

Why parents should still use real nappies



Because they are lovely

New designs are easy to use, easy to launder, look and feel great. They come in a huge variety of shapes and styles, patterns and colours, so that anyone can find a range to suit their personal style, lifestyle and budget.

Because they are better for the environment

- WEN rejects the conclusion of the recent Environment Agency report that there is no significant difference between the overall environmental impact of disposables and cloth nappies, whether washed at home or in a laundry.
- Flawed as it is, findings in the report show parents can use real nappies and save waste without causing more global warming than disposables. Britain throws away nearly **three billion nappies a year**, that's nearly **eight million a day** so many parents are concerned to avoid contributing to this waste mountain.
- Using a sensible washing routine - 24 nappies washed at 60°C in an energy efficient (A rated) washing machine - real nappies contribute 24% less to global warming than the report suggests - and don't add to the waste mountain.

Because they could save you money

Washing nappies at home could save parents around £500 on the cost of keeping a baby in nappies, even taking all the laundry costs of energy and detergent into account.



Because they are more natural

While disposable nappies are made of paper pulp, plastics and superabsorbent chemicals, real nappies are mostly made of natural fabrics giving parents the opportunity to choose a more natural product for their baby. For the best option organic cotton and hemp nappies and woollen overpants are available at reasonable cost.

Because they are convenient

- Modern nappies are not what they used to be. They have advanced considerably over recent years with a whole new range of self-fastening, easy to use designs. They come in a variety of styles and patterns and can be a fun element of a baby's wardrobe.
- Nappy washing services provide the ultimate in convenience and do all the work for you, collecting dirty nappies to be laundered to NHS clinical standards and leaving a fresh supply of nappies in their place.

Because they put you in control

- You can reduce your environmental impact even further by using an eco-friendly detergent, line-drying rather than tumble drying, avoiding fabric softeners or chemical soaking agents, and by choosing organic and natural fabrics.
- The only way to reduce the environmental impact of disposables is to use fewer of them - and that's not a good idea.

Turn over to find out what you can do if you don't believe the agency report

Don't believe disposable and real nappies have the same environmental impact?

Here's what you can do

Join WEN or make a donation...

... online at www.wen.org.uk or by phone on **020 7481 9004**. If you Gift Aid your payment we can claim back 28p tax for every pound. Donations over and above what we need to fight this report will be put towards our other campaigning on nappies, health, waste prevention, food and related issues.

Contact the Environment Agency

Telephone: 08708 506 506

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Register your opposition to the report, *Life Cycle Assessment of Disposable and Reusable Nappies in the UK*, published on 19 May 2005. All emails or calls to this line should receive a response within 10 working days.

Call on them to:

- 1) **Clear the confusion** with useful advice to parents about how a good washing routine can reduce environmental impacts;
- 2) review the report.

Contact your elected representatives

You can find out who your MP, Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs), Welsh Assembly (AMs) and European Parliament (MEPs) are at www.writetothem.com

Ask your **MP** to support **Early Day Motion 155** which criticises the report and calls on the Government to continue promoting cloth nappy use to save waste.

Ask all of them to support **Real Nappy Week, 20-26 June** and resist moves to deny parents access to fair information about real nappies.

Contact your local media

Respond quickly to any coverage of the issue with a letter stating your personal position. Forward them WEN's **media statement**, available from www.wen.org.uk or make your own statement, quoting points from WEN's statement or this leaflet if you wish.

Tell your friends

Raise the issue and challenge misconceptions about the relative environmental impacts when they come up. Make sure everyone you know understands that real nappies are better for the environment.

Organise a fundraising event

Contact WEN for advice on how to raise funds for our campaign.

