



Buying a cubby house is a huge decision. We would love to give you some useful advice.



Top Tips for Purchasing a Cubby House



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Buying a cubby house sounds like an easy thing, but it's actually a huge decision. There are so many different types available, so it can make it really hard to work out which is the best one for you. We want this to be a fun experience, so to try and make the decision a little easier for you, here is our top advice to try and help. We have also provided feedback on our cubbies, so you have all the information you need from us to help get you started!

- Firstly, measure the area carefully so you know what size you have to play with. This will be an easy way to start eliminating cubbies by what will/won't fit in your space. Pay particular attention to overhanging roofs or trees so you know your height restrictions.
- When selecting the position for your cubby, think about where the sun will be. It would be ideal to not have full sun coming in to the cubby. One of the great things with our cubbies, is you are able to swap the sides over, or have solid walls instead of balustrading to help with the sun.

If you are unsure of what will fit in the area, you can provide photos and basic measurements to us and we can help design the best cubby for your space.

- Also, we find the best position for a cubby for younger children is somewhere close to your house where you have an easy view of your children, so you feel comfortable knowing you are close by if needed. Kids also love their family watching them play, so will love your involvement.

Because our cubbies are open, it really helps your peace of mind knowing you can see your children playing at all times. I love that I can still be doing my jobs but interacting with the kids at the same time.

- Before you start your search, it's a great idea to discuss what you are wanting from a cubby house:
 - Is it an enclosed "house"
 - Or open plan so you can see your kids playing?
 - Are you happy to paint? Or did you want one you didn't have to paint?
 - Is your ground unlevel, so you have to ensure the legs can be extended to allow for this?

- Are you looking for a ground level cubby, or elevated?
- Do you want it more for physical play, so the addition of slides/fireman's etc would be great?

The great thing with elevated cubbies is they allow you to add lots of adventure items like a slide, cargo net, fireman's pole and rockwalls. These can be added over time, as your kids get older – brilliant Christmas/birthday presents. Make sure that the cubby you choose can add these accessories down the track without too many issues.

- Safety is the number one priority with children, so how safe does this cubby look to you? Does the cubby supplier comply with the Australian Standards on Playgrounds?

My Cubby are members of Play Australia and believe we comply with all relevant Australian Standards that apply to our cubbies.

- What timber is used to make the cubby? Ensure it is not CCA timber which contains arsenic. Also ensure that the timber is treated for white ants, most companies should use child safe treated timber for this.

We use gorgeous Baltic pine, which has a lovely finish to it and it comes with an LOSP white ant treatment.

- It's also really important to think about what you would like your children to do in their cubby – is it going to be for house play? So including things like a kitchen, table and chairs etc – this means you would need more room in a cubby. If you are thinking it's more of an activity/adventure space, so having things like slides, steering wheels is more important – then internal space isn't as important. It's a great idea to measure out the space to help you visualise what would actually fit in the space.

We used our cubby to move a lot of toys out of the house, to give us more space back, so we needed a large internal play area (we have a Mega Triplex)

- What screws/nails are used to put the cubby together? Therefore, how easy is it to relocate if you move?

We use galvanised screws and nails to prevent rusting and ensure longevity.

- What is the roofing made of? Does it suit Australian conditions?

My Cubby believes the best roofing product by far is fantastic polycarbonate roofing, which is 99% UV protective, it is brilliant for keeping your kids safe from the sun, but ensure they are in a light and bright area still.

- Check with your council to see if there are any restrictions regarding cubby houses. Some councils (generally inner city) can have height restrictions.

Our cubbies are non-permanent structures, so are able to be moved – councils seem to like this! Also, if your council does have a height regulation, because our cubbies are individually made, we can adjust the height to your requirements.

- Budget is always a big deciding factor when making a big purchase like a cubby house. You need to be aware that buying a mass produced cheaper cubby using materials made away from Australia will very probably not stand the test of time, timbers may rot as they are not suitable to our conditions, and they may not survive the children's "active" play and the weather conditions.

We have a number of customers that went down that route first, and then came to us very annoyed that they wasted their money. Spending that bit more does mean a much better quality product that will last.

- Always check to see what material warranties the cubby suppliers have on their products. If you are buying a quality play house, you deserve to know you are backed up by good product warranties.

My Cubby have a lifetime warranty on the roofing, and 2 years on the wooden materials as long as they have been painted.

- Double check that you understand what the price includes – some companies have lots of "extras" that you need to pay for.
- Is the cubby company flexible with their designs? Can you change these around, or do you have no choice on the layout?

My Cubby individually make each cubby, so you get to tell us the best layout for your yard, and we make it that way. We can also create designs from drawings if you would like a complete custom design.

- Does the cubby need to be concreted in?

Our cubbies are designed to sit on the ground and do not need concreting in. This makes our cubbies perfect for rental properties so they can move with you. In some areas of Australia though it is a council requirement that cubbies are secured to the ground (cyclone areas), so we recommend using metal stirrups which get concreted in, and the cubby legs get bolted into the stirrups. This also allows for you to be able to move your cubbies if needed.

- How would the cubby work on unlevel ground?

Our cubbies can be elevated to allow for unlevel ground, making it easy for you to cut the legs down to level out.

- Installation – is it easy enough to do yourself?

You need to be a confident handy person to install our cubbies. 95% of our customers do it themselves. We provide instructions with photos. Videos on YouTube and are always available for phone support.

- What sort of installation service does the Cubby House Company provide?

We have our own installers in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. For the rest of the country, we are more than happy to help find a local handyperson and liaise with them on your behalf.

- What are my delivery options? Cubby house delivery can be very expensive – they are large and heavy and often have to travel long distances. It's good to have options available to help you with this decision.

My Cubby have 3 delivery options for you:

- *Pick up from our factory in Kippa-Ring, Brisbane.*
- *Delivery to your closest Depot (and you pick it up from the Depot in either a ute or trailer).*
- *Delivery to your Home. This option is the most expensive (it is probably also the most convenient though!)*

- It is scary making big purchases these days especially when done online as well. Ensure the cubby company is reputable. Check out reviews on them, their social media presence. How long have they been around? Always feel free to call them to get a feel for the operators.

My Cubby is a small, family business that started in 2011. Paul and I pride ourselves on great, honest service and are confident you will have a great experience with us. Please feel free to ask us any questions – we are more than happy to help.

How to stay in touch with us

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