



# How to buy a highchair

**Your child will probably use a highchair until age 2 or 3.**

**A highchair is handy once your child starts eating solid food, usually between 4 and 6 months.**

**Choose one that's sturdy and easy to clean.**

## what to look for when buying

**Easy to clean:** Food will find its way into every crack and crevice. Check the seat, harness, tray, and frame for tiny, hard-to-wipe areas. If you find too many, consider a different highchair. The seat and harness should be easy to wipe clean or remove and throw in the washing machine.

**Tray:** A tray that detaches easily and fits in the sink or dishwasher for cleaning is the most convenient. Some trays aren't removable. And some highchairs have no tray - you just push them up to the table.

**Type:** Depending on your needs, you may want a basic model, a high-end one with sleek styling, a full-featured highchair, or a smaller portable chair or hook-on seat that attaches to the table.

**Wheels:** These make it easy to move the chair from room to room, say from kitchen to dining room. Make sure the wheels lock to prevent rollaways.

**Sturdiness:** Look for stability. Wide-based chairs are harder to tip over.

**Adjustability:** Adjustable height is handy, as is a tray that adjusts for your growing child. Each adjustment should lock securely into place.

**Versatility:** Some highchairs convert to a booster seat or kid-sized chair to use when your child is older.

**Comfort:** Padded seats are easier on your baby's tush, and a footrest is a nice feature for older babies. Make sure any seams along the front of the seat have no sharp edges to scratch your child's legs. Check the bottom of the tray for holes or sharp edges that could hurt small fingers.

**Safety harness:** Look for an adjustable five-point harness or a three-point harness and crotch post to keep kids from standing up or slipping out. Make sure the buckle is foolproof: One that's too shallow or simple to operate can easily be undone, even by the pressure of a child's tummy.

**Safety standards:** Look for the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA) seal of approval on the highchair or packaging.

## what to avoid

**Vintage highchairs:** Though pretty, these antiques may not be safe to use.

**Baby fall injuries:** Always supervise your child in the highchair and keep the safety harness buckled.

## what it's going to cost you

Basic models range in price from

**\$20 to \$100**

Fancier models can cost

**\$200 to \$500**



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