

# The Crib Buyer's Guide



# Introduction

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Whether you have just received the exciting news or your due date is rapidly approaching, there are many things to consider while searching for the right baby crib for your newest family member. Your crib will be the centerpiece, and most important part of your baby's nursery.

It is a special space for your little one to start and end their day, and, hopefully, will be snoozing throughout! When you are buying a crib, there's a lot more to think about beyond color and style. Here's a guide for you to find your perfect crib for your new bundle of joy.

# What to Consider When Buying a Crib

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## Types of Cribs

There are two basic types of baby cribs. The best type for you depends a lot on your space, your lifestyle, and your future plans:



### Convertible Crib

Also known as the lifetime crib, this type of crib is designed for multiple configurations and is built to suit your child from newborn to teen. Although there are a variety of crib configurations, most convert from a crib to a toddler bed, daybed, and a full-sized bed. Some cribs are referred to as 3 in 1 cribs, 4 in 1 cribs, and even up to 7 in 1 cribs. This is simply an indication of how many transformation options are available for the crib. Whether it's a 4 in 1 or a 7 in 1 convertible crib there are really only 4 basic configurations as mentioned above (baby crib, toddler bed, daybed, full-sized bed). Also worth mentioning is the 3 in 1 cribs do not convert to a full-sized bed, instead they only can transform from a crib to a toddler bed or day bed.

### Mini, Portable, or Foldable Cribs

If you're in a smaller space a mini crib is a space-saving alternative. Mini cribs are lightweight and some fold easily while still being sturdy enough for everyday use. This is also a great option for vacation homes, or grandma's house. Keep in mind: it's mini, so your baby will outgrow it quickly!

# Crib Styles

**There are a variety of crib styles to choose from when designing your nursery.**

Think about your overall design plan for your baby's nursery and then pick the crib to match. Are you one to gravitate toward traditional pieces or do you like the modern, sleek look? Do you want to mix and match furniture pieces in your nursery or invest in a full collection of furniture? First, let's consider 5 baby crib styles to find your style.



## Classic or Traditional Cribs

With graceful curves, moldings, and charming design features, classic cribs are the most popular choice. They have more traditional design features that will stand the test of time. If you're considering a convertible crib,—one that transitions from a crib to a toddler bed, daybed and full size bed—a traditional style will ensure your crib to be a timeless piece you will love for years to come.

More information at:

<https://www.childcraftbaby.com/collections/camden>



Camden Convertible

## Contemporary Modern Cribs

Modern cribs have clean lines, on-trend finishes and offer both impeccable style and functionality. Modern or contemporary styling brings elegance and smooth, clean lines to any nursery. These cribs offer classic design features updated for today's trends. Modern cribs often have one stand out design feature, such as a geometrical headboard, to draw the eye and become a focal point in the room. Whether a traditional crib with SoHo inspired clean lines and on trend finishes, or a mini slatted crib with a touch of London's elegance, your nursery becomes a passport to the world of design and fashion.

More information at:

<https://www.childcraftbaby.com/collections/soho>



SOHO Convertible Crib



Long Beach Convertible Crib

## Coastal Cribs

Coastal or beachy style gives a nursery that relaxing day at the beach feel. These cribs are typically in nautical colors like blues and grays and have clean lines and a distressed or wave worn look to them. Coastal cribs also have a slightly rustic vibe while giving the room a uniquely calming feel. These cribs are great for a more individualistic style.

More information at:

<https://www.childcraftbaby.com/collections/long-beach>



Woodland Convertible Crib

## Farmhouse & Rustic Cribs

These cribs are a great mixture of form and function. They take sturdy hardwood materials, age worn finishes, and streamlined shapes to bring rustic charm to any nursery. You can typically see these with a brushed or stained finish. Headboard designs typically mimic a ship lap or paneling style.

More information at:

<https://www.childcraftbaby.com/collections/woodland>



Hampton Convertible Crib

## Cottage Cribs

This design style embraces the beauty of a variety of styles through a mixture of color, texture, shape and finish. Cottage cribs are rustic but classic from their clean lines to their headboard panel like styles. Cottage cribs are trendy and give the room a rustic cottage feel, while still being classic enough to stand the test of time.

More information at:

<https://www.childcraftbaby.com/collections/hampton>

# Budgeting For A Baby Crib

**Crib prices can range from \$99 to thousands of dollars and nearly every price point in between.**

Each price point has a variety of value propositions. Before you begin shopping, identify what's important to get from your crib. Are you looking to pass it down to the next generation or are you just trying to get through the next few years?

Does it matter to you if it's made of sustainable materials, solid wood or composite wood frames? These are important considerations when determining your budget. A quick online search at major retailers will give a good idea of what different price points are offered.



