Find Your Dream Crib Mattress

You've picked out your crib, but what surface will your baby actually sleep on?

Types of Mattresses

Type

Price

Weight

Materials

What to Look For

Innerspring



More expensive (but more durable and comfortable)



Steel gauge coils and border rods for edge support. The thicker the steel, the higher the weight. Supports breathability with space between coils

•100+ coil count + lower steel gauge

Cushioning layers

Foam



Less expensive



Lighter weight



Made of open cell foam to help circulate air

- Thickness of 4+ inches for comfort
- CertiPUR-US Certified --ensures it's free of harmful chemicals

Crib Mattress Lingo

Dual-sided crib mattresses: A crib mattress with two sides: an extra-firm infant side, and a cushion-firm toddler side. This is a nice feature that will extend the life (and value) of your crib mattress.

Coil count: An innerspring coil count between 100-110 coils is a good range to shoot for

Steel gauge: Indicates the thickness (and therefore strength) of a mattress's coils. Lower numbers show thicker steel. The lowest gauge is 12.5, and 19 is the highest.

Why Firmness Matters

- Babies and toddlers need a much firmer mattress than adults for skeletal support and development
- A small child can sink into a mattress if it's too soft, which poses dangerous health risks
- What's comfortable for you is too soft for your baby. As a handy rule of thumb, if your crib mattress conforms to the shape of your child's head, it's not firm enough.
- While toddlers need more firmness than adults, their growing bodies also need more softness and comfort than babies

Crib Mattress Safety Musts

- ☐ Is your mattress GREENGUARD Gold and/or CertiPUR-US certified free of toxic chemicals?
- Does your mattress have the proper firmness level?
- Does your mattress fit snugly (less than two fingers) inside the crib?
 - Does your mattress have a natural flame barrier?



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Crib Mattresses FAQs



How firm should a crib mattress be?

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Consumer Products Regulatory Commission (CPSC) recommend a higher level of firmness for crib mattresses. Infants and toddlers need a firmer mattress than adults do for safety and proper support.



Is breathability important?

Crib mattresses should have a certain level of breathability to help your child regulate body temperature for safe sleep. Most foam crib mattresses are made of open cell foam to help circulate air, while innerspring crib mattresses support breathability due to the space between the coils.



How tight should a crib mattress fit my crib?

A crib mattress should fit securely in the crib, as any gaps can be hazardous to your baby. If you can fit more than two fingers between the mattress and crib, it's not snug enough!



Are innerspring crib mattresses better than foam mattresses?

Innerspring crib mattresses have steel coils and border rods for better edge support. Thicker steel means more weight. They're typically more supportive and durable than softer, lighter foam mattresses, but are costlier due to additional high-quality materials.



Is memory foam safe for my baby?

Memory foam is dense, durable, soft, and helps evenly distribute weight. While memory foam is **not** safe for infants because it's too soft, it is safe for toddlers who prefer more cushion and comfort.



Do crib mattresses need a cover?

Yes, the cover encases and protects the crib mattresses. They're often made of vinyl or cotton knit. Look for waterproof, tear-resistant covers that are hypoallergenic.



Does GREENGUARD® Gold Certification matter?

Yes, It's the gold standard for low chemical emissions and VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) exposure. The GREENGUARD Gold Certification screens for more than 10,000 harmful chemicals, with even stricter testing for children's products.



What is a VOC?

A VOC is a Volatile Organic Compound emitted as a gas, proven to have adverse effects on health and commonly used in many crib mattresses. Protect against VOCs by buying a crib mattress that is GREENGUARD Gold and/or CertiPUR-US certified, such as the Night Night Baby and Dream Catcher crib mattresses.



Is a waterproof crib mattress safe?

A waterproof crib mattress is safe and easy to keep clean. This is an important feature, especially for small children. Child Craft crib mattresses are waterproof, can be cleaned with mild soap and water, and are certified safe and free of toxins.

