

A baby bath

Don't be fooled into buying the latest ergonomically designed baby bather in a shade scientifically proven to have a calming effect on a newborn baby. All you really need is a large plastic bowl, as long as it's spacious enough to fit a baby and a small volume of water in comfortably. Just make sure it's clean and holds water, anything more is just frills.

Bibs

Some. Maybe, erm, three. Or four. Certainly a few, definitely some.

Dummies/pacifiers

But this is entirely optional and depends on your approach to parenting. You may not want your baby sucking a dummy, if you're of the opinion that they can be every bit as addictive as chocolate crack and fear that you'll never get that sucker out. If you're avoiding dummies/pacifiers entirely, skip these words. If you're not, you'll need two at the very least, because they will get spat out onto the scummy floor and lost.

Bottles

For bottle feeding, if your wife/girlfriend is bottle feeding and not delivering it *au naturel*. Six bottles is about right. You'll also need a sterilizing kit, bottle brush for cleaning into the corners, and obviously the right sort of baby milk powder for your baby.



THE SOS BOX

Every house with a newborn baby needs a first aid box, packed full of essential emergency items should accidents occur, and they will. You'd be advised to buy a sturdy box with a stout fastening mechanism, and make it big enough to hold the following:

Plasters, lots of small ones, for a smaller-shaped person.

Bandages and adhesive tape, should the accident be more serious.

Antiseptic wipes and cream, to clean cuts and grazes and help prevent infection.

A digital thermometer, a quick and easy way to measure body temperature.

Paracetamol (one suitable for babies), a quick-fix for soaring temperatures.

Spoon, dropper or syringe, for the swift and clean administering of medicinal drops.

Dioralyte (one suitable for babies), for rehydrating a dehydrated baby.

Nappy rash cream, will always come in handy.

Calamine lotion, for itchy rashes.

