



What is a travel system?

While many people assume that the travel system has to come in one big box, the fact is that a travel system consists of a car seat and stroller that will work together. Some will offer different options, but they will generally allow for an infant seat to lock into the stroller in some fashion. Some travel systems will work with different car seats as well, thus giving the parents more options when it comes to choosing the best seat for their child. Generally, travel systems will come in two styles, the-all-in-one big box, which will be taxed as a whole item, and the individual pieces, which will only have the stroller taxed.



Isn't it better to get a travel system that comes on one box rather than getting the items individually?

While many one box travel systems cost less than the items purchased separately, a travel system that comes in one box will leave the parent stuck with whatever stroller the manufacturer wants them to have rather than what might best suit your lifestyle and a car seat that might not be the best choice for the parent's car. Also, in order to keep costs down, many manufacturers will cut corners on the features of the stroller, the car seat, or both. Because of this, the parents can be stuck with a stroller that is either too big or too heavy for their needs, or a car seat that is either a poor fit for their car or lacks the features they want. Many of your better manufacturers will often only package their products separately and those manufacturers that do make travel systems will often package their better items individually rather than in an all in one box.

If I want my stroller and car seat to work together, don't I have to buy the same brand?

Just because a stroller and car seat are of different brands, it doesn't mean that they won't work together. Some strollers will actually work with many different car seats models, allowing the parent to choose the car seat that is the best choice for them rather than being stuck with whatever one manufacturer offers. Other stroller manufacturers will make adaptors that will work with specific seats. These adaptors will often mimic the car seat base, making for a very secure fit. So with some companies, you do have options when it comes to pairing a stroller with a car seat.



281 BERLIN TURNPIKE, BERLIN CT 06037
(860) 829 - 0009

Strollers Frequently Asked Questions

By Brian Morache,
Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician



Just how many strollers do I need?

At one time parents only had a few choices when it came to strollers, but in recent years many companies have begun making strollers that will not only do many different things, but will also fit virtually any particular lifestyle. The only activity that really requires a special stroller is jogging or running, and there are even some strollers that can be used for both everyday use and this special activity. So in short, parents really only will need one or maybe two strollers in the life of their child.

So what should I be thinking about when I'm looking at strollers?

The main thing to consider is your lifestyle. Are you very active? Do you go to the park or the beach often or do more walking outside? If so, then you will have very different needs than someone who does a little walking in their neighborhood and goes to the mall every now and then. The closer you match a stroller to your lifestyle, the fewer strollers you will need to own. This is the best way to avoid the "stroller parking lot" that so many parents end up with.

Why can't I just pick my stroller out of a book? Or just get the one my friend said I should have?

While a book can tell you about strollers, they do not know what your lifestyle is or what kind of car you have. If the stroller doesn't match your lifestyle or fit in your trunk well, then it's not going to be the best stroller for you or your child no matter what a book may say. Similarly, your friends may have different needs and lifestyles than you, so what is an absolute necessity for them may be a useless feature for you.

What about frame carriers like the snap and go?

A frame carrier is designed to fit the infant seat only. Most of these types of strollers are compatible with many different kinds of infant seats, however since they are not designed for any one infant seat, they generally will not do a good job of securing any one seat very well. While a frame carrier is lighter than most of the strollers that come with a travel system, they are also best suited for malls or very good pavement. The other downside is that they have absolutely no use after the baby has outgrown the infant seat, thus leaving the parents back at square one looking for a stroller.



What is the difference between premium strollers and cheaper models?



Premium strollers, such as the I'Coo Targo or the Uppa Baby Vista, differ not only in overall quality compared to less expensive models, but also will do many more things than your average stroller. It can be a frame carrier, an all-terrain stroller, a pram or carriage, and an everyday stroller. The bassinet that comes with the stroller, which often will have a higher weight limit than the average home bassinet, can also be used around the house or when travelling, thus enabling the stroller to replace several things used around the house as well as all four types of stroller. If you have an active lifestyle or are the kind of person who would spend more than an hour or two at one place, such as a shopping center, then this kind of stroller, despite the premium price, might be a great match. And while the price tag may seem steep initially, if you are going to utilize the features of the stroller, then it will actually be cheaper than purchasing all the items individually. Besides, who wants three or four strollers in their garage?

What's the difference between a side-by-side double stroller and a tandem?



As the name suggests, a side-by-side stroller allows two kids to be next to each other, while a tandem places the children one behind the other. While the side-by-side is shorter than the tandem, it is also much wider, usually just fitting through a door and more often than not hitting things in a store aisle. While this arrangement is fine outdoors, it has its problems when out shopping. Also, there are very few side-by-side strollers that will accept either an infant or an infant seat.

A tandem stroller will be longer than the side-by-side, but it will be no wider than a conventional stroller. Because of this, the only issue when in a store is the length of the stroller rather than the width. Also, these kinds of strollers will often handle one and sometimes two infant seats. Those that handle two infant seats make them ideal for parents having twins. They do tend to be heavier than a side-by-side, but remember that just about any double stroller will be heavy. It is not unusual to see any double stroller to be at least 30lbs.



Are there any other options for two kids besides the tandem or side-by-side?



While there are not many options for two kids, Phil and Ted's does offer an unusual concept in stroller design. It is an all-terrain stroller that begins as a single, and then can be converted to a double with the addition of a second seat. This is a great option for parents who are anticipating having more than one child as they can purchase the double's kit when they are ready to have child number two. Until then, it is a high quality stroller that only weighs 23lbs. The best part is that as the second seat doesn't add any more weight to the stroller, making it one of the lightest doubles on the market. While the initial cost of the stroller is higher, parents should consider that the stroller will save them from having to purchase the usually heavier double stroller later.

What about Joggers? Can I only use them for jogging or outdoors?



While many joggers have a fixed wheel for running or jogging, there are some that have a swivel wheel, making them an excellent choice for walking. Further, there are some joggers that are more compact and very capable of being used as an everyday stroller. It is important to see how a jogger folds and what its frame is made of. Aluminum is preferable to steel to avoid rust and shock absorbers are also helpful in dealing with difficult terrain. While some strollers will accept an infant seat with an adaptor, jogging or running is not recommended for children under 8 months old.

What kind of accessories do I need with my stroller?

There are all kinds of different accessories for strollers and while the car seat should be left as it is, the stroller is really the place to customize. Different manufacturers will make accessories such as travel bags, additional storage, handlebar consoles, trays, and bassinets. Other things, such as the Bundle Me, are best used in the stroller. Many diaper bags are designed to hang from the stroller handles, but before doing this, parents should check the stroller's manual to see if this is recommended or not.

Conclusion

While there are many options to choose from when it comes to strollers, the closer parents match their stroller to their lifestyle, the happier they usually are with their purchase. No matter how attractive or trendy a stroller may be, if it doesn't do what the parents want it to do, then they will find themselves looking for another stroller later. The key to having only one stroller is to match it to your lifestyle.