



Best buggies for your baby

Which? testers spent 150 days finding the best pushchair to suit you and your baby

The average parent, or often grandparent, spends more than £600 on pushchairs and car seats, according to a survey by parenting advice website Gurgle.com.

With this kind of cash at stake, you'll want to make sure you don't end up buying a buggy with wayward wheels or a handle you hate holding.

This is why at Which? we've spent 150 days of the past year testing the latest pushchairs to find the pros and cons of each model and help you choose the right one first time. Every pushchair undergoes an exhaustive array of safety, durability, stability and construction tests which no other magazine (or review website) can match.

We ask a group of experts, trained to understand what makes a pushchair easy to use, for their views on each model, and a panel of parents and their babies try out the pushchairs in a range of situations. We assess how each pushchair copes with everyday activities such as strolling along pavements, negotiating steps, using public transport and being stored in a car boot. The ease of making adjustments and cleaning the fabric also get a thorough going over.

We've featured nine of the best pushchairs here, but there are full reviews of 118 at www.which.co.uk/pushchairs. We also have reviews from pushchair owners, and we'd like to hear what you think of your pushchair – see p51.

Choosing a pushchair

Which is the right type of pushchair for your child? We explore the pros and cons of each

BUGGIES/ STROLLERS

Pros Ideal for day-to-day use, lightweight and compact, easy to transport, easy to carry up and down stairs.

Cons Some aren't suitable for newborns as they don't recline far enough for the baby to lie flat. Many aren't ideal for bumpy ground.

TRAVEL SYSTEMS AND COMBINATION PUSHCHAIRS

Pros Ideal if you use your car a lot, versatile, allow newborns to lie flat, easy to transfer baby between car, pushchair and house without disturbing them.

Cons Tend to be quite large, require storage space for various parts, babies often outgrow the carrycot and child car seat in around 12 months.

OFF-ROAD/ALL-TERRAIN PUSHCHAIRS

Pros Provide a smooth, comfortable ride and cope with rough ground. Some can be used to jog with as you push your child.

Cons Heavy, bulky, hard to use on public transport.

PRAMETTES

Pros Let newborns lie flat and face you, no need to buy separate pram body, seat direction often reversible.

Cons Seats often bulky.

DOUBLE BUGGIES

Pros Twin strollers are ideal for two children of the same age who need to lie flat. Tandems are best for children of different ages.

Cons Large, heavy and hard to manoeuvre in tight spaces.

Buggies and strollers

Buggies are the cheapest of all the types of pushchair we feature, and are a good choice for grandparents to have as a standby. The simplest, lightest buggies are little more than a chair on wheels. Heavier models offer features such as a rain cover, reclining backrest and hood.

80% Chicco Multiway £100

PROS Thoughtfully designed for baby and toddler alike and great for using around town. It's suitable from birth, sturdy, nimble and comfy to push.
CONS It's bit long to fit in some cars and slightly more bulky than others when folded. The shopping basket is not accessible when the backrest's fully reclined.

*Cheapest high-street retailer Babies R Us
Also available at Argos, Mothercare and online.



Parent verdict:
'A nice all-rounder'

BEST BUYS AND BESTSELLERS

79% Chicco Lite Way/ Lite Way Top £80

Pros A sturdy basic buggy that's suitable from birth and comfy to push.
Cons The hood is a bit stiff, and the brake levers catch on stairs.

*We found it cheapest at Babies R Us
Also available online.

78% Maclaren 4 Seasons £300

Pros Good ride quality, nice handles, light, suitable from birth.
Cons Expensive. You need to crouch to operate the backrest recline and the ride is not as comfy on bumpy ground.

*We found it only online.

Other popular strollers (Best Buys in red) **Cosatto Swift Lite** £95 77%, **Silver Cross Pop** £115 76%, **I'Coo Plasma** £270 75%, **Graco Mojo** £80 74%, **Britax Nexus** £98 73%, **Petite Star Zia4** £140 73%, **Obaby Atlas** £60 73%.



