



Crib Safety

Fact:

Simple crib safety measures can go a long way to protect an infant.

Fiction:

It's a myth that all cribs meet safety standards.

Nothing's more precious than an infant. Parents can take these essential steps toward safety and help prevent sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and suffocation.*

What to Do

- Place the baby on his or her back to sleep
- Use a crib with a firm, tight-fitting mattress
- Do not put pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, fluffy bumper pads, or pillow-like stuffed toys in the crib
- Dress the baby in a sleeper rather than using blankets
- Use only a fitted bottom sheet made for cribs

A crib should meet the following safety standards:*

- A firm, tight-fitting mattress so the baby can't get trapped between the mattress and the crib
- No missing, loose, broken or improperly installed screws, brackets, or other hardware
- No more than 2 3/8 inches between crib slats so the baby can't become trapped between slats
- No missing or cracked slats
- Top rail cover with no tears or holes
- No corner posts over 1/16th inch high so the baby's clothing can't catch
- No cutouts in the headboard or foot board so the baby's head can't get trapped

For mesh-sided cribs and playpens, look for mesh less than ¼ inch in size, with no tears, holes or loose threads that could entangle a baby, and securely attached to the top rail and floor plate.

*Consumer Product Safety Commission