



What Features Make a Crib Illegal to Sell in the U.S.?

Not all cribs are created equal — and some can even be *illegal* to sell or give away under current U.S. federal law. If you're buying or selling a used crib, or even considering reusing one from a friend or family member, it's critical to know what makes a crib non-compliant.

According to the **U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)**, cribs that include **any of the following features are illegal to sell, donate, or re-use** (unless modified and certified safe by a manufacturer):

✗ 1. Drop-Side Rails

Why it's illegal: Drop-side rails have been linked to over 30 infant deaths due to suffocation and entrapment.

Banned since: June 28, 2011

Even retrofitted drop-sides are not permitted unless re-certified.

✗ 2. Missing or Incorrect Safety Labels

Why it's illegal: Labels help users identify safe use instructions, warning statements, and manufacturer information.

Red flags: No label indicating model number, manufacturer, or date of manufacture.

✗ 3. Manufactured Before June 28, 2011

Cribs made **before this date likely don't meet the stricter federal standards** outlined in **CFR 1219** (full-size) or **CFR 1220** (non-full-size).

Even if the crib looks "sturdy," it may have:

- Hazardous gaps
- Poor mattress support systems
- Weak slats

✗ 4. Loose or Missing Hardware

Why it's illegal: Cribs must not have loose screws, missing bolts, or any part that can detach during regular use.

Hardware must hold under a 25-lb pull force test (per CPSC standards).

✗ 5. Slats More Than 2 3/8 Inches Apart

This creates a risk of head entrapment.

Quick Tip: If a soda can fits between the slats, it's too wide!

✗ 6. Corner Posts Over 1/16 Inch High

Tall posts can catch on a baby's clothing or pacifier cords and pose a strangulation risk.

✗ 7. Improper Mattress Fit

- There should be **no more than two fingers' width between the mattress and crib sides**.
- Gaps can trap a baby and lead to suffocation.

✗ 8. Peeling Paint or Splintering Wood

- Especially dangerous if the paint contains **lead** (common in pre-1978 cribs).
- Can cause lead poisoning or injury.

⚠ Bottom Line:

If a crib doesn't meet the 2011 CPSC federal standards, it's not just unsafe — it's *illegal* to sell or donate, even at a garage sale. Sellers can face **fines of up to \$100,000 per violation**.

🧠 **Did You Know?** The CPSC makes it clear: *"All cribs sold in the U.S. — new or second-hand — must comply with the latest federal crib safety standards."*

✅ Use This Instead:

- ✓ Cribs manufactured **after June 28, 2011**
- ✓ Certified as compliant with **CFR 1219 or CFR 1220**
- ✓ Labeled with model number, date, and safety warnings
- ✓ Sold with proper assembly instructions and hardware