

Buggies, prams and strollers

You can read about UK safety standards here. There are three things you must check:

- There should be reference to the following safety standards somewhere on the product: BS 7409 or BSEN 1888:2003. The label with these details is usually found on the frame or seat covering.
- A permanent notice on the buggy must state: Children should be harnessed in at all times and should never be left unattended. The child should be clear of moving parts while making adjustments. This vehicle requires regular maintenance by the user. Overloading, incorrect folding and the use of non- approved accessories may damage or break this vehicle. Read the instructions.
- Instructions should be supplied with each buggy. They should relate to the operation, assembly, use and maintenance of the vehicle. If the original instructions are lost, then replacements can usually be downloaded from the internet.

Things to check:

- Do the brakes work? Lock, unlock and push in both settings to check.
- Wheels. We can't usually order replacement wheels or easily fix broken ones, so please check these are all in good working order.
- Will it fold securely (so that it can be picked up and moved without coming undone), and then 'lock' into place once unfolded?
- Is the harness intact and still working?
- Is there any damage like sharp or worn edges or torn fabric that could compromise the buggy or pram's overall stability?
- Is the buggy clean and in a condition that you'd be happy to use for your child?
- Have you included a rain cover that fits?

Cots and cotbeds

You can read about UK safety standards here. There should be reference to the following safety standard somewhere on the product: EN716

Things to check before donating:

- What size mattress is required?
- Have you securely attached all the nails, screws, etc. required?
- Do you have all 4 bars and are they all intact?
- Do you have all the parts required to build it?
- Is there any other damage that could compromise the stability of the cot?
- Have you included an instruction manual?

CANNOT ACCEPT if it has a drop down side or wide gap slats!

High chairs

You can read about UK safety standards here. There should be reference to the following safety standard somewhere on the product: BS 14988-1

Things to check before donating:

- Is there a harness that goes around the child's waist and between their legs?
- Is there any damage to the base which could compromise its overall stability?
- If it is a folding highchair, is it stable and do all the locks work?
- Is the highchair clean and in good condition?

Clothing

- **Do not accept items with a drawstring around the neck**
- Check for loose buttons and other items that may fall off
- Check sleepsuits have a label which states: '**keep away from fire**' or '**low flammability to BS 5722**'.

Toys

All children's toys must meet strict safety requirements, whether they are new or second-hand. All new toys are required to bear a CE mark, or the Lion Mark which is a declaration that the toy complies with safety requirements.



When we receive a second-hand toy, whether CE marked or not, it needs to be inspected using the Toy Quality Checklist before going out to a family or to sell in our charity shop.

Stair Gates:

Please note, we **do not** accept stairgates.

- **It's essential that a stair gate fits your stairs snugly, but it's not always so easy to achieve with a secondhand or worn out product.**
- Older stair gates may have been made or coated with products now deemed unsafe for children.
- Secondhand stair gates may not come equipped with all the necessary fittings and fixtures, which are essential for ensuring full safety of the gate. If you decide to buy new, John Lewis stock an affordable range of safety gates.

Breast Pumps:

Please note, we **do not** accept used breast pumps, this is because contaminated pumps have been identified as reservoirs for bacteria, especially after being used by multiple mothers and cleaned inadequately between uses.

A spokesperson for Medela said: 'Due to the unique composition of human milk, a complex set of issues arises that places it at risk of contamination when it is collected, stored and handled.'

Open system pumps are recommended for single users only as they do not have a barrier between the milk collection and the pumping parts. It is impossible to fully clean and sterilise them in a home environment.

Closed system pumps have a barrier between the milk collection unit and the pumping parts. This means that they are considered safe for multiple users from a contamination point of view and many women simply purchase the new closed system parts if they have bought a second-hand unit.

Read more:

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/2019/03/experts-warn-mums-to-beware-when-using-secondhand-breast-pumps/> - Which?