Remember: The caregiver only needs to understand how to lock the belt, not the names of everything.

**DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO CAREGIVERS**

**THIS IS A RESOURCE FOR CPSTS ONLY**

---

**Putting it All Together—What Locks the Seat Belt**

**To properly install a car seat, the lap portion of the seat belt must be locked at a fixed length at all times.**

**To test a seat belt in a vehicle and find what locks it, follow the steps in this chart.**

**Step 1** 
Slowly and gently pull all the webbing out of the retractor. Do not pull the webbing out quickly, as this could trigger the emergency locking feature.

**Step 2** 
Slowly release a few inches of the webbing into the retractor. Listen for a clicking sound.

**Step 3** 
While still holding the webbing, gently try to pull the webbing out again.

**LOCKING RETRACTOR**
You heard a clicking sound when releasing the webbing back into the retractor, and the retractor does not allow you to pull the webbing back out. You have a locking retractor that you may use to install a car seat.
NO FURTHER LOCKABILITY CHECKS ARE NEEDED.

**NON-Locking RETRACTOR**
You did NOT hear a clicking sound when releasing the webbing back into the retractor, and the retractor does allow you to pull the webbing back out. You have a non-locking retractor.
NOW TEST THE LATCH PLATE FOR LOCKABILITY.

**Step 4** 
Buckle the seat belt.

**Step 5** 
Give a firm tug on the lap portion of the seat belt while pulling up on it.

**LOCKING LATCH PLATE**
The webbing does not slide through the latch plate. You have a locking latch plate that you may use to install a car seat.
NO FURTHER LOCKABILITY CHECKS ARE NEEDED.

**NON-Locking LATCH PLATE**
The webbing slides through the latch plate. It is a non-locking latch plate.
YOU MUST PROCEED WITH ADDITIONAL APPROVED LOCKING TECHNIQUES.

**Step 6** 
Check the car seat for built-in locking features (lock-offs).

**LOCK-OFFS**
Lock-offs are present. You may use the lock-off to install the car seat.
NO FURTHER LOCKABILITY CHECKS ARE NEEDED.

**NO LOCK-OFFS**
No lock-offs are present. You may use a locking slip to install the car seat.
NO FURTHER LOCKABILITY CHECKS ARE NEEDED.