



# Pack-n-Play Safety Guidelines

Prepared by the Health Consultant Team at Child Care Aware® of North Dakota

## How to prepare and setup a pack-n-play.

- Make sure the pack-n-play is not recalled – check [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) for updates.
- Pack-n-plays made after February 28, 2013 are required to meet new federal standards.
- Frame should be structurally sturdy.
- Frame should lock in place on all four sides.
- Mesh weave should be less than ¼” and free from tears/holes.
- Only use the pad made by the manufacturer of the pack-n-play. No other pad is allowed.
- Corners of the pad should meet in all four corners of the frame.
- Pad should be flat and maintain its shape. It should not buckle/fold.
- Use Velcro straps/squares provided by the manufacturer of the pack-n-play to secure pad in place.
- Use properly fitting fitted sheets. Flat sheets, sheets that are too big (ex. crib sheets), or sheets that are too small are not allowed.
- Keep area under pad clean and check bottom for rips/tears.
- Check pad frequently to make sure wood panels in the pad aren't broken or haven't shifted.
- Pad must maintain shape (lay flat and meet all four corners of the frame) when fitted sheet is used. If pad cannot maintain shape, use it without a sheet.
- No pins should be used to secure sheets.
- Nothing can be attached to the pack-n-play or hung from the sides (e.g. mobile, toys, blanket etc.).
- Make sure that nothing is in reach within 3 feet of a child when he/she is in the pack-n-play. Examples: monitor cords, blinds, bi-fold closet doors (pinching hazard), etc.

- Pack-n-play should not be used if a child is able to climb out.
- Follow manufacturer's weight and height guidelines for use.
- Bassinet inserts are not allowed.
- Changing pads provided by the manufacturer that attach to the pack-n-play cannot be used.

## How to clean a pack-n-play when a pad is used without a sheet (because the sheet doesn't fit properly).

- Pad should be cleaned weekly, sooner if soiled, or before it is used by different children.
- Use soap and water instead of chemicals. This is important since the pad is going to have direct contact with child's skin and could be mouthed by the child.
- If the pad is soiled with urine, poop, vomit, etc., it is recommended to use a sanitizer.
- Sanitizer should be EPA registered.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding proper use of the sanitizer.
- Don't saturate the pad with sanitizer.
- If possible, sanitize at night or over the weekend so the pad can dry thoroughly. Make sure the pad is dry before using.

## How to determine if a pack-n-play is safe to use.

- If the frame is unstable/loose or mesh is torn, the entire pack-n-play needs to be replaced.
- If there is a problem with the pad, contact the manufacturer for a replacement pad. If a replacement pad is not available from the manufacturer of the pack-n-play, the entire pack-n-play needs to be replaced. Replacement pads made by other companies are not approved for use.

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