



CRIB SAFETY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Department of Business and Professional Regulation
Division of Hotels and Restaurants

1. What is a full-size baby crib?

A full-size baby crib is a bed designed to provide sleeping accommodations for an infant, that is intended for use in or around the home, and that is not covered under the rule for non-full-size cribs, 16 Code of Federal Regulation (C.F.R.), Part 1509. The interior of a full-size crib is 52 inches long by 28 inches wide.

2. What are the requirements for approved cribs?

Adjustable rails:

If a crib has a top rail that drops down to help place an infant in or take him or her out of the crib, to prevent the child from falling out

- (a) the top of the adjustable rail at its highest position must be at least 26 inches above the top of the mattress support at its lowest position, and
- (b) the top of the adjustable rail at its lowest position must be at least 9 inches above the top of the mattress support at its highest position.

Slats, spindles, and other parts:

To prevent children from strangling because their bodies can slip through openings but their heads cannot, parts such as slats, spindles, corner posts and rods cannot be more than 2 inches apart at any point, and cannot be greater than 2½ inches apart when a loading wedge test is performed.

Hardware:

Hardware accessible to a child must be designed and constructed so that it does not pinch, bruise, crush, cut, break, or amputate any part of a child's body during normal use, or with reasonably foreseeable damage or abuse to the crib. Locking devices for dropside rails must require two distinct actions or a minimum of 10 pounds of force for release. Wood screws may not be used to connect stationary sides, dropside rails, folding rails or stabilizing bars to crib ends or other parts that a consumer must remove during normal disassembly.

Construction and Finishing:

All wood surfaces must be smooth and free from splinters; all wood parts shall be free from splits, cracks, or other defects that might cause a crib or any of its parts to fall off or come apart. End panels and sides, including any attachments, cannot have any horizontal bar, ledge or projection with a depth greater than 1/16 inch, or any other surface that a child inside the crib might use as a toehold.

Assembly Instructions and Labeling:

Every crib must be sold with detailed assembly instructions as well as identifying marks, cautionary statements, and compliance declarations. Please refer to the regulation for the contents and placement of the required information, as well as for the requirements for keeping records of the sale and distribution of cribs.

Cutouts:

To prevent a risk of strangulation, the crib regulation contains a test to evaluate whether cutouts such as decorative openings sometimes found on the tops of the ends of a crib create a risk of head or neck entrapment.

3. What type of mattress should I use in a full-size crib?

To prevent head entrapment and suffocation between the mattress and crib sides, a mattress used in full-size cribs must be at least 27¼ inches by 51 inches with a thickness not exceeding 6 inches. The assembly instructions, the retail carton for the crib, and the crib itself must contain a specific warning statement which contains these dimensions. The mattress must fit snugly so that two adult fingers cannot fit between the mattress and the crib side.

4. What other requirements apply to full-size cribs?

Under the Ban of Lead-Containing Paint and Certain Consumer Products bearing Lead-Containing Paint, 16 C.F.R. Part 1303, no crib may be painted with paint that contains more than .06% lead.

5. Should corner posts and finials be a part of the crib?

Corner posts should be the same height as the end panels and NOT extend above the end panels. Cribs should have no protrusions of any kind on the inside or outside of the crib on which a child can get caught and be strangled.

6. What type of crib sheet/mattress cover should be used?

Sheets and mattress covers should fit securely in all corners and sides. Check carefully for shrinkage after each wash. A child will pull poorly fitted sheets/mattress covers loose and become entrapped.

7. What should I look for in crib hardware?

All screws, bolts, and hardware must be in place and tight to prevent a crib's collapse. The hardware and the crib should be smooth and free of sharp edges, points and rough surfaces.

8. What do I do about missing parts?

Before each assembly and weekly thereafter, inspect each crib for damage to hardware, loose joints, missing parts, or sharp edges. Do not use a crib if any parts are missing or broken. Do not substitute parts.

9. Should I use bumper pads?

Bumper pads should be attached securely to all sides of the crib with at least six straps. Bumper ties should be nine inches or less in length. Cut off excess strap lengths. Pads should fit snugly into all four crib corners. Install them with no gaps between the bumper pads and the crib sides. Never use pads to offset improper spacing between slats. Remove pads when a child is able to stand or kneel and move around the crib.

10. Can I use pillows?

Do not use pillows in the crib with the baby. Infants may suffocate from soft spots. Toddlers may use pillows to climb out of the crib.

11. When does my child outgrow the crib?

When a child first climbs out of the crib or is 32 – 35 inches tall, he or she has outgrown the crib and should sleep in a bed.

12. Are teething rails O.K.?

Remove or replace teething rails if they are damaged or loose.

13. Where should I place the crib when using it?

The crib should be located with safety in mind. Avoid placing it near any lamps, dangling cords or ribbons, windows, fans, heaters, or climbable furniture.

14. Where can I find additional information?

You can obtain the Requirements for Full-Sized Baby Cribs, 16 C.F.R. Part 1508, from the Commission's Web Site at: <http://www.cpsc.gov>.

For more information on these requirements, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Compliance, Washington, D.C. 20207, telephone: (301) 504-0608, e-mail: sect15@cpsc.gov

To obtain copies of ASTM F 1169 and F 966, contact the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), 100 Barr Harbor Dr., West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, telephone: (610)-832-9585, Fax (610)-832-9555, or visit <http://www.astm.org>.

To obtain additional copies of this packet of materials, contact the Florida Division of Hotels and Restaurants, (850) 488-1133 or visit www.hospitalityeducation.org.