Travel systems and combination pushchairs

These are more versatile and expensive than strollers and can be used with a car seat and/or pram body. Travel system pushchairs sometimes include the car seat in the price, but more often you'll need to buy it separately, particularly if the compatible car seat is made by a different manufacturer. Check whether a car seat is included in the price before you buy something advertised as a travel system.

76% Mothercare Xcursion £300

PROS Excellent ride quality and comfy to push. The reversible seat is easy to attach and remove, the large shopping basket can be accessed even with the seat fully reclined and it's suitable from birth.
CONS It's heavy, and won't fit into a medium-sized car boot. It's not practical for use on buses.

Exclusive to Mothercare.



Parent verdict:
'It's excellent
around obstacles'

BEST BUYS AND BESTSELLERS

78% Bugaboo Bee £370

Pros Funky, sturdy and practical, it feels light and comfy to push. It's also fairly compact.

Cons There's no leg rest, and the seat is most suitable for smaller children.

*We found it cheapest at John Lewis.
Also available at Mothercare.

77% Quinny Buzz 4 £300

Pros It's easy to use, highly manoeuvrable and comfy to push on a wide range of surfaces. It's suitable to use from birth.
Cons It's huge when folded, heavy and has a poor storage bag.

*We found it cheapest at Mothercare.
Also available at John Lewis and online.

Other popular travel systems (Best Buys in red) **Britax Vigour 4+** £225 77%, **Maclaren Techno XLR** £380 77%, **Maxi Cosi Loola Up** £239 76%, **Mamas & Papas Luna** £150 70%, **Bugaboo Cameleon** £600 68%.



Off-road buggies and all-terrain pushchairs

Usually three-wheelers, these have large, chunky, pneumatic tyres, making them ideal for crossing bumpy, rough terrain. They often have a swivel wheel at the front, which makes them easy to manoeuvre on smooth surfaces, but this wheel can also be locked to help it cope with rougher ground.

78% Mountain Buggy Swift £370

PROS This buggy went down a storm with our testers. It's a dream to push and manoeuvre, and handles rough terrain with ease. Quite light for this kind of pushchair.

It's suitable to use from birth.
CONS The fabric shows up food stains and its backrest recline is time-consuming to operate. It's bulky when folded.

*We found it only at Independents and online.



Parent verdict: 'Really nice and easy to push'

BEST BUYS AND BESTSELLERS

78% Britax Vigour 3+ £259

Pros Great for country or city, can use as a travel system, good storage, folds easily, suitable from birth.
Cons It's heavy and fairly bulky when folded.

*We found it cheapest at Mothercare. Also available Online.



77% Quinny Speedi SX £270

Pros Suitable for off-road use and comfy to push. It has adjustable handles, is easy to fold and unfold and can be used as travel system.
Cons Bulky, not much storage.

*We found it cheapest at Mothercare. Also available Online.



Other popular off-roaders (not Best Buys) Mountain Buggy Urban £414 74%, Phil&Teds Vibe £450 73%, Airbuggy Mimi £400 73%, Mamas & Papas O3 Sport Surefix £195 72%, Maxi Cosi Mura 3 £267 69%, Mothercare MY3 £350 62%.

Pramettes

Of all the models we've tested, none was a Best Buy, but one is worth considering

Pramettes are pushchairs with a seat that converts into a pram-style body for a newborn baby to lie in. The seats always recline to more than 150 degrees, making them excellent choices for newborns. The seat's

direction can usually be reversed and some pramettes can be used as a travel system with a compatible child car seat. The seats are often quite bulky because they are designed to do two different jobs.

72% Graco Cleo £250

PROS It's easy to attach the car seat to the frame, is compact when unfolded and highly padded. It has an adjustable leg rest.
CONS Brake pedals may catch on stairs, and it's problematic going down escalators. It's fairly bulky folded up and it's hard to control the recline mechanism.

*We found it only Online.



