

# Pram and Stroller Safety



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

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

Children risk serious injury or death if a pram or stroller rolls away from the carer's control.

Other injuries can be caused if:

- the child's fingers, arms or legs get caught in gaps or mechanisms of the pram or stroller
- the child falls out of the pram or stroller because they have not been properly restrained
- the pram or stroller tips or over balances because it is heavily loaded with bags etc. on the handles.

It is possible for a child to suffocate if they become trapped in parts of the pram or stroller.



## Mandatory standard

Mandatory safety requirements for prams and strollers took effect in July 2008. These are based on Australian Standard *AS/NZS 2088:2000 Prams and strollers - safety requirements*.

Some of these safety requirements include:

- A tether strap to help parents and carers keep control of the pram. There have been cases in Australia where children have died when the pram or stroller has rolled away into dangerous situations
- An inbuilt restraint harness to protect the child from falls
- A parking brake to ensure the pram or stroller can't roll away



## Second-hand Prams and Strollers

If you plan to use a second-hand pram or stroller it should meet the Australian Standard. All the necessary parts must be in good working order and you need full instructions for safe use. Heavy fines may apply for supplying second-hand prams or strollers that do not comply with the mandatory standard.

## Online Purchasing

Be careful when buying online. It is wise to check that your purchase meets mandatory Australian safety standards and has not been recalled in Australia or another country. Consumer guarantees may be difficult to enforce if you purchase a product from an overseas supplier and you may not be able to obtain compensation if the goods cause an injury.

**child safety is no accident**

## Safety Features for Prams and Strollers

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.
- It needs 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 on the child.
- Ensure the pram or stroller has solid durable wheels and is easy to steer.
- Make sure the wheel locks work properly.
- Check that there are no gaps that could trap a child's head, hands or feet.
- Make sure the adjustable recline position locks securely.
- A pram or stroller with the parcel container positioned underneath it is less likely to tip over.
- Choose a pram or stroller that is easy to assemble and disassemble and that is light to lift.
- An 'All terrain' pram (three wheeled pram), designed to go over many types of terrain, is versatile and can be used jogging.

## Safe Practices

- Use the 5 point harness at all times.
- Always use the tether strap on your wrist.
- 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 to stabilise their weight evenly in the pram.
- Do not put more children in a pram or stroller than it is designed for.
- Check that frame catches are locked into place and fabric fastenings are secured before every 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.

For further information refer to:

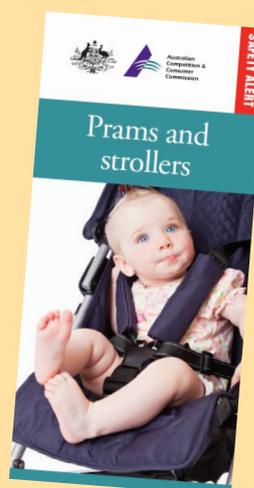
ACCC safety alert brochure titled *Prams and Strollers* available at [productsafety.gov.au](http://productsafety.gov.au)

*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**

Product Recalls Australia [recalls.gov.au](http://recalls.gov.au)

or contact the

ACCC Infocentre **1300 302 502**



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The logo for KIDSAFE features three stylized animals: a white rabbit, a white duck, and a yellow giraffe. The word 'KIDSAFE' is written in large, colorful letters. Below the logo, it says 'Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia'.

Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia