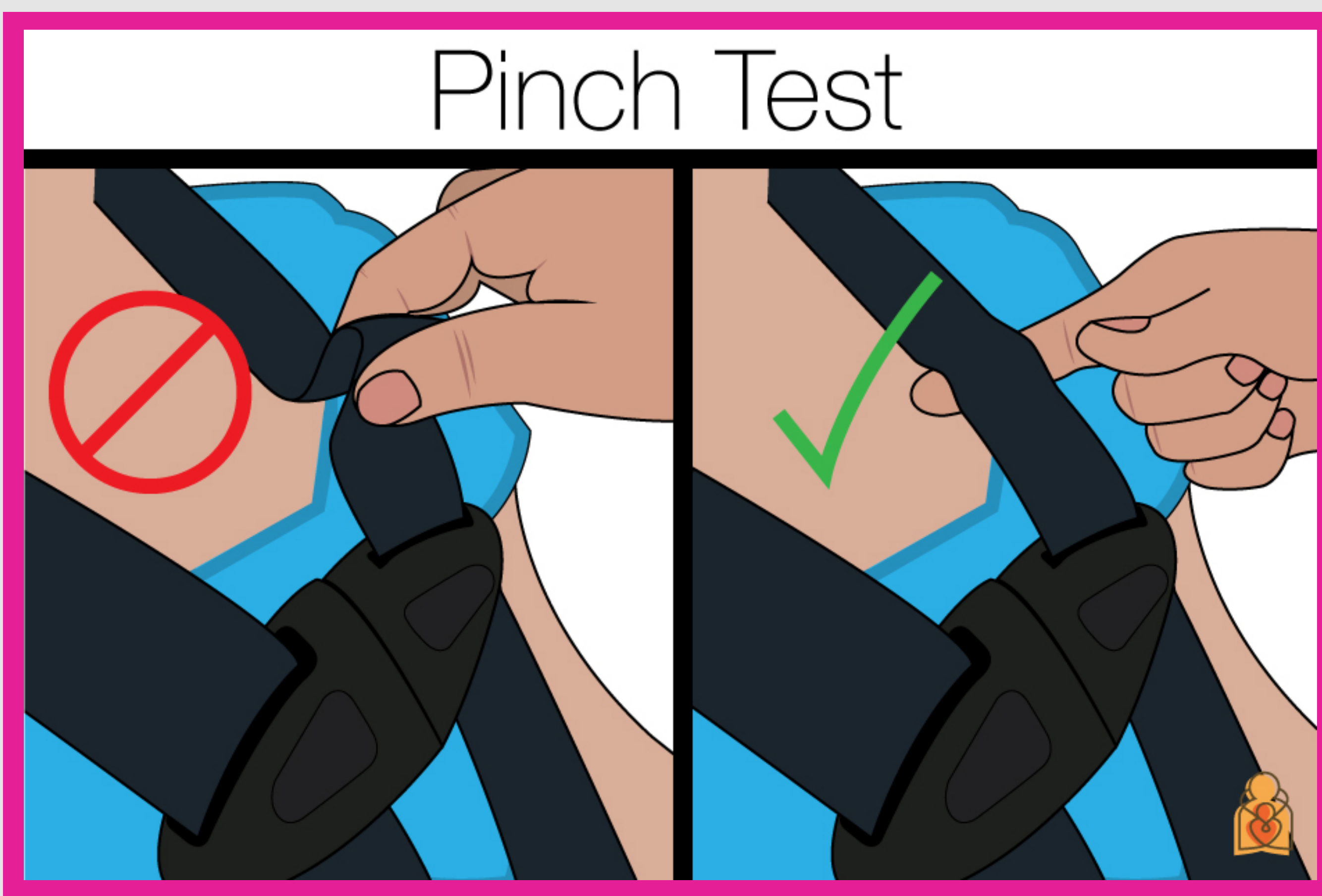
Don't forget hats, mittens, socks or booties. These help keep kids warm without interfering with car seat straps.

How to Keep Your Child Warm and Safe in the Car Seat

Tighten the straps of the car seat harness.

Even if your child looks snugly bundled up in the car seat, multiple layers may make it difficult to tighten the harness enough.

If you can pinch the straps of the car seat harness, then it needs to be tightened to fit snugly against your child's chest.



Use a coat or blanket over the harness straps. You can add a blanket after you have harnessed your child or put their coat on backwards.

Only use a car seat cover if it does not have a layer under the baby. Nothing should ever go underneath your child's body or between their body and the harness straps. Be sure to leave baby's face uncovered.

Coats in Car Seats: What's Best for Toddlers?



Never use inserts or other accessories that did not come with the car seat. These items are not crash tested and may interfere with the protection the seat provides in a crash. Just because a product is on the shelf at the store does not mean it is safe!

Pack an emergency bag for your car with extra blankets, dry clothing, hats and gloves.



Seats 4 Safety Program

www.4-Safety.org

401-444-2208

Information from the American Academy of Pediatrics



healthychildren.org

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