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What Does My New Baby Really Need: A Guide to Shopping for Your New Baby

Health and Safety

- * digital thermometer
- * nasal aspirator
- * infant acetaminophen drops
- * baby monitor
- * night light

Baby Care Products

- * baby shampoo/baby wash
- * diaper cream
- * baby nail clippers or safety scissors
- * baby oil/lotion
- * baby brush and comb
- * a couple of pacifiers (even if you don't plan to use!)
- * feeding bottles (4-6 4 oz to start), nipples, and bottle brush if you plan to use bottles



Layette and Diapering

- * newborn diapers/cloth diapers/wraps or set up diaper service
- * baby wipes and/or extra baby washcloths
- * diaper pail
- * burp cloths or extra cloth diapers
- * gowns/kimonos or newborn sleepers (4-6)
- * receiving blankets (4-6)
- * swaddling blankets (2-3)
- * crib blanket or quilt
- * newborn socks or booties (4-6 pair)
- * newborn cap (1-2)
- * hooded bath towels and wash cloth
- * 4-6 T-shirts or all-in-ones
- * 1-2 sweaters or bunting (depending upon season)



Baby Equipment

- * baby carrier (sling, wrap or pack carrier)
- * infant seat (have to bring it to the hospital!)
- * stroller or carriage
- * bouncer seat or swing
- * diaper bag



Furniture and Accessories

- * co-sleeper/bassinet/cradle or crib
- * mattress, waterproof pads, at least two sheets and other bedding
- * changing table or other safe changing area
- * mobile for the crib and/or changing area
- * changing pad and 2 covers

Money Saving Shopping Tips for New Parents

Perhaps the biggest problem with baby clothes is that they don't last. Not because they wear out, but because your baby quickly out grows them. It's important to plan your baby clothes shopping around the growth of your baby. If you don't, you could be wasting money.

1. **Wear a Larger Size** - People say babies grow fast, and they're right about that. You'll be wasting money if you buy perfect fitting clothes because they'll soon be too small. Buying a larger size will extend the amount of time your baby can wear them.
2. **Make a Weather Prediction** - Stop and think for a moment about clothes labels that state size in terms of a baby's age, such as 12 or 18 months. Then ask this question: "When my baby is X months old, what will the weather or temperature be like?" Get the answer to this question correct and you'll buy clothes that not only fit, but also will be appropriate for the season.
3. **Find Easy To Put On Outfits** - Sometimes you'll struggle to dress your baby into an outfit you want him to wear. Outfits that come in several pieces, button from behind or pull over the head may require more of your patience and time. Outfits that come in one piece, open in the front, have zippers, or snap buttons should be easier to deal with.
4. **Have Enough for Emergencies** - Food can drop on your baby's clothes while you're feeding him. If your baby becomes sick, he might throw-up on his outfit. When a messy accident occurs, you'll need a clean set of clothes ready for your baby to wear.
5. **Save at the Clearance Racks** - You can save a bundle at the clearance racks. Almost every type of store has these. In addition, if you wait for a big sale you can save even more. Some stores will also markdown the clearance item further at the cash register.
6. **Accept Hand Me Downs** - Your family and friends may want to give you their children's baby clothes. They may have new clothes that their baby didn't have a chance to wear. If you decide to accept what they are willing to give, you'll save yourself some money, especially if they have clothing you would have bought.
7. **Exchange Old Clothes for Cash** - Sell the clothes your baby no longer fits into on eBay. eBay is just an example. There are many other ways to trade your old clothes for cash. You may not make as much as you had originally paid for them, however, you'll at least earn some of your money back.

