



Baby Stroller Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

Table of Contents

- Types of strollers
- Important questions before choosing a stroller
- Other features to consider in a stroller
- Accessories worth getting with a stroller

Baby strollers are an important purchase for not only newborns and babies but also toddlers and even some younger children. But finding the right one is important.

Types of strollers

There are four main types of strollers, with various subsets in some of the categories.

1. Standard strollers

These are the most common with five-point harnesses and comfortable seats. They come in three subsets.

Full-sized standard stroller – These basic strollers have adjustable seats, comfortable handling, canopies, and undercarriage storage.

Lightweight stroller – Also known as umbrella strollers, these are portable and compact, folding up when not in use, making them great for travel and quick day trips and for older toddlers and kids.

All-terrain standard stroller – These usually have rubber wheels and full suspension making them easier to move in rougher terrain.

2. Double strollers

These are designed to accommodate two children at once and come in various styles.

Side-by-side double stroller – It's like two connected strollers, which makes them wider than usual but allows two children to sit together and have the same view of what's ahead.

Sit-and-stand double stroller – One seat buckles in a young child while a platform at the back allows an older child to stand and be wheeled around when they need a break.

Tandem of stadium double stroller – Two seats are staggered so one child is higher up in the back and another lower down in the front. This maintains the same width as a standard stroller but more depth.

3. Jogging stroller

A fixed front wheel and air-filled tires allows you to comfortably go for a jog with baby without worry about the stroller tipping over while hand breaks and shock-absorbing suspension systems allow for better maneuverability while you run. They tend to be heavier and don't fold as easily as standard strollers but are ideal for city dwellers and active parents or caregivers.

Bike trailer strollers – This subset involves a stroller that can be connected to the back of your bike so you pull the child along as you ride.



4. Travel systems

These sets often bundle a standard stroller along with a compatible car seat so you can interchange the two on the base. It provides everything you need in one without needing to buy an adapter for the base.

Important questions before choosing a stroller

How and where will you use the stroller? – Consider whether you’re planning to mostly go on walks outdoors on the local trail, visit the local mall, or take it on vacation.

Where do you live? – Wheels and maneuverability matter in relation to your local area, and if you need larger wheels to combat lots of snow or rough terrain, for example, or you’ll be navigating mostly on smooth sidewalks or indoors.

How old/big is your child/children and do you plan to have more? – You might want to future-proof the purchase if you plan to have more children and need a stroller that can comfortably accommodate your child as they grow with both weight and height.

Who will be using it and how often? – If multiple people will be using it, consider things like adjustable handles for height, ease of folding it up, weight, and more.

Other features to consider in a stroller

Canopy – This is essential to protect baby from the sun, wind, and inclement weather as well as to provide a nice, dark space for a nap.

Seat base compatibility – It’s useful to have a stroller that works with your car seat for easily switching baby from car seat to stroller without disturbing them. In some cases, this might require purchasing a separate adapter.

Seat positions – Babies, toddlers, and kids will be happier when they are comfortable, so look for ample cushioning, secure but not restrictive harnesses, and a seat that can recline in different positions.

Bassinet attachment – If it’s for a newborn baby who isn’t yet able to hold up their head, a bassinet stroller attachment, or at least a seat that can adjust to the flat position, is a must so they can comfortably lie down and relax or nap.

Secure harness – The harness needs to be secure and not easy for the child to unbuckle themselves.

Cushioning – Extra padding is useful for babies who might want to take a quick nap while in the upright position.

Seat fabric – It should either be easy to remove and wash or easy to spot clean. Some can be swapped for different materials, like thin and cool fabric for summer and warm and thick for winter.

Storage – If you plan to walk often and make purchases, like groceries, the undercarriage space should be ample enough to fit lots of items.

Accessories worth getting with a stroller



Cup holder – This can be useful to hold not only your own water bottle or coffee mug but also a baby bottle and other items.

Tray table – For older babies and toddlers, this makes feeding time with solid foods easy and provides a space for them to enjoy snacks or play with toys.

Bag hooks – These can accommodate lightweight shopping bags and other items so you can keep your hands free.

Diaper bag or organizer – Have one that matches, easily fits in the undercarriage, or can neatly strap around the handlebars.

Stroller muff – This functions like a sleeping bag so you can place baby inside with their clothing on and not have to worry about heavy and cumbersome jackets if you're going from outside to indoors.