



SINGLE STROLLER BUYING GUIDE

2017

WELCOME TO OUR BUYING GUIDE!

We're here to help.



At Magic Beans, we don't want to sell you just stroller: we want you to find the perfect fit for your growing family and your lifestyle.

This buying guide is just the first step on the way to discovering a stroller you'll truly love: after you read through this guide: talk to us! **Call us at 866-600-BEAN, email guides@mbeans.com, or book a FREE consultation by clicking [here!](#)**

LET'S GET STARTED

Your first assignment before you begin shopping for a stroller is to imagine how you will use it.

Do you need something super lightweight, or a more substantial or fully-featured stroller? Many families decide to get one of each – a lightweight “car stroller” and a bigger “house stroller.”

WHAT TO LOOK FOR



STROLLER WEIGHT

How much are you willing to lift? (Keep in mind that you may be juggling a baby and a diaper bag as well.) Note: every manufacturer has a different method for weighing their strollers, so the functional weight may be different than the published weight. It's a good idea to try hefting each stroller in person.



WEIGHT LIMIT

This determines how long you'll be able to use your stroller (possibly up through the preschool years). A higher weight limit is usually a sign of high-quality materials and solid construction.



HOW DOES IT FEEL TO PUSH?

How well a stroller moves is a function of how well it is engineered, so whether it has a handlebar or double handles, if it's well-balanced, it should be easy to push. We recommend giving a stroller a test-drive with some weight in it to see whether you like the way it feels. Your height can also be a factor: if you're tall, you may wind up kicking the back wheels. And if caregivers are different heights, you may want to look for an adjustable handlebar.



THE FOLD

Your stroller should be quick and easy to fold, and it should ideally fold compactly – a lightweight stroller should never take up too much space. A one-handed fold is a nice feature, but we've found that parents can easily work around a two-handed fold if they need to.



STORAGE

Sadly, the slimmest strollers are almost always short on storage, so if onboard storage is a must, opt for a stroller that's a little more robust, or get a diaper bag that can attach to the stroller's handles to provide some extra space. Be careful about how much weight you hang on your stroller handles, though, since tipping is a real risk.



CAR SEAT COMPATIBILITY

A car seat adapter provides a handy shortcut between your stroller and the car – it allows you to skip undoing harnesses and potentially waking the baby up during the transfer. When you're stroller shopping, it's a good idea to see whether your preferred stroller can be adapted for your preferred car seat.

SHOPPING TIPS

Determine your priorities.

More features will add more weight, so you'll need to decide what features you can't live without, and balance that against how much weight you're willing to carry.



How often will you use this stroller?

The best justification of a stroller's price relative to its value rests in how much use it will get. A stroller you use every day is worth spending an extra buck or two, because it really will make your life that much easier. If you'll only use it occasionally, though, a lower-priced model may be just what you need.

BUGABOO BEES

Traveling? Think about terrain.

A lightweight stroller is great for airports, rental cars, hotels, and so on. But if you're going to be hiking through rustic or uneven terrain, you want wheels and suspension that can handle the bumps. Remember, the airport is only the beginning of the trip!

Meet your stroller in person before you buy.

If there isn't a Magic Beans store location near you, ask around! Friends and family might have a stroller model you're considering, and you can even try pushing it with their kids on board. And other parents are full of useful opinions when it comes to strollers. (Which is one reason why it's so great that Magic Beans is owned by parents!)

TEST DRIVE CHECKLIST

- Have a kid on hand? Put them in the stroller. Do they seem comfortable? (If it's an older kid, ask them!) Is there room to grow?
- Push the stroller around the store. How does it feel? How agile is it? Does it fit easily through the aisles?
- Try the stroller outside on different types of pavement – if you can find sidewalk cracks and bumps, give them a try. Does the ride feel smooth?



BABY JOGGER CITY MINI GT

- Learn to fold and unfold the stroller. Is it easy and intuitive? Could another caregiver or a grandparent handle it?
- Fold the stroller up and put it in the trunk of your car. How does it fit? Is there room for other items? (Please don't drive away with the stroller without purchasing it.)
- Fold the stroller and pick it up. Try carrying it across the store. Think about how it will feel to carry the stroller with a child in your other arm. Is there a handle that makes it easier?

AN INTRODUCTION TO LIGHTWEIGHT STROLLERS

Lightweight and umbrella strollers give you the best portability and convenience.

- Will fit into the trunk of a car with room for your luggage or groceries.
- Easy to open and close.
- Nimble to push, and can easily get through small aisles in a store.
- Cons: Usually cannot be used with infant car seats.

LIGHTWEIGHT STROLLERS ARE BEST FOR:

- Families who will use their stroller lightly on smooth city sidewalks or indoors, at grocery stores and malls.
- Getting on and off public transportation.
- Traveling, as long as you're not planning on tackling too much rough terrain.
- Strolling with active toddlers who are frequently climbing in and out of their stroller.

OTHER LIGHTWEIGHT STROLLERS INCLUDE:



UPPABABY G-LUXE



Babyzen Yoyo+



UPPAbaby G-Lite



Baby Jogger City Mini



Maclaren Quest

AN INTRODUCTION TO MID-SIZE STROLLERS



NUNA TAVO

Mid-sized strollers incorporate some of the features found in larger strollers, at a lighter weight.

