



10:30 am  
Currently: 34  
RealFeel® High: 24  
Humidity: 56  
Winds: S at 15 mph

Click here to view La Crosse Area Weather

Home > News > Story

increase font size | email story | print story

Published - Wednesday, February 04, 2009

POST COMMENT | READ COMMENTS (No comments posted.)

## Most safety seats improperly installed

By TERRY RINDFLEISCH / trindfleisch@lacrossetribune

Only 16 percent of child safety seats checked at a West Salem dealership for free last year had been correctly installed in vehicles, La Crosse County officials said Tuesday.

Paula Silha, child passenger safety technician/instructor at the La Crosse County Health Department, said she is not surprised that 84 percent of the seats needed some type of adjustment.

"Most of the problems are because people don't read the directions that come with the car seats to make sure it is fit correctly," Silha said. "But some need more skills to get it right. Some car seats are easy to fit and others are difficult to work with."

Silha, who conducts safety checks, said 50 of 62 infant seats and 67 of 71 convertible seats needed adjustment at the free Brenengen Chevrolet monthly checks in 2008. The health department does the checks at the Brenengen dealership on the first Thursday of each month.

The health department, Family Resources, Tri-State Ambulance and the La Crosse Fire Department also do safety checks by appointment.

Silha said people often don't know how to properly lock the seat belts to secure the car seat.

"Sometimes they have the wrong seat or a recalled seat — or the seat is too old," she said.

Six child safety seats were replaced through a discount program between Brenengen and the health department, Silha said. Some families bring multiple vehicles to receive help with their child safety seats, she said.

"Business has been steady at the safety checks, but we'd love to see more people," Silha said. "I think some people are embarrassed to come for help, but they need to know it's not easy to fit these car seats correctly."

"We want to help them do it right, and we actually teach them the right way to do it," she said.

### FREE CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECKS

The free checks are available from 3 to 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Brenengen Chevrolet in West Salem. The next check is Thursday. No appointment is necessary. Make sure you bring the child who uses the car seat. You also can make an appointment at the La Crosse County Health Department, (608) 785-9872, or at Family Resources, Tri-State Ambulance and the La Crosse Fire Department. For more information on properly fitting car seats, go online at [www.wcpsa.com](http://www.wcpsa.com), the Web site of the Wisconsin Child Passengers Safety Association.

Advertisement

Healthy Living tools

+ LEARN HOW

### SECTION SPONSORS

- Beyer Cabinets
- Gross Pontiac Buick GMC
- Leon Country Floors & More, Inc.
- Merchants Bank
- Meyer & Associates
- Northwest Realty
- Reisinger Heating
- State Bank Financial
- Stock Building Supply

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

### NEWSPAPER ADS

Second Time Around

Winter Blowout SALE  
\$2<sup>00</sup> or 1/2 Price on Winter Clothing  
50% OFF Coats Household Shoes/Boots Purses & Jewelry  
Blue Tags 50% Off Yellow Tags 10% off

Published on 2/12/2009

Shopko

### CORRECTION

In the SB 2-15, page 2, the sale price of the Intex Queen Airbed should be \$49.99. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

SHOPKO  
my life. my style. my store.

Published on 2/15/2009

The Flower Basket Greenhouse & Floral

Cupid's Choice  
The Flower Basket Greenhouse & Floral  
2005 Wilson St. West Salem, WI 54601

Published on 2/12/2009

VIEW MORE