

CHEAT SHEET >> THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE YOU BUY

1 Know your options.

Become acquainted with the kinds of travel beds.

Play yard: A play yard offers a roomy-yet-contained space for baby to nap or play. Many come equipped with changing stations and bassinets, making them a convenient addition to the non-nursery floor of multilevel homes.

Lightweight portable crib: A lightweight portable crib weighs much less than its full-size play yard counterpart. These compact beds are ideal for travel and households with limited space.

Moses basket: A Moses basket provides a cozy space for newborn slumber. Because they fit easily into the trunk of most cars, they can be taken along on weekend adventures or even afternoon picnics in the park.

Co-sleeping device: A co-sleeping device allows parents and their infants to safely share a sleep space. Some models are travel-friendly, allowing baby to enjoy a consistent sleep spot at home and on the go.

2 Determine your needs.

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

1. How will you use the travel bed primarily? Do you plan to leave the travel bed set up in a stationary space (i.e., your living room), or do you intend to transport it from place to place?
2. Do you intend to use the travel bed only while your baby is an infant or through her toddler years?
3. Would you like baby to sleep in the travel bed at home or only when you're away?
4. Are the weight and size of the travel bed important to you? Will you need to carry it regularly?
5. Where will you store the travel bed when not in use?

3 Find your fit.

Mark the features you desire in a travel bed 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
Bassinet				
Canopy				
Carry bag				
Changing station: An attractive feature for moms and dads wanting a secondary center for all things baby.				
Compact fold: Think about where you'll be storing the bed.				
Crib sheet				
Lightweight: Parents who plan to travel with the bed regularly may appreciate a less-heavy option.				
Mattress				
Mobile				
Quick assembly				
Sound feature: Certain models feature lullabies or white noise, and others are even compatible with MP3 players.				
Storage compartment				
Vibration				
Weight capacity				



Visit pnmag.com/travel

for reviews of our parent panel's top travel picks.