EDUCATION

# Britax Advocate 70 Cs User Guide

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## Introduction to the Britax Advocate 70 Cs

When it comes to protecting what matters most, few decisions carry as much weight as choosing the right car seat. The **Britax Advocate 70 Cs**stands out as a premier choice for parents who refuse to compromise on safety, comfort, and ease of use. This convertible car seat is designed to grow with your child, offering a rear-facing mode for infants and toddlers and a forward-facing mode for older children. With its advanced safety features, including the patented SafeCell Technology and integrated steel bars, the Advocate 70 Cs provides an extra layer of protection that many other seats simply do not offer.

This **Britax Advocate 70 Cs user guide**is crafted to help you navigate every aspect of this car seat, from initial installation to daily adjustments and long-term maintenance. Whether you are a first-time parent or a seasoned caregiver, understanding the nuances of this seat will ensure that your child travels safely and comfortably on every journey. Let us walk through the essential features, installation steps, harness adjustments, cleaning tips, and safety precautions that every user should know.

The Advocate 70 Cs is part of Britax's highly regarded lineup, known for its rigorous testing and thoughtful engineering. It includes features such as the True Side Impact Protection, which absorbs energy and distributes crash forces away from your child. The seat also boasts a no-rethread harness system, making it simple to adjust the harness height as your child grows. With a weight limit of up to 70 pounds in forward-facing mode and a 40-pound limit in rear-facing mode, this seat offers extended usability that delivers long-term value.

In this guide, we will cover everything from unboxing and installation to troubleshooting common issues. By the end, you will feel confident in your ability to use and maintain your Britax Advocate 70 Cs, ensuring that your little one rides securely every time.

## Unboxing and Getting Started

### What Comes in the Box

When you first open the box of the **Britax Advocate 70 Cs**, you will find several components that work together to create a safe and comfortable environment for your child. The package typically includes the car seat base, the seat shell, a removable infant insert for smaller babies, a buckle position adjuster, a tether strap, and the instruction manual. It is important to check that all parts are present before beginning installation. The user manual is your best friend during this process, so keep it accessible.

The seat is relatively heavy, which is a testament to its robust construction. The steel-reinforced frame and energy-absorbing foam contribute to its weight but also to its exceptional crash protection. Do not be alarmed if the seat feels substantial; that weight translates directly into safety.

### Understanding the Parts

Before you install the seat, take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with its components. The harness system includes five points of attachment, with adjustable straps that can be tightened or loosened using the front adjuster strap. The recline mechanism allows you to position the seat at different angles depending on whether it is installed rear-facing or forward-facing. The LATCH connectors are located at the back of the seat. The Britax Advocate 70 Cs user guide provides detailed diagrams to help you identify each part, and we recommend reviewing those before proceeding.

# Installation: Rear-Facing Mode

## Choosing the Right Position

For infants and toddlers up to 40 pounds, the Britax Advocate 70 Cs must be installed in the rear-facing position. This is the safest way for young children to travel, as it protects the head, neck, and spine in the event of a collision. The seat should be installed in the back seat of your vehicle, preferably in the center position if your vehicle allows for a secure fit. Avoid placing it in front of an active airbag.

## Step-by-Step Rear-Facing Installation

Begin by placing the seat in the rear-facing position. Adjust the recline angle so that the seat is at a level that keeps your child's head comfortably supported. Britax includes a recline indicator on the seat to help you find the correct angle. For rear-facing installation, the seat should be reclined so that the bubble on the indicator falls within the designated area.

Next, route the vehicle seat belt or LATCH belt through the rear-facing belt path. The belt path is clearly marked on the seat, and the **Britax Advocate 70 Cs user guide** includes step-by-step illustrations. Pull the belt tight, ensuring that the seat does not move more than one inch from side to side or front to back at the belt path. Use your body weight to press down on the seat while tightening to achieve a snug fit.

If you are using the LATCH system, connect the lower anchors to the vehicle's LATCH points and tighten both straps evenly. Always check the vehicle owner's manual for LATCH weight limits, as some vehicles restrict LATCH usage beyond a certain child weight. Once the seat is secure, attach the tether strap to the designated anchor point in your vehicle and tighten it. The tether is an essential part of the installation and should never be skipped.

## Checking Your Installation

After installation, give the seat a firm shake at the belt path. If it moves more than one inch, you need to tighten it further. It is normal for the top of the seat to flex slightly, but the base should remain immobile. Double-check that the harness straps are at or below your child's shoulders for rear-facing travel. The chest clip should be positioned at armpit level, and the harness should be snug enough that you cannot pinch a fold in the webbing.

# Installation: Forward-Facing Mode

## When to Switch

Your child is ready for forward-facing travel when they exceed the rear-facing weight limit of 40 pounds or when their head reaches the top of the seat shell. Britax recommends keeping your child rear-facing for as long as possible, as this is the safest position. Once you make the switch, the seat must be installed using the vehicle seat belt or LATCH system, along with the top tether.

