



# Your cot buying guide

Choosing a cot for your baby is an exciting decision. Whether you're buying new or second-hand, there are many things to consider so you and your baby can rest easy.

**T**hese days, parents are spoilt for choice when it comes to cots. There are many different styles, shapes and sizes available to meet your particular family needs. So, where do you start and what should you look for?

To get you started, we have put together a complete guide for buying a cot including types of cots, cot essentials and safety, things to consider before you buy and handy shopping tips.

## Cot essentials

The most important thing when it comes to cots is to ensure the safety of your baby. In New Zealand there is a cot safety standard issued under the Fair Trading Act 1986 which is enforced by the Commerce Commission – and which carries significant penalties if breached. It is called the Product Safety Standards (Household Cots) Regulations

2005 and requires compliance with AS/NZS2172:2003 Cots for household use – Safety Requirements.

This safety standard aims to ensure that all cots sold in New Zealand meet a number of critical safety requirements. It applies to cots, whether sold new through a retailer, second-hand via the internet, newspaper classifieds or at a garage sale, or even passed on by a well-meaning family member or friend.

The product safety standard sets out requirements and tests for materials, design, construction, performance and labeling of cots to protect infants and babies from the risk of injury or death through the use of unsafe cots. Second-hand cots are exempt from certain requirements including packaging and labeling. The standard also does not apply to folding or carry cots, bassinets or antique cots.

Some key features that meet the cot product safety regulations include the following:

- Space between the bars must be between 50-95mm
- Space around the perimeter of the mattress must be no more than 20mm when the mattress is centered
- There must be no protrusions, measuring more than