



Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission

**SAFETY ALERT**

# Prams and strollers



# SAFETY HAZARD

## Prams and strollers

Prams and strollers are a convenient way of transporting babies and toddlers and are likely to be used every day by parents and carers of young children.

Injuries suffered by infants in prams and strollers have included wounds to their head or face, crushing injuries and amputations. Carers and children outside of the pram or stroller have also suffered crushing injuries and lacerations to hands. In some cases, fingers have been amputated.

In Australia, infants have died when the stroller they were in rolled away from their carer and into hazardous situations.

A mandatory safety standard for prams and strollers came into effect from 1 July 2008. The standard requires that prams and strollers sold in Australia have a number of safety features, including a warning label, tether strap and parking brake.

# Mandatory standard for prams and strollers

The mandatory standard includes critical safety features drawn from the Australian/New Zealand Standard for prams and strollers as well as some additional requirements.

The standard requires prams and strollers to have, amongst other things:

- a tether strap to help carers retain control of prams and strollers
- a restraint harness to prevent falls
- a parking brake, highlighted by a distinct red operating lever.

Safe-use warning labels and safety requirements to prevent entrapment are also mandatory.



## How could my child be injured?

**Falls**—falls can occur if the pram or stroller over-balances, or if parts of the pram or stroller break and the product collapses or if the child is not properly restrained.

**Entrapment causing suffocation**—children have died after being caught in the structure of the pram or stroller when left there to sleep.

**Crush or cut injuries**—carers and siblings of children in prams and strollers have suffered injuries to hands and fingers. This has mainly occurred when the pram or stroller is being collapsed or unfolded. Fingers may be amputated when placed in the folding mechanism.

**'Runaway' hazards**—prams and strollers are designed to move freely. If the product gets away from the user, infants may be seriously injured or may die in falls or collisions that result.

**Tip overs**—prams and strollers may become unstable when not used in the recommended way, when used with additional components that are not compatible with the product or when overloaded.

### CAUTION

-  Never balance bags on the handles of the pram or stroller—this could cause it to tip over.
-  Don't let the child stand up in the pram or stroller as this could also cause it to tip over.
-  Never leave a sleeping child unsupervised in a pram or stroller.

# SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ✔ Make sure your pram or stroller has the safety features required by the mandatory standard.
- ✔ Always use the tether strap provided with your pram or stroller when the parking brake is not engaged.
- ✔ Always park the pram or stroller parallel to hazards, such as water or railway tracks, so it can't roll into danger.
- ✔ As far as possible, keep the pram or stroller within arm's reach if a child is in it.
- ✔ Make sure the child is secured in the safety harness provided with the product at all times.
- ✔ Supervise other children outside the pram or stroller and keep children and fingers away from the hinge mechanisms when folding and unfolding the pram or stroller.
- ✔ Always follow the supplier's instructions for assembly and use.



# REMEMBER



**Prams and strollers are designed to move freely—wear the tether strap when walking and employ the parking brake when the pram or stroller is stationary.**



**Make sure your child is restrained in the safety harness at all times to prevent them falling from the pram or stroller.**

## Further information

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