Parent verdict: 'Overall it's not too bad'

BESTSELLERS

70% Mamas & Papas Pliko Switch £380

Pros Cup holder, removable seat covers are easy to clean, versatile.
Cons Bulky, heavy, problematic for using on escalators, has an annoying unfolding sequence.

*We found it cheapest at Mamas & Papas.



69% Silver Cross 3D Pram System £325

Pros Good on kerbs and bumpy ground. Has a padded comfortable seat and good seat recline.
Cons Heavy to use on stairs and long when folded.

*We found it cheapest at Babies R Us. Also available at John Lewis, Mothercare and online.



Other popular pramettes Mamas & Papas Pliko Pramette £325 69%, Mamas & Papas Pliko Mod + £240 66%, Silver Cross Freeway Linear £300 59%.

Double buggies

Of all the models we've tested, none was a Best Buy, but here are some of the options available

Double buggies accommodate two children at the same time, and there are two main styles. Twin strollers have two seats side by side and are usually suitable from birth, while tandems have one seat in front of the other. We don't have any Best Buys in this category because of the size and weight of these pushchairs, and the difficulty with manoeuvring.

63% Mountain Buggy Urban Double £600

PROS This is a user-friendly double buggy that's easy to push on rough ground, reasonable to manoeuvre and suitable to use from birth.

CONS It's big and heavy, has an awkward recline mechanism and is not good in tight spaces.

*We found it only at Independents and online.



Parent verdict:
'Considering its size
it's easy to steer'

BESTSELLERS

56% Phil&Teds Classic with double kit £310

Pros Can be bought as a single pushchair for your first child and then used with an extra seat as a double. One of the easier doubles to drive because it's smaller than most, it's smooth to push on pavements and reasonable off-road. It's suitable to use from birth.

Cons The rear child has a restricted view, their feet dangle into the storage basket and there's no hood. You can't get to or use much of the storage basket. It's heavy with two children in and bulky when folded. It's our lowest-scoring double buggy.

*We found it only at Independents and online.

Other double pushchairs Safety 1st Duodeal Tandem £137 60%, Mothercare MPV £100 59%, Graco Stadium Duo £119 58%, Mothercare Phoenix £150 58%, Silver Cross POP duo £190 57%



For lots more advice and information on buying pushchairs, visit www.which.co.uk/pushchairs. You'll find a wealth of product reviews and buying advice on these and other baby products at www.which.co.uk.

More results

www.which.co.uk/pushchairs

- Detailed reviews of all 118 pushchairs tested.
- Performance ratings for general ease of use, comfort to push, manoeuvrability, performance on rough terrain, storage provision, reclining, folding, use on public transport and ease of car seat attachment.
- A comparison tool to help you narrow your choice of pushchairs based on their specification. Compare by features including what type of pushchair it is, how many wheels it has and whether it's compatible with a child car seat.
- Detailed specification information including the folded size, weight and options for adjusting the seat.

Latest information

www.which.co.uk/pushchairs

- Check out the 'testing pushchairs' page in our review to find out how we take popular new pushchairs for a 'first look' trial to get our first impressions before we send them to our testing lab.
- Find out which brand of pushchair will suit your lifestyle and needs by



reading our reviews of the top buggy brands at www.which.co.uk/topbuggybrands.

Find a bargain

www.which.co.uk/babyequipment

- Find out where to get the best deals on baby products including pushchairs, child car seats and stair gates.

www.which.co.uk/buysecondhand

- Tips on the best places to buy baby products second-hand, including safety issues to look out for.

User reviews

www.which.co.uk/pushchairs

- If you've bought a pushchair based on a Which? recommendation, you can share your views with other parents by logging in to www.which.co.uk/pushchairs and writing a review of the pushchair that you own.
- Read other parents' opinions of their pushchairs and see how they compare with your experiences.
- Want to contact the manufacturer to ask about pushchair accessories, spares or to pass on your views? Find contact details for each pushchair on the individual product specification page.

