What Is a Tether and Why Is It Important?

What is a tether?

A tether secures the top of a forward-facing car seat to the vehicle's tether anchor.
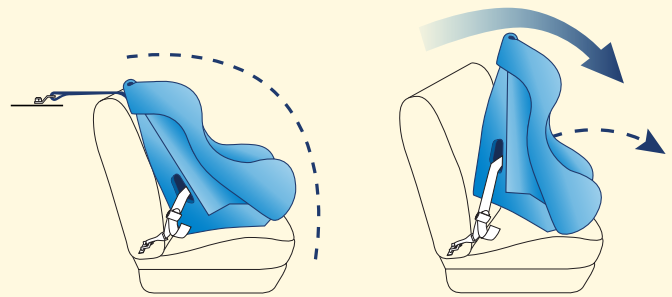
Why is it important?

A tether prevents serious head and neck injury by securing the top of the car seat and reducing the distance a child's head moves forward in a crash.

How do I use it?

To provide optimum protection, a tether must be tightened and attached correctly; you can find tether anchor locations in your vehicle owner's manual, and tether installation instructions in your car seat manual.

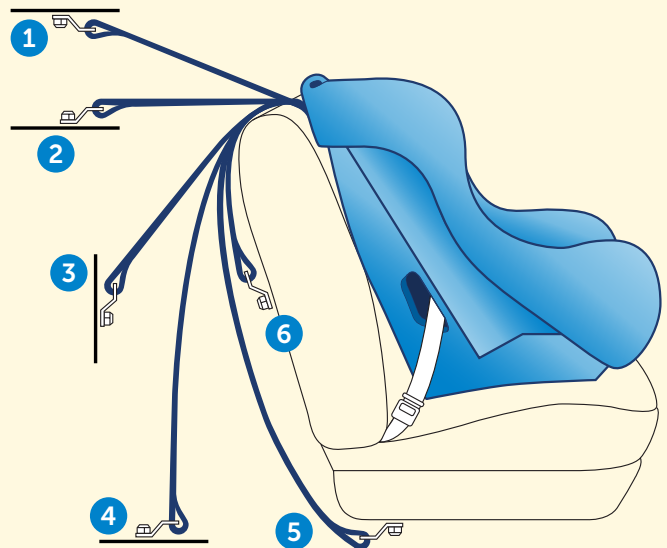A tether reduces forward movement in a crash.

Collision With Tether

Collision Without Tether

Possible Tether Anchor Locations

1. Ceiling above/behind rear seating positions

2. Rear window shelf

3. Back wall (pickup trucks)

4. Floor of cargo area

5. Under the vehicle seat

6. Back of vehicle seat

U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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