



Safe  
use



safe products

# Cots

**Cots are a sleeping environment for children where they can be expected to be left unattended for long periods of time. They must therefore be safe.**

## Safety checklist

All new and second-hand cots must meet these safety requirements:

- ✓ The cot must be more than 600mm deep. Measure from the top of the mattress base to the lowest point on any side or end.
- ✓ The mattress must fit the cot firmly. Any gaps at the ends and sides should be less than 20mm with the mattress centred in the cot.
- ✓ Spaces between the bars of the cot must be between 50mm and 85mm.
- ✓ The four corner posts must not stick up more than 5mm.
- ✓ The dropside catches must lock securely.
- ✓ Screws and nails must not stick out.
- ✓ Cot ends must not have fancy cut outs.
- ✓ There must not be any bars, ledges or other footholds that an infant can use to climb out of the cot.
- ✓ The base of the cot must be firm, with no parts to collapse or bend when pushed down.

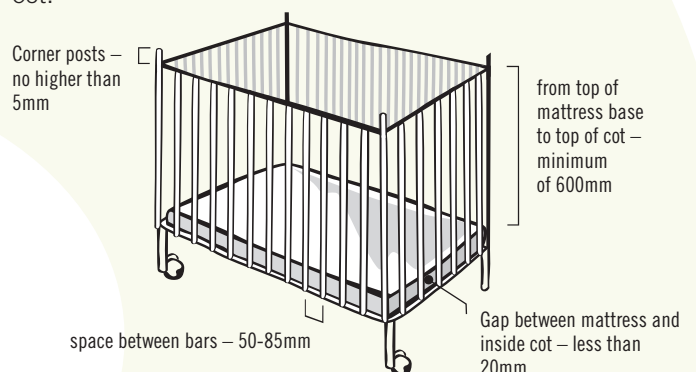
## What you can do

- Read and follow the manufacturer's assembly and use instructions. If in doubt, go back to the retailer for help.
- Under the Fair Trading Act, your cot must comply with the safety requirements of the National Standard AS/NZS 2172. Make sure the cot you are buying meets this standard, which can be found on the Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MCA) website. Go to [www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/productsafety/standards/st-cots2000.html](http://www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/productsafety/standards/st-cots2000.html)
- If you are buying a portable cot, read the "Portable Cots and Play-yards" factsheet that MCA has prepared. This is also available on the MCA website.

## Second-hand cots

- Repair broken or wobbly bars.
- Make sure all bolts and screws are firmly in place. And that they are not sticking out of the cot, including both the inside and outside.
- Check that corner posts are not longer than 5mm. Cut off any excess and make sure the cut edges are smooth.
- Check old cots for poisonous lead-based paint. Ring your local Community/Public Health Service Provider (listed at the front of the White Pages) for advice.
- Do not use pillows in a cot. They might suffocate the baby.
- Remove plastic wrapping from new mattresses, as it might suffocate the baby.
- Do not leave toys in the cot. Large toys are climbing aids. Small toys with ribbons can be a choking risk.
- Do not place the cot within reach of curtains and window blind cords.

Check with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs or your local Plunket service if you have any safety concerns about your cot.



## More information

The Commerce Commission enforces the Household Cots Product Safety Standard. You can contact them at:

**Phone:** 0800 943 600  
**Email:** [contact@comcom.govt.nz](mailto:contact@comcom.govt.nz)  
**Address:** PO Box 2351, Wellington



March 2010



MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
MANATŪ KAIHOKOHOKO

PO BOX 1473, WELLINGTON • PHONE: 0508 MAPSS Info / 0508 627 774 • WEBSITE: [www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz](http://www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz)