

## Warning: Fake and Unsafe Products

Many fake and unsafe products are being sold, especially online. These products put children's lives at risk because they are not safe to use in a crash.

Car crashes produce huge forces. A 30-mile-per-hour crash creates the same amount of force as a fall from a 3-story building. Safety seats and booster seats are carefully designed to protect children from this force. They meet all federal safety standards, including crash protection, flammability, and labelling.

### Fake car seats



Fake car seats do not meet federal safety standards and will not protect children properly in a crash.

Fake car seats can be made of fabric or non-crashworthy plastic. They are likely to appear more flimsy than real products, have low-quality parts, and lack proper labeling.



Search for "killer car seats" on YouTube to see what happens when these seats are subjected to crash forces.

### Counterfeit safety seats

Counterfeit seats are cheap copies of real safety seats.

They are made of poor-quality materials and will not protect children properly in a crash.



One fake, one real. Can you tell them apart?

### Unregulated Products

Lots of products are sold to use with safety seats and safety belts. Many are unsafe because they affect the way the seat or belt works in a crash.

**Never use any product to adjust a safety seat or belt that did not come directly from the safety seat or car manufacturer to use with that specific seat or belt.**



Products such as belt extenders, belt adjusters, covers, and head restraints can alter the way that safety belts and safety seats work, reducing protection in a crash.

**SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.** P.O. Box 553, Altadena, CA 91003 [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org)  
310/318-5111, 800/745-SAFE (English), 800/747-SANO (Spanish)

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## How to Avoid Fake Products

Fake products are widely available on the Internet, including from third-party sellers on websites such as amazon.com and walmart.com.

- Buy only from **trusted sellers**. If using Internet sites, stay away from third-party sellers.
- Buy **trusted brands**. Stick with brands that are sold at brick-and-mortar stores in the U.S.
- **Is the seat cheaper** than the store price? Many counterfeits are of high-end seats, so they aren't cheap – but if the deal seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- **Examine the product** very carefully. Do all parts seem of similar quality to other seats that you have handled? Do any parts appear flimsy or weak?
- **Read labels carefully**. Fake seats often have poorly worded labels or text in languages other than English or Spanish. Every legal safety seat in the U.S. must have clear labels, warnings, and instructions in order to meet federal standards.
- Does the seat come with a user manual and a **registration postcard** to send to the manufacturer? All legal seats will have them.
- **Register your seat** with the manufacturer when you get it. Sneaky counterfeiters may include a fake registration card and stickers giving false model number and 'birthdate' – but the real manufacturer will know that it is a fake.
- **Report** fakes to the safety seat manufacturer and all illegal seats to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ([www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq/Complaint.cfm](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq/Complaint.cfm)) and to the Consumer Product Safety Commission ([www.saferproducts.gov](http://www.saferproducts.gov)). Let SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. know so we can support your reports.

## How to Avoid Dangerous Products

Parents may use unregulated products to fix a problem they are having in buckling up their child. These can include:

- Child's head falling forward if the seat angle is not quite right.
- Difficulty in installing the seat tightly.
- Problems with harnessing child correctly, or child escaping from harness.
- Booster child struggling to buckle the safety belt.

These difficulties almost always can be solved by seeking help to use your child's safety seat correctly. Let SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. help you; call the Safe Ride Helpline in English or Spanish.

### **Never use any product with your safety seat that did not come with the seat.**

- Contact the safety seat manufacturer if you have any questions about using your seat.
- Contact a Child Passenger Safety Technician (visit [cert.safekids.org](http://cert.safekids.org)) to review your family's safe travel.

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