

## Prams and Strollers

Most parents use a pram or a stroller because it is the easiest way to take baby out into the world. Whether it be a baby stroller, a baby carriage, a three wheeled 'all terrain' pram or a hybrid pram, it is the most comfortable way to transport a baby or young child.

### Mandatory Safety Standard

From 1 July 2008 all prams and strollers for sale (new and second hand) are required to comply with The Fair Trading Amendment (Prams and Strollers) Regulation 2008 .

Under the Standard, prams and strollers must have:

- a restraint harness
- a parking brake
- parking device 'actuators' (foot or handbrake levers) that are clearly red in colour
- safe-use warning labels
- a tether strap to help carers retain control of the pram or stroller.

### Tether Strap

To avoid the risk of strangulation, the tether strap must:

- be as short as practical, and
- have a perimeter of less than 360 mm, and
- have the following notice placed on the tether strap:

**"WARNING:  
USE THIS STRAP TO  
STOP THE  
PRAM/STROLLER  
ROLLING AWAY."**



### 'Real Life' Cases

1. A child who was not correctly secured in the stroller, stood up and fell out of the stroller, suffering a head injury.
2. Left unattended, a child became entangled in the harness.
3. A 6 month old girl was sleeping in a pram in a quiet corner of lounge. When her mother returned, the child had moved back and become trapped in the head of the pram and had asphyxiated.

### What to look for

The pram you buy will depend on a few factors such as;

- Do you need a pram that will fold easily and fit into your car?
- Will you be walking a lot with your child or taking it on public transport? A lightweight pram or stroller may be more suitable.
- Do you need a baby pram that is portable? 'All terrain' prams (three wheeled prams) are designed to go over many types of terrains and are often used as jogging prams because of their versatility.

**Buying a pram or stroller can be one of the biggest purchases that a new parent has to make!**

When using a pram or stroller it is essential that you get into the habit of applying the breaks each time you stop, even on flat surfaces.

## Selection

When selecting a pram or stroller check that it has an Australian Standards label. To ensure the safety of your child:

- Select a stable design, with easy-to-use frame locks.
- Make sure there is an easy-to-use 5 point adjustable harness (crotch, legs, both shoulders & waist).
- Make sure the frame locks operate properly so it will not collapse.
- Ensure it is easy to steer with solid durable wheels.
- Make sure the wheel locks are effective.
- Make sure there are no gaps for entrapment.
- Check that the adjustable recline position locks securely at a 30° angle.
- Purchase a product that has a parcel container positioned **under** the pram or stroller.



For further information refer to the brochures titled:

*Prams and Strollers* available at [acc.gov.au](http://acc.gov.au) or ACCC Info Centre **1300302502**

*Pram Safety—Your guide to travelling with a pram on a train* available at [cityrail.info](http://cityrail.info) or Transport Info Line **131 500**

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## Safe Practices

- Use the 5 point harness at all times.
- Always use the tether strap.
- Always engage the brake as soon as you stop.
- Do not hang shopping bags or parcels from the handles. This will make the pram or stroller unstable and cause it to tip over.
- Store parcels in the container underneath the pram or stroller which is designed to stabilise the weight in the pram evenly.
- Do not put more children in a pram or stroller than it is designed for.
- Check all frame catches are locked into place and fabric fastenings are secured each time before use.
- Prams are **not** recommended for young babies to sleep in or as a substitute for a proper cot. Direct (in sight) supervision is necessary.
- Babies under 6 months of age should not be placed in a stroller unless the back-rest can be adjusted to an angle of more than 30 degrees to the seat.

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**child safety is no accident**