

Diaper bags

CHEAT SHEET >> THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE YOU BUY

1 Know your options.

Become acquainted with the kinds of diaper bags.

Tote: A diaper bag that can be worn over your shoulder; totes often most closely resemble a woman's handbag.

Messenger: A diaper bag that can be worn across your body; messengers are known for their stay-put nature and even weight distribution.

Backpack: A diaper bag that can be worn on your back; backpacks are typically dad-friendly and provide a comfortable carry.

Clutch: A diaper bag that can be held in your hand or tucked under your arm; clutches are smaller than most diaper bags and best for quick trips or minimalist moms.

2 Determine your needs.

Ask yourself these questions to find out which type of diaper bag is right for your lifestyle.

1. Who will be carrying the bag primarily? You? Your partner? Your child's care provider?
2. How much will you be hauling? Will you be using the bag for day trips or quick errands? Will you be toting supplies for one child or multiple children?
3. Do you like plenty of pockets and compartments? Or would you prefer a relatively open space in which you can drop your own pouches and containers?
4. How long are you hoping the diaper bag will last? Do you like to buy a new bag each season or make an investment and stick with it?
5. How much do you value style and design? Do you desire a bag that looks good or is your priority a carryall that gets the job done?

3 Find your fit.

Mark the features you desire in a diaper bag in the first column, then use the remaining columns to compare the models you're considering and clarify which best meet your requirements.

FEATURE	IMPORTANT TO ME	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Convertible straps				
Earth-friendly				
Exterior pockets				
Extra accessories: Some bags include a coordinating changing mat, bottle holder, wet bag, key fob and/or coin purse.				
Insulated bottle pocket(s)				
Interior pockets				
Light-colored interior: White, beige or other light-color interiors can help avoid a "black hole effect."				
Lightweight: A bag will only get heavier once loaded.				
Machine washable				
Metal or plastic feet				
Self-standing: Many moms appreciate a bag that can stand on its own when rested on the floor at a restaurant or set on the ground at a park.				
Stroller straps				
Water-resistant interior				
Wipeable exterior				
Snap closure				
Magnetic closure				
Zipper closure				



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