



# How to buy a crib

**Most children sleep in a crib until they're ready for a real bed. Typically between the ages of 2 & 3.**

**Some cribs convert to a toddler bed, a daybed, or parts of a full-size bed.**

**You might not use your crib right away. A bassinet can be easier when you have a newborn.**

## what to look for when buying

**Safety standards:** Look for the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA) certification on the crib. Also check BabyCenter's Product Recall Finder to make sure the crib hasn't been recalled.

**Versatility:** Some cribs are useful long after your child moves to a bed: They convert first to a toddler bed with a guardrail, and later to a bench, a daybed, or the headboard and footboard for a full-size bed.

**Stability:** Give the crib a good shake in the store or after you assemble it. If it wobbles or rattles, it may have been put together improperly - or that could be a sign that you should look for a sturdier crib.

**Frame size:** Make sure a standard crib mattress (at least 27 3/4 by 51 3/4 inches) will sit snugly in the crib. If you can fit more than two fingers between the side of the mattress and the crib, the mattress is dangerously small. Babies can get trapped in that space.

**Adjustable mattress height:** Most cribs let you adjust the height of the mattress to keep older babies and toddlers from climbing or falling out of the crib.

**A safe distance between slats:** To prevent your baby's head from slipping through or getting stuck between the slats of the crib, the distance between them must be no more than 2 3/8 inches (about the size of a soda can).

## what to avoid

**Cribs with drop sides:** These are dangerous and their sale has been banned.

**Crib bumpers:** Bumpers raise the risk of SIDS and suffocation.

**Decorative touches:** These can break off or catch on clothing and pose a choking hazard.

**Old cribs:** Cribs sold since June 2011 conform to higher safety standards.

**Cords and windows:** Choose a spot for the crib away from windows, window blinds, and draperies. Cords from blinds and baby monitors pose a strangulation risk and older babies could possibly pull themselves up and fall through a window.

## what it's going to cost you

Basic models range in price from

**\$100 to \$500.**

Fancier models can cost

**\$800 to \$1,000+.**



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