- Mid-sized strollers have a relatively compact fold.
- Easy to lift in and out of a car trunk.
- Can feature a reversible seat.
- Some mid-sized strollers can handle rougher terrain.
- More robust, comfy suspension will give your child a smoother ride.

MID-SIZE STROLLERS ARE BEST FOR:

- City-dwelling families who walk a lot and use mass transit, but have limited storage space.
- Families in warm-weather climates who don't need something more heavy-duty.
- Frequent fliers who need a more substantial stroller at their destination.
- Families who want a light stroller but absolutely need a reversible seat and/or an infant car seat adapter.

OTHER MID-SIZE STROLLERS INCLUDE:



UPPABABY Cruz



Baby Jogger City Mini GT



Bugaboo Bee5

AN INTRODUCTION TO FULL-SIZE STROLLERS



BUGABOO CAMELEON 3

Full-sized strollers come in two main categories.

- Three-wheeled all-terrain strollers are best for active, adventurous families who need something that can stand up to a lot of abuse. Jogging strollers also fit in this category.
- Four-wheeled hybrid strollers typically have large back wheels for stability and traction and smaller front wheels for agility and steering. These are best for families who do a lot of walking and want a reversible seat.

FULL-SIZE STROLLERS ARE BEST FOR:

- Urban and suburban families that walk all the time and need a stroller that will last for many miles of use.
- Parents who want a comfortable, ergonomic stroller that will be fun to use and durable enough to last for multiple children.
- Families who want the flexibility to use a stroller seat, a bassinet, a car seat, or even a seat for a second child, all on one stroller.

OTHER FULL-SIZE STROLLERS INCLUDE:



Austlen Baby Entourage



Silver Cross Wave



UPPAbaby Vista



BOB Revolution Flex



Nuna Mixx²



Bugaboo Buffalo

ANATOMY OF A STROLLER · PART 1



1 HANDLES

Some strollers have double handles; others have a single handlebar. Either way, the correct handle or bar height will determine how comfortable the stroller is to push. Adjustable is best, but you also might find a stroller with a non-adjustable handle that's just right. Try before you buy!

2 RECLINE

Your stroller may utilize a drawstring, a zipper, a push-button, or another mechanism to recline, and you may need one hand or two. Some strollers don't recline at all; others recline nearly flat, and some don't sit completely upright. The depth of the

recline determines what ages the stroller can accommodate, since newborns need to lie flat or nearly flat as their head and neck muscles develop.

3 SEAT FABRIC

Spills happen, so anticipate how you're going to deal with them. Is it important to you that your fabric color hides dirt? Some seat fabrics can be fully removed and tossed in the washing machine, while others are spot-clean only.

4 FOLD LOCK

Not every stroller has one, but they're pretty handy. This keeps the stroller locked in a folded position so it

won't pop open as you lug it out of the trunk, or while you're carrying it. Make sure everyone using the stroller knows how to disengage the lock (and while you're at it, make sure they know how to fold and unfold the stroller).

5 BRAKE

Every stroller has this essential piece of safety equipment – use it regularly, please! The brake varies in its placement and ease of use. If you wear flip-flops or sandals a lot, make sure you can engage the brake without bruising your toes or damaging your pedicure.

ANATOMY OF A STROLLER · PART 2



6 CANOPY

The canopy, or hood, prevents sunburn and shields your child's eyes from the sun during naptime. Some canopies have peek-a-boo windows, and some are larger than others. We prefer canopies with generous coverage and noiseless adjustment (magnets cost more, but they're quieter than zippers or Velcro).

7 HARNESS

Use your harness religiously – a properly fitted harness really will prevent injuries! We've seen it happen. Adjusting it can be a hassle, but it's absolutely worth the effort. Some buckles are harder or easier to open

or close than others, so give it a try.

8 FOLD

Each stroller has a slightly different fold; some are more complicated than others. A one-handed, compact fold is the Holy Grail, but it's rare, and not always necessary – you may need a little practice to learn a more complex fold, but you'll get it down. Just make sure you teach all other caregivers how it's done.

9 STORAGE BASKET

Some storage baskets will carry a boatload of stuff, while others might as well not even be there. A big basket is nice, but you do carry

a giant diaper bag for a reason – your first priority is how your stroller carries your kid, not your stuff. Weigh other features more heavily than this when choosing a stroller.

10 WHEELS

Swiveling front wheels provide easy maneuvering in tight spaces. Larger wheels are more durable, and foam- or air-filled tires provide a nice, cushioned ride. For urban sidewalks in sunny weather, or for the mall or the grocery store, small wheels will suffice, but if you're planning on trekking through snow and mud, you're going to want at least a 10-inch tire.



**NEED
SOME ADVICE
CHOOSING A
STROLLER?**

**WE'D LOVE TO
HELP YOU.**

Call us at 866-600-BEAN, email guides@mbeans.com, or book a **FREE consultation** by clicking [here](#).



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BABY GEAR · TOYS · SURPRISES

At Magic Beans, our mission is to make life easier for parents (and more fun, too). We aren't just here to sell you things: we're here to find solutions and tools to make every day go just a little more smoothly for you. We get it, because we're parents too!

Our selection of strollers, baby gear, and toys for all ages are all selected for quality, convenience, and innovation, and they're all available in two convenient spots: in our six stores, and on our award-winning website, mbeans.com.

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