

Before Baby Arrives Checklist

<i>Pre-Baby Bucket List Item</i>	<i>Checkbox & Time Period</i>
1) Decide on How You Will Announce the Birth of Your Child If you intend on taking a photo of your newborn with a plaque or in a special outfit, you will need to organise these items in the weeks leading up to your due date.	3rd Trimester <input type="checkbox"/>
2) Set up Your Child's Crib or Bassinet and Ensure you have a Waterproof Mattress Protector Many moms swear by lining the crib so that there is a waterproof protector, sheet, waterproof protector and then finally the top sheet. This way if your newborn wets through their nappy or has reflux, you can complete an easy change of the sheets during the night.	2nd/3rd Trimester <input type="checkbox"/>
3) Have a List of Potential Baby Names that You and Your Partner have Agreed On One of the trickiest things is deciding on a name for your bundle of joy. Having a list of 'potential' names will allow you to decide on one that fits your baby perfectly when you lay eyes on him or her.	1st/2nd/3rd Trimester <input type="checkbox"/>
4) Wash Your Babies Clothes Whether you have purchased your little ones clothes new or second hand, it is a good idea to clean them in a gentle wash before your baby arrives.	3rd Trimester <input type="checkbox"/>
5) Have You and Your Baby's Hospital Bags Packed It is advised that you have both your babies and your own hospital bags packed by around 28 weeks. This ensures that you have your comfort items and essential baby items ready in the event you go into labour earlier than expected. See our hospital bag checklist here .	Late 2nd/3rd Trimester <input type="checkbox"/>
6) Install Infant Car Seat and Have the Pram in the Boot of Car Nearing Your Due Date During the first few weeks of your third trimester it is a good idea to have your newborns car seat correctly fitted. This allows you to set up car mirrors and have everything ready for the day you get to bring your baby home.	Late 2nd/3rd Trimester <input type="checkbox"/>
7) Prepare Some Freezer Friendly Meals Having some frozen meals will be a blessing for those sleepless first few weeks of motherhood. This also gives hubby something to eat, especially if he isn't the best in the kitchen.	3rd Trimester <input type="checkbox"/>
8) Purchase a Baby Book and Fill Out Pregnancy-Related Sections Many mothers like to fill out a baby book as their child grows and reaches new milestones. Purchase a baby book by your third trimester and have a look at the pregnancy section to see if there is any information you can fill out prior to the birth of your child.	Late 2nd/3rd Trimester <input type="checkbox"/>
9) Charge Your Camera Battery and have an SD Card Ready Have your camera charged and packed in your hospital bag in the weeks leading up to your due date.	3rd Trimester <input type="checkbox"/>
10) Book a Newborn Photography Session If you intend on having professional photos taken of your baby boy or girl in the first few weeks of his or her life, it is a good idea to start making some inquiries during your second trimester, and having a definite booking in place by your third trimester to avoid disappointment.	2nd/3rd Trimester <input type="checkbox"/>
11) Get a Deep Clean of the House	3rd Trimester

Some expectant mothers like to have a professional clean of the house completed while they are pregnant. If you have carpet, and it is looking a little on the sad side, or you have inside animals it is a good idea to book a carpet clean.	<input type="checkbox"/>
12) Attend Birthing Classes if this is Your First Pregnancy	2nd/3rd Trimester
Many public hospitals will offer birthing classes where you can learn about what happens during labor and what pain relief will be available.	<input type="checkbox"/>
13) Apply for Parental Leave	Start of 3rd Trimester
If the country you live within, allows mothers to be paid for taking some time off work, ensure you apply within the appropriate period. Many times you can apply three months prior to the birth of your child.	<input type="checkbox"/>
14) Spring Clean	2nd/3rd Trimester
Have a spring clean to make room for the baby if you haven't had one in a while.	<input type="checkbox"/>
15) Have a 'Thank-You' Present Ready for Your Midwives	3rd Trimester
It is a nice gesture to have a box of chocolates, some body products or some home made cookies packed in your hospital bag to give to the midwives who help you deliver your baby.	<input type="checkbox"/>
16) Prepare to Breastfeed	
If you intend on breastfeeding your newborn baby , you will more than likely need a breast pump and some freezer milk pouches. The freezer pouches basically allow you to express and store your milk in the circumstance you need to leave your baby for reasons such as work. Many mothers like to include a nursery chair in their baby's room as well as have a nursing pillow to make breastfeeding that little bit easier.	2nd/3rd Trimester
	<input type="checkbox"/>
17) Stock the Medicine Cabinet	3rd Trimester
Ensure you have the essential items such as newborn Panadol and a thermometer in your home medical cabinet.	<input type="checkbox"/>
18) Stock Up on Diapers	2nd/3rd Trimester
Have at least 2 packets of newborn diapers and 1 packet of infant diapers neatly stored in your babies nursery. If you look out for a sale, you may find yourself saving quite a bit in the long run.	<input type="checkbox"/>
19) Go on a Baby Moon	2nd Trimester
If your budget allows for it, a baby moon can be a nice holiday for you and your baby daddy before your little one arrives. A baby moon does not need to cost a fortune and could even be staying somewhere locally.	<input type="checkbox"/>
20) Book in for a Mani and Pedi	Late 3rd Trimester
Treat yourself to a manicure and pedicure in the last few weeks of your pregnancy. If there are any close up photos taken of you and your baby, you don't want your nails looking shabby.	<input type="checkbox"/>
21) Get Your Hair Done	
If you maintain your hair color, ensure you book in to have it done before your expected due date. While a scalp bleach is not recommend, a half or full head of foils may just lighten up your hair color and have you feeling fantastic.	3rd Trimester
	<input type="checkbox"/>
22) Complete Changing Station	2nd/3rd Trimester
Have your babies change table organised and stocked with the essential items such as diapers, wipes, diaper bags, creams and powders. You may wish to cover the changing pad with a waterproof cover and a fancy cover over the top. You will also want to purchase a diaper bin to sit alongside	<input type="checkbox"/>

