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.

**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.

**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 LOCK-OFFS**
No lock-offs are present. You may use a locking clip to install the car seat.

**NO FURTHER LOCKABILITY CHECKS ARE NEEDED.**