

Affording twins, triplets and more

Finding out you're expecting twins, triplets or more can be a rollercoaster of emotions. As the cost of living rises, you'll inevitably think about affording all the equipment.

What's essential, can we buy it second hand or share out the costs?

Essential for when your babies arrive.

We recommend you buy these new...



Car seats. You can't bring babies home from hospital without a car seat each. It's recommended that you buy these new so you can guarantee their safety.

A safe space for your babies to sleep.

Whether you choose Moses baskets (must have one for each baby) or cots (babies can share a cot until they start to roll or move around) we advise that you buy a brand new mattress, even if you get the rest second hand. You'll need somewhere for babies to sleep downstairs during the day – so you'll either need a second set of Moses baskets or a second cot (which you'll need soon enough anyway).



Bottles and Steriliser.

However you plan to feed, we'd advise that you have some bottles and a way to sterilise things to hand – a large plastic tub, cold water and Milton tablets are fine for sterilisation. You can pick up electric/steam sterilisers second hand, but it's hard to assure quality.

Nappies.

There's no getting round the expense. Ask people to buy them for you in preparation instead of fancy outfits. Be aware of the sizes when bulk buying – babies grow quickly! Some local councils offer a Real Nappy Incentive Voucher Scheme to encourage the use of reusable nappies



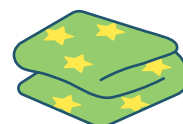
www.fill-your-pants.com/councilnappyincentives.html



Wipes.

Many parents use water and cotton wool when babies are newborn (cheaper than wipes). If you start using wipes, look out for supermarket offers and bulk buy. Perhaps put a packet in your weekly shop before the babies arrive to spread out the cost.

Usually found in good condition on the second hand market or borrowed.



Clothes, blankets, cot sheets, muslin cloths and bibs.

Using baby grows is quickest and easiest in the early days. Don't have too many of each age group (they grow quickly!) but be aware of nappy explosions and the need for a few changes per day. Each baby will need two blankets and enough cot sheets to have one on and another in the wash. Muslins are useful to protect everything from sick.

Clothes bundles are regularly advertised second-hand and there are baby banks for clothes and equipment.

www.stripeystork.org.uk/babybanks
www.littlevillagehq.org/uk-baby-banks
www.baby-basics.org.uk



Pram.

Having a pram ready for when babies are born means you can get out when you're ready.

Breast pump.

These can often be borrowed from hospitals or friends. Some breast pump brands do rental, which works out cheaper.



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Affording twins, triplets and more continued...

Necessary for once your babies are at home. Can be bought second hand or borrowed.



Slings.

Useful but not essential. Look for a sling library near you to try some out or borrow for the short period you need it.

www.babywearing.co.uk/sling-libraries



Play mat.

One is enough - worth getting a larger one. Not needed until the babies are a bit bigger.



Bouncy chairs.

Not essential for when you first come home, however they're very useful when trying to tandem bottle feed and also for caring with more than one child. Can easily be resold.



Baby Sleeping bags.

Very useful as babies start to move about in bed. Make sure you know what tog (thickness) they are, so you dress babies appropriately depending on the room temperature.



Feeding Pillow.

Useful but not essential. Wait until you try using cushions/pillows before investing.

Luxury/Time-Saving items.



Formula bottle making machine.

A time saver but please do your research. They need to be well cleaned so buy brand new to ensure its cleanliness from the start.



Baby bath and seats.

Not essential and can be bought second hand. If you feel confident bathing newborns, you can do in a normal bath instead. We wouldn't advise bathing your babies at the same time, so one is certainly enough.



Changing mats.

Having two (one upstairs and one downstairs) is useful but not essential. It's possible to change babies on a towel or mat.



Baby monitor.

Only necessary as the babies move into their own rooms. Lots available second hand.



Nappy bag.

Makes sure it's large enough. Any back-pack can be used to save money.



Connect with the community to discuss hints and tips:

www.twinstrust.org/let-us-help/online-community.html

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