

# Swing Set Buyer's Guide



**CEDARWORKS**  
PLAY IS BEAUTIFUL

You can find swingsets and playsets at prices ranging from less than \$500 to well over \$5000. Our Buyer's Guide is designed to give you an idea of what you can expect to find in different price ranges as well as a list of swing set brands and where you can buy them.

## Price Ranges

### Under \$500

#### Materials

If you are planning to spend \$500 or less you can expect to find a variety of small mass-market playsets, usually made of metal or plastic with a few imported Chinese "cedar" sets at the higher end of the price range.

#### Size and accessories

At less than \$500, most swing sets will be small and, at their highest point, up to 6 or 7 feet high, though many sets will be shorter. These sets will generally be simple with perhaps a couple of swings and a short slide.

#### Weight limits

Swing sets in this price range are usually designed for small children, so they will have lower weight limits, usually 100 pounds per child, as well as a total weight limit for the set limiting how many kids can use it at a time. Swing sets in this price range are not meant to be used by adults.

#### Packaging and assembly

Wooden swing sets may come as kits with 4x4 lumber not included. Complete swing sets will be flatpacked with no pre-assembled components.

#### Where to buy

Swing sets in the less than \$500 range can be found at large national retail chains such as Walmart, KMart, Toys "R" Us, or Home Depot both in the stores and on their websites.

#### Brands

To find brands that sell playsets in this price range, please see our *Swing Set Brand Guide* below.

## \$500 - \$1,500

### Materials

Swing sets in the \$500-1500 range include larger metal sets, a few plastic sets, and sets made from Chinese "cedar" .

### Size and accessories

At the lower end of this price range, the sets may be as simple as a few swings, but at the higher end you will find sets with more structures and more accessories. While you can get more bells and whistles than at the lowest price range, swing sets in this range, particularly wood playsets or plastic, will not be as sturdy as sets in higher price ranges.

### Weight limits

Weight limits vary depending on size and materials. 100 to 120 pounds per swing is common. On some sets, total weight capacity may be limited to 600-800 pounds. This is fine for kids but may not be safe if grownups want to play.

### Packaging and assembly

Sets in this range may come as kits with 4x4 lumber not included. Complete swing sets will be flatpacked with no pre-assembled components.

### Where to buy

National chain retailers including Walmart, Sam's Club and Target sell sets in the \$500-1500 price range. You can also find sets in this range at Amazon and other online retailers, and some brands that sell swing sets in this price range sell direct to customers on their websites.

### Brands

To find brands that sell playsets in this price range, please see our *Swing Set Brand Guide* below.

## **\$1,500 - \$2,500**

### Materials

Most playsets in the \$1500-2500 price range will be made from imported Chinese "cedar", but you can also find sets made from pressure treated pine and vinyl coated pine.

### Size and accessories

In this price range you will find a lot of variety in sets with most having sizable forts or towers and many choices of swings and other accessories. The sets can be quite large with swing beams up to 8 feet high.

### Weight limits

Weight limits in this price range vary a lot. Some sets have weight limits as high as over 200 pounds per swing, so you can find a playset that will accommodate grownups and kids of all sizes. Make sure to check weight limits before purchasing, however, as some sets in this price range still only have weight limits up to 150 pounds per swing and as low as 800 pounds overall.

### Packaging and assembly

Most sets in this price range, especially the ones imported from China, will be flatpacked, with pre-cut lumber and pre-drilled holes, but no pre-assembled components. Sets made from domestic wood species, however, may come with pre-assembled components, and you can find brands and dealers at this price range that offer assembly services, usually at an extra cost.

### Where to buy

You can find playsets in this price range at national retail chains and online retailers as well as online direct from the playset brand itself. At this price range, you also begin to see sets at authorized dealers and brand showrooms. Brands that sell through dealers or showrooms will usually provide store locators on their websites, so you can find a dealer near you.

### Brands

To find brands that sell playsets in this price range, please see our *Swing Set Brand Guide* below.

## **\$2,500 - \$5000**

### Materials

This price range begins to include premium playsets which means sets made with bigger, better wood and higher quality construction. While this price range includes playsets made from Chinese "cedar", you can also find playsets made from domestic woods including Redwood, Northern White Cedar, and pressure treated pine. You can also find a variety of vinyl coated sets in this range.

### Size and accessories

Playsets in the \$2500-5000 price range will be large and include forts or towers, high playdecks, several choices in swings and a variety of accessories.

### Weight limits

Weight limits on playsets in this price range are usually high — 200 pounds or more per swing and playdecks may take total weights from 800 to 1000 pounds to essentially unlimited. In general, swing sets in this price range are strong enough for grownups to play too, though sets made of Chinese "cedar" may have lower weight limits than those made of domestic woods.

### Packaging and assembly

In this price range, imported sets will be shipped flatpacked with predrilled and precut lumber but no pre-assembled components. Sets produced domestically may have pre-assembled components. Many online dealers or brands that sell directly to customers will also offer assembly services, usually at an extra charge.

