

Important Tips for Finding the Perfect Stroller

Your baby's stroller is one of the most important baby gear purchases you will make. Choosing the right one is a lot like buying a pair of shoes—your lifestyle and activities can make all the difference in finding a perfect fit.

The options can be overwhelming, but if you determine your priorities, explore your choices, and “try before you buy,” you can be assured of making the right decision. Begin by analyzing your lifestyle. Here are just a few things to consider:

- **What types of activities do you enjoy? Do you see yourself including your baby in these activities?**
- **Where will you use your stroller the most? Indoors or out? Flat or hilly terrain? Walking, jogging or running?**
- **Will you be getting in and out of the car often?**
- **Will you be using mass transit or traveling by air frequently with your baby?**

Since there are many stroller manufacturers out there, it's a good idea to choose a category before focusing in on a brand. Strollers typically fit into one or more of these: umbrella, lightweight/compact, carriage, jogger, rugged/all-terrain, full-size single, and travel systems which include an infant car seat.

Different categories of strollers are preferable for different activities. You may find that your lifestyle requires more than one stroller to adequately meet your needs.

For example, while jogging strollers are great for outdoor activities and walking over rougher terrain, they may be cumbersome for trips to the mall. Lightweight strollers tend to be preferred for travel but don't perform as well at the park or on a sandy beach.

Try out several strollers at the store before you make your purchase. Open and close them. Put weight in the seat and push them around the store. Check out the different features and adjustments, and test how they work. Make note of the pros and cons of each stroller.

Features to consider:

- **Type of wheel** – Plastic/molded foam wheels are lightweight and work well for everyday use in stores and on well-paved areas. Inflated tires are larger, make the stroller easier to roll, provide a smoother ride and tend to be easier to maneuver over varying terrain.
- **Weight** – Make sure you are able to comfortably lift the stroller if you plan to be taking it up stairs or in and out of a car, bus or train.
- **Size (open and folded)** – Does it fit into your trunk, leaving room for other cargo (such as grocery bags)? If you plan to use the stroller in stores, is it easy to maneuver through the aisles?
- **Car seat adaptability** – If you choose not to purchase a travel system, can the stroller accommodate your infant car seat securely?
- **Accessories** – Some of the most common accessories are cup holders and trays, clips or hooks to hang diaper bags, and boots, blankets, bunting, weather shields and bug netting to help to protect baby from the elements. Some accessories are included with the stroller. Others will need to be purchased separately.
- **Safety** – Make sure the base is wide enough to prevent tipping. If the seat adjusts to a reclining position, make sure the stroller doesn't have a tendency to tip backwards. If your stroller has a shopping basket for carrying packages, it should be low on the back of the stroller or directly over the rear wheels. Look for the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA) Certification Seal that indicates the stroller meets current safety standards.

Parents also usually want to know whether strollers are built to last and used for future children. If you purchase a high-quality stroller and take care of it properly, this should not be a problem.

Are you feeling a little overwhelmed? Stop by your [Local Baby Product Experts store](#), and a knowledgeable associate will be happy to assist you in your quest for the perfect stroller for your active lifestyle.

Baby Product Experts specialty stores provide safe, high-quality products and expert advice. Be sure to consult a store near you when planning a nursery for your new baby.