

Crib Safety Guide for Parents and Caregivers

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NYS Consumer Protection Board



Cribs that are assembled wrong, have missing, loose or broken hardware or broken slats can result in entrapment or suffocation deaths. Infants can strangle when their head and neck become entrapped in gaps created by missing, loose or broken hardware or broken slats.

Step One: Check Your Crib for Safety First!



There should be:

- A firm, tight-fitting mattress so baby can't get trapped between the mattress and the crib.
- No missing, loose, broken or improperly installed screws, brackets, staples, nails or other hardware on the crib or mattress support.
- No more than 2 3/8 inches (about the width of a soda can) between the crib slats so a baby's body can't fit through the slats; no missing or cracked slats.
- No corner posts over 1/16th inch high so a baby's clothing can't catch.
- No cutouts in the headboard or foot board so a baby's head can't get trapped.

Step Two: Use your Crib Safely!

For infants less than 12 months of age, follow these practices to reduce the risk of SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome) and prevent suffocation:

- Place baby on his/her back in a crib with a firm, tight-fitting mattress.
- Do not put pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, pillow-like bumper pads or pillow-like stuffed toys in the crib.
- Consider using a sleeper instead of a blanket.
- Place baby with feet at the foot of the crib. When using a blanket, tuck a thin blanket around the crib mattress, covering baby only as high as his/her chest.
- Use only a fitted bottom sheet made specifically for crib use.

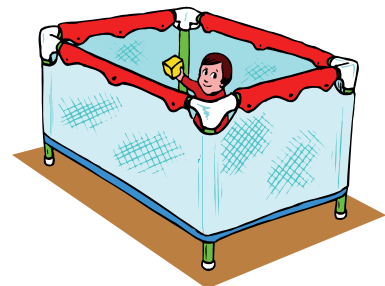
More Tips for Crib Safety!

- Inspect hardware from time to time and tighten to keep the crib sturdy.
- Check to make sure the drop side of a crib or any other moving part operates smoothly on its track.
- Check all sides and corners of the crib for disengagement. Any disengagement can create a gap and entrap a child.
- Do not try to repair any side of the crib without manufacturer approved hardware or with tape, wire or rope.
- Do not place a broken side up against the wall as the problem can be made worse.

Mesh-sided Cribs and Playpens Safety!

Step One: Look for the following:

- Mesh that is less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in size, smaller than the tiny buttons on a baby's clothing.
- Mesh without any tears, holes or loose threads that could entangle a baby.
- Mesh which is securely attached to the top rail and floor plate.
- A top rail cover which has no tears, cracks or holes.



David A. Paterson, Governor
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Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)