PROTECT YOUR CHILD'S HEAD

Use the tether when forward facing

Tether

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT of HEALTH   NDDOT North Dakota Department of Transportation

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What is a tether strap?

A tether is a strap made of webbing that is attached to the back of the car seat and has a hook at the end of it. Tether straps are on car seats that can be used forward facing.

Why use a tether strap?

In a crash, a tether keeps the top of a forward-facing car seat from being thrown forward. This will help prevent serious head and neck injuries by protecting a child's head from hitting the front seat.

When do I use a tether strap?

When using a forward-facing car seat with a harness, attach and tighten the tether to the vehicle whenever possible (when car seat is used with seat belt or lower anchors).

How do I use a tether strap?

Almost all vehicles have designated locations (anchors) to attach the tether strap. Every car seat and vehicle is different, read your car seat instructions and vehicle owner's manual. After finding the vehicle tether anchor, attach the tether strap hook and tighten it according to the car seat instructions. The vehicle tether anchor may have a symbol like this: .

How do I know if my vehicle will work with a tether?

In most vehicles made since 2000, at least three seating positions have a tether anchor. Common places to find a tether anchor are on the back of the seat, in the floor of cargo area or on the shelf behind the back seat or in the ceiling. The anchor may look like a ring, bracket, webbing loop or bar – they are all different.

Older cars may not have a tether anchor available, but one could be added with a kit received from the vehicle manufacturer.

In 2016, 50% of caregivers were not using their tether strap on forward-facing car seats.

If you need help with your forward-facing car seat tether strap, visit a car seat checkup or child passenger safety technician near you.

Call 800.472.2286 or visit www.nhtsa.gov/parents