

Installing Infant Restraints (RFO Seats) Without Their Base

If you are installing a rear-facing only (RFO - Infant seat), without the base, here are some tips to help you out. Linked below is a video as well (some people are much more visual learners).

Some tips to remember:

1) The seatbelt needs to lock somewhere. That may be at the retractor (listen for the ticks as it goes back in), at the latch plate, or with a locking clip. Simply routing the seatbelt and clicking it in is NOT safely securing that CR (child restraint) to the vehicle seat and can result in serious injury or death in a crash. Check to see if your vehicle has locking retractors before hand or buy a locking clip (Canadian Tire has them I believe if your seat didn't come with one) to keep in your diaper bag for those occasions where you may be installing in an older vehicle without locking seatbelts.

2) The recline level on the seat still needs to be managed without a base. Make sure your level line/indicator is parallel to the ground during and after the installation. You'll of course want to be on level ground when checking this.

3) You may only install a rear-facing seat in the front seat of a vehicle if the passenger seat does not have an airbag or you are able to shut it off WITH A KEY (the new weight based automatic airbags don't count!) Always confirm with your vehicle owner's manual to see what locations are allowed and which are prohibited or contact the manufacturer for support. Keeping in mind that the rear of the vehicle is always the safest location for a child and you should only consider a front seat installation if your vehicle has no back seat (think older trucks).