## 1. Crib Price Points

### **Entry Level**

An entry level price point crib is typically under \$250. These types of cribs would be made with less expensive, but strong, raw materials, like pine wood, and would have a simple finish. Entry level cribs tend to have a more simplistic look to them and favor functionality over fashion.

### **Mid-Tier**

Prices for these cribs range from \$250 - \$400. Cribs in this range will be more middle ground with mid-range features. These items could be made with entry level raw material but have high end detail, such as a brushed finish or ornate detail on the headboard to give a trendier look. Mid-tier cribs tend to be the perfect compromise of high end and entry level to give you the style you want but at a price more in your budget.

### **High-End**

High-end cribs come at a price of above \$400. These cribs are typically made with more expensive raw materials. The details and finishes on these are much more intricate and tend to be on trend with the latest styles.

## 2. Crib Materials

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The crib's materials will dictate price. Do you want hardwood? Pine? Veneer? MDF? Ornate (but still safe!)

hardware? The more expensive the raw materials, the more expensive the crib.

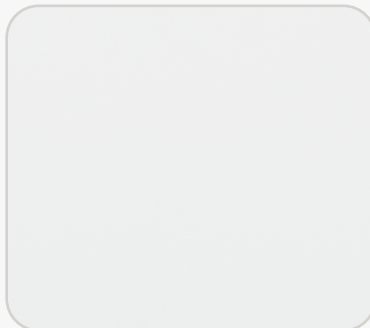


## 3. Finishes

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Finishes will also impact your dream crib's price point. Basic painted finishes are much less expensive than trendy finishes, while a wire brushed look will cost a bit more. The more fashion forward your crib's style is, the more it

will cost. Don't worry, you can find compromises to ensure you get the quality and look you want. A pine crib with a special finish will not be as expensive as a hardwood crib from a trendy, boutique line.



Matte White



Brushed Truffle



Dapper Gray

## 4. Design Features

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Cribs come in so many different designs and features these days, but finding one you like is fairly simple depending on your preference for a more intricate or

minimalistic headboard. Some cribs feature an under crib storage, or have spindles instead of flat slats.



Long Beach Convertible Crib



# When To Buy Your Baby's Crib

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Hampton Flat Top Crib

## The Crib Buying Process Can Take Longer Than Expected.

It is a major decision after all, it is where you want your baby to sleep safely. Remember, time will be ticking from the moment you get pregnant.

We recommend you gather all of your research and start making choices on what you want by the 6th month of your pregnancy. As for buying the crib, it is best to get it by the 7th month at the latest. This will leave plenty of time for shipping, assembly, and, if needed, a return and reship. You want to give yourself enough time to change your mind if you end up not loving the crib you purchase. You don't want to wait until the last minute to

get your crib because ready or not when that little one is ready, they're coming.

We all know to buy a winter coat on sale as soon as the sun comes out in the spring and that a new flat screen will be ours for a deliciously low price on Cyber Monday. Are there any special times when cribs go on sale?

The simple answer is: yes. Cribs and other baby furniture goes on sale during typical retail savings extravaganzas. This includes Black Friday, Cyber Monday (really, we swear! You don't have to buy a smart crib to get a deal), Christmas, and other seasonal events. Most retailers will also have a clearance section for crib styles or finishes that are being retired.

# Where To Buy Your Baby's Crib

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Once you start looking for your perfect crib you will realize they're everywhere! Websites showcase every kind of crib imaginable, and you'll notice baby furniture sections in department stores that didn't seem to exist before.

Once you announce you're expecting, your grandmother, your neighbor, your coworkers--they all will want to offer you a second hand crib. Let's break down the pros and cons of where to buy:

## Online v. In-Store



### **There are definite advantages to seeing cribs in a furniture showroom or on a store's floor.**

You can see a fully assembled crib, touch the finish, look at the colors in person and give the piece a good shake to check sturdiness. If you're buying closer to your due date, a retail store will potentially shorten the window from purchase to delivery. If you need to return the crib for any reason, the short trip across town will make it pretty easy.

### **Online shopping will give you many more options and nursery design ideas.**

If you have the time, a combination of the two shopping styles will allow you to know what is available for sale and see some cribs in person. If you're shopping online and unsure of how exactly the finish will look, ask the company to send a wood chip sample to you. This way you will be able to see if the finish goes with the paint you picked out or bedding you love. Simply check out the crib company's website or call their customer service.