### Where to buy

Playsets in this price range are usually sold either directly from the playset brand's website or sales department, or brands may sell through their own showrooms or at authorized dealers.

### Brands

To find brands that sell playsets in this price range, please see our *Swing Set Brand Guide* below.

## Over \$5000

### Materials

This price range represents premium playsets, meaning sets that are made with bigger, better wood and highest quality construction. Most sets above \$5000 will be made domestically from Northern White Cedar or Redwood as well as vinyl coated and pressure treated pine, though you can also find a few very large sets made from Chinese "cedar".

### Size and accessories

At this price range, you can expect to find large and very large sets with just about any playset accessory you can dream of. Some playset companies that sell sets in this range offer customizable, or modular, sets, so you can make your playset as big as your imagination — and your budget — will allow.

### Weight limits

This price range offers big playsets with high weight limits. Check the weight limit on any specific set you are interested in, but in general, you can expect that sets in this price range will have weight limits of at least 200 pounds per swing and be able to hold adults and a whole neighborhood full of kids.

### Packaging and assembly

Domestically produced sets in this price range will usually be shipped with pre-assembled components making them easier to assemble, but brands that sell playsets in this range will also offer delivery and assembly services.

### Where to buy

Premium playsets can be purchased at brand showrooms or from authorized dealers or on their websites.

### Brands

To find brands that sell playsets in this price range, please see our *Swing Set Brand Guide* below.

# Swing Set Brand Guide

Brand	Where to Buy	Material	Source	Under \$500	\$500 - \$1500	\$1500 - \$2500	\$2500 - \$5000	Over \$5000
<a href="#">Backyard Adventures</a>	authorized dealers	Chinese "cedar"	imported		✓	✓	✓	
<a href="#">Backyard Discovery</a>	big box stores online retailers online direct	Chinese "cedar" metal	imported		✓	✓	✓	
<a href="#">Cedar Summit</a>	big box stores online retailers	Chinese "cedar"	imported		✓	✓		
<a href="#">CedarWorks</a>	online direct phone	Northern White Cedar	domestic				✓	✓
<a href="#">CedarWorks Play-a-Round series</a>	online direct phone	Northern White Cedar	domestic			✓	✓	
<a href="#">Creative Playthings</a>	brand showrooms authorized dealers online direct	pressure treated pine	domestic				✓	✓
<a href="#">Creative Playthings - Playtime</a>	brand showrooms authorized dealers online direct	pressure treated pine	domestic		✓	✓		
<a href="#">Eastern Jungle Gym</a>	authorized dealers big box stores online direct brand showroom online retailers	Chinese "cedar"	imported			✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Flexible Flyer</a>	big box stores online retailers	metal	domestic	✓				
<a href="#">Gorilla</a>	big box stores online retailers online direct	Chinese "cedar"	imported			✓	✓	
Iron Kids	big box stores online retailers	metal	domestic	✓				

Brand	Where to Buy	Material	Source	Under \$500	\$500 - \$1500	\$1500 - \$2500	\$2500 - \$5000	Over \$5000
<a href="#">King Swings</a>	authorized dealers	vinyl Southern Yellow Pine Chinese "cedar"	domestic		✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Lifetime</a>	big box stores online retailers online direct	Metal plastic	Imported domestic		✓	✓	✓	
<a href="#">Little Tikes</a>	big box stores online retailers online direct	plastic	domestic	✓	✓			
<a href="#">PlayNation Lifetime series</a>	authorized dealers online direct	Redwood pressure treated pine	domestic			✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">PlayNation Pre-configured Series</a>	authorized dealers online direct	Chinese "cedar"	imported		✓	✓	✓	
<a href="#">Rainbow Cedar Collection</a>	brand showrooms authorized dealers	mix of Chinese "cedar" and domestic cedars	Imported domestic			✓	✓	✓
Sportspower	big box stores online retailer	metal	domestic	✓				
<a href="#">Step 2</a>	big box stores online direct online retailers	plastic	Mostly domestic		✓			
<a href="#">Swing Kingdom</a>	authorized dealers	vinyl	domestic			✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Swing n Slide</a>	big box stores online retailers online direct	Chinese "cedar" pressure treated pine	Imported domestic	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Woodplay</a>	authorized dealers phone	Redwood	imported				✓	✓
<a href="#">Woodplay Safari Series</a>	authorized dealers phone	Chinese "cedar"	imported		✓	✓	✓	✓

*This list is limited to companies that sell nationally and is not meant to be exhaustive, nor is it intended as an endorsement of any specific retailers or brands.*

© Copyright 2016 CedarWorks Playsets

CedarWorks Playsets  
799 Commercial Street  
PO Box 990  
Rockport ME 04856-0990  
(800) 462-3327  
(207) 596-1010

[www.cedarworks.com](http://www.cedarworks.com)