

## How to Get Tether Anchors Installed in Your Pre-2001 Toyota or Lexus Vehicle

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. is collaborating with Toyota and Lexus dealers to help enhance performance of child restraint systems (CRSs) in most of their pre-2001 model-year vehicles by assisting customers with installation of tether anchors. A voluntary donation to SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. of \$5 per tether certificate is requested to cover administrative costs. Additional amounts donated will be used to support Safe Ride Helpline services.

Please [apply for a certificate](#) online, if possible. You may make your voluntary donation in cash, by check, by credit card, or through PayPal.

You may download and print a [certificate application](#) to distribute to clients or members of your organization.

Sorry, but the program is not available in Hawaii or for certain models. Check with your dealer.

### Why Your Child Restraint System Should Be Tethered\*

#### A tether helps add extra protection

In a crash, a tether holds back the top of a forward-facing CRS. This is designed to help prevent serious head and neck injuries in certain types of severe collisions. A booster seat does not need a tether, because the lap-shoulder belt is designed to hold the child in place.

#### What is a top tether?

A top tether (tether strap) connects the top of a forward-facing CRS directly to the frame of the vehicle. Forward-facing child safety seats sold today in the U.S. and Canada come with a tether strap. Tethers also are used with most auto safety vests and CRSs. Most boosters and child safety seats in the rear-facing position do not use tethers.

The tether for forward-facing child safety seats attaches to a tether anchor in the car. At least three anchors are installed in all cars made since the 2000 model year. Anchor kits are available to be installed in most pre-2000 model year vehicles without tether anchors.

A tether is also part of a system called LATCH (“**L**ower **A**nchors and **T**ethers for **C**hildren”). LATCH connects a safety seat to the car without using a safety belt. All cars and child safety seats, except boosters and car beds, have LATCH starting in the 2003 model year, beginning September, 2002. Many 2001 and 2002 models also have LATCH. (See your vehicle owner’s manual.)

#### How should I tether a forward-facing car seat?

**ALWAYS use the tether if the CRS and vehicle are equipped for tethering.** If the CRS has a tether strap and the car has a tether anchor, hook the strap to the anchor and tighten it. If the car does not have an anchor, contact the dealer to get a tether anchor kit installed. In a very few rare cases, in vehicles with 3 rows of seats, the CRS tether can be hooked to the vehicle belt in the row behind it. The hook attaches either to the belt latchplate (the buckle tongue) or around the buckled belt webbing. However, this method must be specifically approved by both the vehicle manufacturer and the safety seat manufacturer.

If a tether cannot be used, the vehicle belt can hold a CRS well. Make sure the vehicle belt is in the correct place and holds the safety seat tightly in place. (Check the safety seat instructions and the vehicle owner’s manual.)

#### May I use a tether for a rear-facing seat?

Only a few products have a tether that may be used for rear-facing use. These can help keep the CRS more firmly installed. Use a tether for a safety seat facing the rear **only** if the safety seat instructions state it is okay. **ALWAYS** follow the safety seat instructions.

Adapted from “The LATCH Manual - 2021,” a *Safe Ride News* publication.