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### **Be sure to allow time for shipping and any return that might be needed if you buy your crib online.**

If you order the cutest cottage-style crib online 3 days before your due date and the shipping takes 5 business days you might be in trouble! Trust us, even though your baby will likely not sleep in their crib when you come home from the hospital, you will feel better knowing everything is ready. Always factor the possibilities

of a product or finish being out of stock, a delay in delivery, or a possible return and repurchase into your timetable. It is best to have your research done by your 6th month and to have purchased a crib by the 7th month. By doing so you will leave a reasonable amount of time for any issues that might occur.

## Second-Hand and Antique Baby Cribs



Both second-hand and antique cribs can have safety issues. We know, we know—we wanted to use great grandma’s mahogany crib too or try the unique crib we saw on EBay. The fact is though, unless you know the exact manufacturing date of a second hand crib, you don’t know how safe your little one will be. The safety of your little one is of utmost importance, period. Any new crib will meet 100% of the federal safety regulations and provide a safe sleeping surface for your baby.

The distance between the slats, the type of hardware that can be used, finishes, spots where little hands or fingers could be caught—the list of safety regulations is long and for a good reason! Unless you know that the second hand crib is compliant and not the subject of any recalls, it’s better to politely decline the offers you might receive and purchase a new crib. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has made crib safety a top priority, setting strict standards for both manufacturers and retailers. For more information, visit: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Regulations-Laws--Standards/Rulemaking/Final-and-Proposed-Rules/Full-Size-Cribs>

# Crib Buying Tips

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## What's Not Included With Your Crib

When buying a crib for the first time you might be surprised by what is not included with the crib. The biggest surprise new parents discover is that for most cribs the mattress is not included. That being said try to purchase the mattress at the

same time as the crib to be sure you are getting the right size. Another thing to note when buying a convertible crib, many conversion parts are sold separately. Be sure to read the details of the crib to determine what parts are included.



## Buying in Nursery Sets



When you start thinking of your nursery and crib, you typically start thinking of other furniture you want to go into the room. If you want your nursery to all match it is best to buy the full set or collection, this ensures everything will match and often provides

the best value. However, if you are the type that likes to mix and match, try mixing different colors in the same collection. This gives you a cohesive but unique look.



## Recalls and registering your crib with the manufacturer

Always, always, always register your crib with the manufacturer. It is simple, just fill out the card that came with the crib and place it in the mail or many companies will offer this on their website as well. This will make sure that if there is a safety alert or recall on the crib you will be notified swiftly. It is extremely important to do this. Also consider, registering online will potentially get you in the recall database faster and with a higher degree of accuracy since misinterpreted handwriting isn't an issue.

## Basic Rules for Crib Use

Babies should always sleep alone. Make sure never to put plush toys or soft bedding in the crib with your baby (even the adorable pillow and comforter that comes with the crib bedding set) because they can pose a suffocation hazard. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) also strongly advises against using bumper pads, as they increase the risk of SIDS and other crib related deaths.

Find more safe sleep tips at [childcraftbaby.com/blog](http://childcraftbaby.com/blog), or visit: <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/5/e20162938>.





The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has made crib safety a top priority, setting strict standards for both manufacturers and retailers. These requirements include stronger mattress supports and crib slats, extremely durable crib hardware and rigorous safety testing. Also, the CPSC put an end to manufacturing and selling drop-side cribs. Even though you'll still want to take any crib you're considering through the checklist below, the CPSC standards make crib safety assessment a lot simpler. For more information on crib safety standards, visit: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Regulations-Laws--Standards/Rulemaking/Final-and-Proposed-Rules/Full-Size-Cribs>

Here is a comprehensive list of crib safety features to keep in mind as you shop for, and set up, your nursery:

- In order to meet CPSC standards for cribs, all new cribs should have stationary sides, drop-side cribs were banned in 2011.
- The CPSC also mandates that all crib slats cannot be more than 2.375 inches apart to avoid tiny body parts from becoming stuck.
- Make sure the mattress fits snugly against the inside of the crib. To ensure crib safety, try the two-finger test: If you can fit more than two fingers the mattress isn't a good fit.
- Learn more about crib standards at [cpsc.gov](https://www.cpsc.gov).

Now you're equipped with the information needed to pick your perfect crib. Hopefully, you feel more secure and decisive with the knowledge to pick the crib that suits your needs as well as your taste. You know what kind of cribs suit your budget, whether it's an entry level priced crib that's solid, sturdy, and safe, or a high-end crib that also has more style, craftsmanship, and some pretty neat bells-and-whistles, or somewhere in between.

Knowing where, when, and how to buy a crib makes the process easier and even fun, and eliminates a lot of questions you might have. And most importantly, you have knowledge on keeping your baby safe, through registering your crib, and knowing how to use it properly.