your change table.

23) Install Your Baby Monitor / Breathing Monitor

If you have purchased a baby monitor and/or breathing monitor, ensure you set these up in your third trimester ready for your babies first night at home. While a breathing monitor is not mandatory, if you are like me, the cost of the item is definitely worth it for the peace of mind it provides.

3rd Trimester

24) Install Light Blocking Curtains

If your babies nursery does not have light blocking curtains, now might be the time to purchase and hang some. This should help create a dark, relaxing environment for your newborn.

3rd Trimester

25) Organise Baby/Pet Sitters

If you have other children, you may need to organise a baby sitter that can be on call for when you go into labor. Same goes for any pets you may have in the case you need to stay in hospital a few days.

2nd/3rd
Trimester

26) Sterilise Baby Bottles and Pacifiers

If you intend on bottle-feeding your baby, or taking a pacifier to the hospital, ensure you sterilise these items prior to your due date.

3rd Trimester

27) Go on a Few Dates with Your Hubby

Having a baby is a big adjustment to your family life and once little miss or mr is here, you and your husband or partner will have less time to indulge in date nights. Go on a few dates with your husband before life as you know it changes.

1st/2nd/3rd
Trimester

28) Organise a Present from Baby

If you have older children, especially those who are toddler's themselves, organising a present 'from baby' can help them feel included and the fact they now have to share their mommy can be less daunting.

3rd Trimester

29) Take Some 'Bumpies'

Much like selfies, but of your bump are photos you may wish to take and cherish after your pregnancy is over. You will never regret the photos you take; only the ones you did not. Some expectant moms even like to organise a maternity photography session.

2nd/3rd
Trimester

30) Have Some Ice Packs in the Freezer

While you may be one of the lucky ones, if you aren't so lucky and you do need to get stitches after your babies birth, nothing soothes a sore down there like an icepack. Pump bottles are also great for cleaning the tender area. Flushable wipes may also be softer than toilet paper, so have some on hand if you can.

3rd Trimester

31) Clean the Car or Have it Cleaned

Clean out the car and ensure you have enough room for your babies pram, and both your hospital bags. If you don't feel up to cleaning your car yourself, ask a family member to help or take it to the local car wash.

3rd Trimester

32) Talk to a Lactation Specialist

If you plan on breastfeeding your baby, many hospitals can recommend you to a breastfeeding specialist also known as a lactation specialist. You may see the lactation specialist in your third trimester or once your baby has arrived.

3rd Trimester

33) Have a Baby Shower

Whether you organize your [baby shower](#) yourself, or you have a willing family member who can't wait to help out to plan a special day for you, this is a nice way to celebrate the impending arrival of your baby boy or

3rd Trimester

girl.

34) Better Organize the Nursery

You may like to buy a number of storage containers to organize your nursery space. Organization can help declutter the nursery space but also allows hubby or a caretaker to easily find all of baby's belongings.

2nd/3rd
Trimester

35) Put Your Feet Up

You are now nearing the end of your pregnancy and all other checklist items have been taken care of. Put your feet up and enjoy some quiet moments before your bundle of joy enters the world.

3rd Trimester