

News You Can Use:

Choosing the Right Gate

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301-668-0837 / 240-329-2121

146 S. Main St., Boonsboro, MD 21713

www.EnkoreKids.com

Type of Gates:

There are three basic types of gates: Pressure (or tension-mounted), Installed (hard-ware mounted), and Free-standing (more like big playpens). Which type you need is an important decision that needs some research.

We often have baby gates in stock (there are 5 in the store as I write this) and new parents can be overwhelmed with the choices. Some things to keep in mind when choosing a gate are:

1. Where will it be used (doorways, bottom of stairs, top of stairs, etc)?
2. Who is it intended to block (baby, toddler, dog)?
3. How often does it need to be opened?

Knowing the answers to those three questions will make the selection of the right type of gate much easier.

Where:

Intended placement is critical to know before you start shopping. Pressure gates can't be used at the top of stairs under any conditions and normally aren't approved for bottom of stairs either. Most standard gates expand from 25"-42" so if you have an extra-wide space, be prepared to spend a quite a bit more.

Who:

Knowing who you are blocking is also important. If large dogs are in the household keep them in mind even if your child is just crawling. Jumping-prone dogs may give it a try and not only is that a bad example for your child, but a jumping dog will likely dislodge a pressure gate. Be sure the gate has narrow slats (like the Kidco & Evenflo gates) less than 2 3/8" apart or a mesh like the SuperYard that children can't get a foot hold on. The gate should be at least 3/4th the height of your child.

How:

For closing off an unused area of the house a simple pressure gate may be fine, but for high-traffic areas, you'll be happier investing in a one-hand or foot operated swing gate.

Matching the Where, Who, & How to Your New Gate...(over)

Kidco G15 Swing Gate- Great for hallways!



Evenflo Secure Solutions Mounted Swing Gate



SuperYard Playyard- Great indoors or out!



Let us look for
your perfect gate!

Tell us your wish list and
we'll call you when it's here!

Enkore Kids specializes in "previously-loved" children's clothing, developmental toys, and kid-related equipment for newborns to age 8. We also carry high-quality new items from vendors such as Robeez, Ergo, Melissa & Doug, Baby Einstein, and Clean Shopper. We are not your typical consignment store. We buy most items out-right on the spot at the time of your appointment: No waiting months for items to sell to get a check for an unknown amount or worrying about picking up unsold items.

Our "News You Can Use" Series begins with this issue on Gates. Be sure to check our website for additional guides coming soon. Resources used include CPSC.gov, gate manuals, and others. This information is a starting point and should not be considered all-inclusive. If you'd like to offer suggestions for future issues, please call the store at 301-668-0837.



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Pressure Gates:

These are a great and often economical way to block doorways standard hall ways and standard sized gates (26-29" tall) are still low enough that mom and dad can step over it as needed. Not recommended for climbing-prone toddlers or if you have dogs that'll likely jump it. Most importantly never use a pressure gate around stairs (top or bottom). If not installed tightly enough or if your child has enough weight behind him/her, pressure gates can become dislodged.

The benefit of pressure gates is that they can be easily removed and put away when not needed and don't leave holes that need to be repaired. Be careful of the wood pressure gates with the bar, though, as if they are not installed properly, they can damage the doorway with repeated opening and closing (learned from personal experience!).

Pressure gates that are extra tall (up to 41") are needed if you have a toddler prone to climbing or dogs that may jump a shorter gate. The disadvantage is that adults will often not be able to step over it, either, so it'll have to be opened and closed more often, so consider a swing-pressure mounted gate if its for a high-traffic area. Again, do not use any pressure gate around stairs.

Be sure to install the gate with the bar or latching mechanism away from the child. Even if they can't disengage it, they may be able to use that area as a foot hold for climbing.

North Stair Pressure Gate Also Includes Mounting Hardware for safe use around stairs.



Kidco G20 Mounted Swing Gate: Good for Stairs!



Hard-Ware Mounted Gates:

Though these will leave marks on the walls, they are more easily repaired than children and are the only recommended option for use around stairs. Most, though not all, will have a swinging or retracting function, making them also well suited for high-trafficked areas. However, be sure to read the manual as not all swinging gates can be used at the top of stairs.

Be sure to avoid diamond-shaped accordion style gates. They have been discontinued do to safety reason as a child's head may be able to be caught in the openings. The large openings also provide footholds for climbing.

Free-Standing Play Yards:

Kidco and SuperYard both make popular play yards ideal for keeping your child safely confined. The Superyard is ideal also for use indoors or out and is easily transported. The G80 Configure Gate by Kidco is a bit to heavy for casual moving around and is better used as a permanent solution. The G80 is also able to be used for extremely wide openings (even up to 8 feet) and can be mounted. It includes a built in swinging door.

The Play Yards can also be used to keep such things as Christmas trees out of reach as well!

Kidco G80 Configure Gate- For large openings!



Important Points for Buying Second Hand:

Manuals are often not included, but may be available on-line for free from the manufacturer's website. Its a great idea to down-load it and read it. Be sure to know the shop's return policy in case it's under recall or doesn't fit the space you need. At Enkore Kids, we check for recalls on most items and offer a 7-Day Return Privilege to make sure you'll be satisfied. Our gates come and go very quickly. If you're looking for a particular style, be sure to put it on your wish list. We'll call you when it comes in. Just remember all wish list items are first come, first served, though we're happy to hold items for reasonable travel time. This article is one in a series to be published with each newsletter, be sure to check the newsletter and our website often for new articles.

-Jennifer Guenther, Enkore Kids, CEO/Mommy

If you'd like to give us some news all parents can use, call the store, at 301-668-0837 or enkorekids@enkorekids.com. If we use your story, you can earn up \$25 in store credit!