

Install a Belt Shortening Clip

Belt shortening clips are used to lock a seat belt without a locking mechanism (pre-model year 1996) at a fixed length.

- Belt shortening clips are a heavier metal than a locking clip and have a vehicle part number stamped on them.
- A locking clip cannot be used in place of a belt shortening clip.

To use a belt shortening clip, the seat belt must have these characteristics:

- The retractor is a non-locking retractor.
- The latch plate is sewn-on.



Belt shortening clip (left) compared to a locking clip (right).



Buckle side of seat belt



Retractor side of seat belt

STEP 1: Route the seat belt through the correct belt path and buckle the seat belt.

- The seat belt webbing should be flat, not twisted.

STEP 2: Pull the lap belt out fully from the retractor on the retractor side of the seat belt system while pressing the car seat firmly into the vehicle seat cushion.

- Pinch and hold the excess lap belt webbing together.
- Make sure the car seat moves less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) side-to-side or front-to-back when pulling or pushing at the belt path using moderate force.



Retractor side of seat belt

STEP 3: Unbuckle the seat belt while continuing to hold the excess lap belt webbing in a loop near the retractor.

- Be careful not to allow any webbing to return to the retractor.



Retractor side of seat belt

STEP 4: Follow the vehicle manufacturer's instructions on how to use a belt-shortening clip.

- Belt shortening clips are typically placed on the retractor side of the seat belt system.
- Thread both pieces of the lap belt webbing loop through both sets of prongs on the belt shortening clip.
- Continue to hold the webbing so it does not return to the retractor.



Retractor side of seat belt

STEP 5: Double back the top portion of the lap belt webbing loop and thread it through the prongs of the belt shortening clip.

- Pull the webbing tightly to lock the seat belt at a fixed length.



Retractor side of seat belt

STEP 6: Reroute the seat belt through the correct belt path, if applicable.

- Press the car seat firmly into the vehicle seat cushion and buckle the seat belt.



Retractor side of seat belt

Belt Shortening Clip Removal

To remove the belt shortening clip, unbuckle the seat belt and pinch the seat belt webbing in half to unthread from the belt shortening clip.

STEP 7: Make sure the car seat moves less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) side-to-side or front-to-back when pulling or pushing at the belt path using moderate force.

- If the car seat moves more than 1 inch (2.5 cm) in any direction, uninstall the car seat and repeat the process of installing a belt shortening clip.