## Step-by-Step Forward-Facing Installation

Begin by converting the seat to the forward-facing position. Adjust the recline angle to the forward-facing setting, which is typically more upright. The recline indicator will guide you to the correct position. Route the vehicle seat belt or LATCH belt through the forward-facing belt path, which is located near the front of the seat base.

Tighten the belt firmly, again ensuring no more than one inch of movement at the belt path. Attach the top tether to the vehicle's tether anchor and tighten it. The tether is critical in forward-facing mode because it reduces head movement during a crash. Always use it.

Once the seat is installed, adjust the harness so that the straps are at or above your child's shoulders. The chest clip should remain at armpit level, and the harness should be snug against your child's body. The **Britax Advocate 70 Cs user guide**emphasizes the importance of checking the harness fit every time you buckle your child in.

## Harness System and Adjustments

### No-Rethread Harness Feature

One of the standout features of the Britax Advocate 70 Cs is the no-rethread harness system. This innovative design allows you to adjust the harness height without having to remove and rethread the straps. Simply squeeze the harness height adjuster lever on the back of the seat and slide the headrest up or down to the desired position. This makes it incredibly easy to accommodate your growing child without disassembling the seat.

### Securing Your Child

To secure your child, place them in the seat and pull the harness straps over their shoulders. Connect the two buckle tongues to the crotch buckle, ensuring they click securely. Then, pull the harness adjuster strap located at the front of the seat to tighten the harness. The harness should be snug against your child's body, with no slack. A good rule of thumb is the pinch test: if you can pinch a fold of webbing between your fingers at the shoulder, the harness is too loose.

The chest clip should slide up to armpit level. This positioning is crucial because it keeps the harness straps correctly placed on your child's shoulders during a crash. Never place the chest clip at the abdomen or lower, as this can cause serious injury.

### Buckle Position Adjuster

The buckle position adjuster allows you to move the crotch buckle closer to or farther from your child's body. For smaller children, the buckle should be in the closest position to keep the harness snug. As your child grows, you can move the buckle outward to maintain a comfortable fit. The **Britax Advocate 70 Cs user guide** provides a chart to help you select the correct buckle position based on your child's size.

## Recline Positions and Angle Adjustment

### Why Recline Matters

Proper recline is essential for your child's safety and comfort. In rear-facing mode, the recline helps keep your child's head from slumping forward, which could restrict airflow. In forward-facing mode, a more upright position is safer and more comfortable for older children. The Britax Advocate 70 Cs features multiple recline positions that you can adjust using a lever located at the base of the seat.

### How to Adjust the Recline

To change the recline angle, pull the recline lever and tilt the seat forward or backward until you hear a click. Release the lever and check that the seat is locked in the new position. Use the recline indicator on the side of the seat to verify that you are in the correct zone for your child's mode of travel. For rear-facing, the indicator should show green in the rear-facing zone. For forward-facing, the indicator should show green in the forward-facing zone.

If your vehicle's seats are sloped, you may need to use a rolled towel or a pool noodle under the seat to achieve the correct recline angle. Britax provides guidance on this in the **Britax Advocate 70 Cs user guide**.

Cleaning and Maintenance

### Removing the Cover

Over time, the seat cover will need cleaning. Britax designs their covers to be removable and machine washable, which is a blessing for parents dealing with spills and messes. To remove the cover, start by disconnecting the harness system. Unbuckle the harness, remove the chest clip, and unthread the straps from the splitter plate. The cover is attached with elastic and snap fasteners; carefully unfasten these and slide the cover off the seat shell.

### Washing Instructions

Machine wash the cover on a gentle cycle using cold water and a mild detergent. Avoid using bleach, fabric softeners, or harsh chemicals, as these can degrade the flame-resistant properties of the fabric. Hang the cover to dry or use a low-heat setting in the dryer. Do not iron the cover. While the cover is off, you can wipe down the plastic shell and harness straps with a damp cloth. Never submerge the harness straps in water, as this can compromise their strength.

### Routine Maintenance

Regularly inspect the seat for signs of wear, such as frayed straps, cracked plastic, or damaged buckles. Check that the LATCH connectors and tether strap are in good condition. Clean the buckle with a dry cloth to remove any debris that might interfere with its function. The **Britax Advocate 70 Cs user guide**recommends performing these checks at least once a month.

## Safety Features and Technologies

### SafeCell Technology

The Britax Advocate 70 Cs is equipped with SafeCell Technology, which includes a patented compression-absorbing base that crumples in a controlled manner during a crash. This reduces the forces transmitted to your child. The integrated steel bars in the seat shell provide additional strength and stability, while the energy-absorbing foam lines the headrest and side walls for added protection.

### True Side Impact Protection

Side impact collisions are among the most dangerous types of crashes for children. The Advocate 70 Cs addresses this with Britax's True Side Impact

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