

Baby things are so adorable, and so expensive. Which of the many newborn accessories do you really need? It can be an adventure, trying to make sure that you will have everything that your new baby will need.

Necessities for New Babies



When I moved into my first apartment I remember feeling so overwhelmed because I was running out to the store to get important things for my new living space at least once a day. All the little things that your parents had that you took for granted like shower

curtain liners, pots and pans, toasters, spatulas, whisks, condiments, clothes hamper, etc. I always needed one little thing to finish what I was doing and it was hard. I can only imagine what it will be like trying to buy what I need for a new baby and avoid running to the store for a small but important forgotten item.

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I have often thought that while apartment shopping it would have been nice to have a checklist of things needed. It also would have been nice to know what I wouldn't need as well. I found myself buying things I thought I needed but didn't, like that orange juicer that I have never used. I am sure that even with preparation, having a baby will sweep me away into the never-ending ocean of "especially for baby" but necessary items. But even still, forward thinking, I have done a little research and prepared a list of things that every expecting Mother needs and a few that you could probably go without when deciding what to buy for your new baby.

So what CAN you live without?

- Baby bathtub - People seem to have trouble with these, either because they are hard to use,

BABY GIFTS & GIFT BASKETS

If you are going to have a baby shower, it is a good idea to make a list of things you need and include the list of suggested gifts in the invitation. Then after the baby shower, you can buy the rest of the necessities.

[Baby Gifts and Gift Baskets](#) provides timely and practical information for new moms, as well as gift ideas for pregnancy, baby showers, and to celebrate birth:

New Baby Gift Ideas

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hard to store or the baby doesn't like them. It seems just as easy to take the baby into the bath with you.

- o Car bottle warmer - A good idea, but they don't tend to warm up quickly enough on quick trips.
- o Cradles/Bassinets/Cribs - It could be that the trend toward the family bed is giving people an alternative to cradles and bassinets, but many mothers said they took up too much space and babies were rarely, if ever, happy in them.

New Little Prince or Princess Basket



When the new little Prince or Princess arrives, they require a gift fit for royalty and this gift fits the bill! We've taken a wooden Boy or Girl baby box and filled it with essentials for the new little bundle of joy. For the boys, we include an embroidered "The Prince has Arrived" bib and for the girls, a "The Princess has Arrived" bib is included. They'll also find an infant cap, cotton baby booties, cotton infant pants (3 to 6 month size) and three cotton body suits with a crown applique or theme. We've also added a Baby's 1st Footprint Keepsake Kit that they can cherish for years to come.

Price: \$ 57.00

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- o Pillows are NOT RECOMMENDED, babies do not need them, and furthermore pillows are associated with crib death.
- o Diaper Genie - most people find these frustrating to operate.
- o Changing table - They take up a lot of space and don't allow for the most versatile storage. Many parents find it just as easy to convert a bureau to a changing table or just change the baby on the floor.

So what CAN'T you live without?

- o Car seats - are not items to skip on. Unless you know the previous owner very well, car seats are not good items to get second-hand. Manufacturers advise that any car seat that has been in any kind of accident, no matter how minor, must be replaced. Car seats are carefully constructed to protect their precious cargo, and any compromise to the structure could limit its effectiveness.
- o Stroller - Many infants do well in a sling, but if you're talking about long walks or shopping, a stroller helps manage all your bundles.
- o Carrier/Sling - Keeps baby close while keeping hands free.
- o Floor gym/Playpen - Because sometimes you need to go to the bathroom.

- Onsie for summer babies and Jammies for winter babies - It is wise to resist the urge to buy "outfits" at this stage of the game. Babies spit up, drool, and wet themselves a lot so the best thing to have on hand is lots of onsies for summer babies and jammies for winter babies. Newborn infants must have their heads covered outside in all but the warmest summer months (when they should stay out of the sun, entirely) so be sure to have plenty of cozy stretchy hats on hand, too.
- Diapers, Medicine and General Care Items:
 - Several packages of diapers in newborn and infant sizes.
 - Several giant packages of wipes.
 - A stash of small wash clothes - and a plastic dish for water for sponge baths on the changing table.
 - Diaper rash creams.
 - Infant ibuprofen and acetaminophen - (Tylenol and Motrin)
 - Anti-gas drops.
 - Nasal aspirator - (babies can't blow their noses so the aspirator may be necessary to help clear congested nasal passages. There are different kinds out there and the hospital will give you one. They all work differently, so it's nice to have the variety to experiment with.)
 - Rubbing alcohol and cotton balls - to clean the belly button stump (and to help sterilize clippers, tweezers and nasal aspirators.)
 - A grooming kit - with soft hair brush, comb, tweezers and infant nail clippers.
 - A rectal thermometer - Fancy pacifier thermometers and under-arm patches, in-the-ear thermometers and forehead strips don't do the job. The most reliable way to take a temperature is rectally. Have your health practitioner show you how to do this on your baby so you are confident that you can take his or her temperature in the middle of the night, if the need arises.
 - Hand soap and anti-bacterial wash - (if you prefer it) for the bathroom for folks to wash their hands before touching the newborn. Hand wash in the diaper bag for the road.

Ask your friends what tools they couldn't do without and plan the amount of space you have to devote to your baby's gear. For gear the baby might reject, like swings, borrow one before buying one. Collecting hand-me-downs from relatives or friends is a great help. Another source is a baby shower. You will receive gifts from friends and relatives for you're soon to be newborn. After all this is collected, you can sit down and take stock of what you have and don't have. Make a complete listing of what you need before you go out and shop, otherwise you may go over budget and get things that you really don't need. If you do forget something its ok it is good to buy what you need when you need it. It's easier and cheaper than buying everything and then

disposing of things that don't work. The number one thing your baby will need is your love and attention; if it has that everything else is just a detail.