

Crib Safety Tips

Babies spend unsupervised time in their cribs. To help prevent injuries, nothing in the crib except your baby is best.



- The safest place for a baby to sleep is in a crib, bassinet or cradle. Do not place babies to sleep on couches, chairs, regular beds (with or without bed rails), water beds or other soft surfaces. Please follow the manufacturer's instructions for when to discontinue the use of a bassinet, cradle or crib as your baby grows.
- Place a baby on his or her back in a crib with a firm, tight-fitting crib mattress. There should be no more than 2 finger widths between the mattress and the crib.
- Do not put pillows, quilts, comforters, crib bumpers, positioning devices or stuffed toys in the crib. These items are suffocation hazards and the baby could try to use them to climb out of the crib.
- Use only crib sheets that are designed for use in cribs and are tight-fitting. Use a sleeper or sleep sack instead of a blanket. Do not use hand-knitted blankets that could unravel.
- Do not place a baby monitor above, in or near the crib. The electrical cord is a strangulation hazard.
- Do not place cribs near windows. Blind and drapery cords are a strangulation hazard.
- Cribs should be assembled carefully and inspected frequently to insure there are no missing, loose or broken parts. Please do not try to repair cribs with hardware that is not designed for the crib. Contact the crib manufacturer if you have any problems with your crib or need replacement parts.
- For newborns, the crib mattress support is at the highest setting. The mattress support needs to be lowered before a child sits up. The crib should be on the lowest setting before a child is able to pull to a standing position. When a child is able to climb out of the crib or reaches the height of 35 inches, the crib should no longer be used.
- Use new cribs that meet current safety standards. In recent years, millions of dangerous cribs have been recalled. Crib standards have changed and the current standards do not allow drop-side mechanisms. For more information on the new and improved federal crib standard and to check for recalls, please visit www.cpsc.gov.
- If your crib has a drop-side rail, check for recalls and stop using the drop-side function. If the crib has been recalled, request a free immobilizer from the manufacturer. Please do not make your own immobilizer.
- If using toys that are designed to be installed on crib slats, place them on the wall side of a crib (please follow the toy's instructions). This tip helps prevent a baby from using the toy to climb out of the crib. Do not use any cords to attach toys to a crib.
- Please follow the crib instructions and all warning labels on the crib.