

DETERGENT CHOICES AT A GLANCE

You have made the choice. You have collected your diapers and now you are beginning your cloth diapering journey. You deserve to have success while cloth diapering your baby. Choosing a detergent suitable for cloth diapers can often avoid unnecessary problems including diaper odor and leakage.

What to look for in a Detergent?

At best, a detergent to be used on your baby's diapers would NOT contain enzymes, dyes, perfumes, optical brighteners or any other component designed to be left on your diapers after washing.

Specialty detergents with fabric softeners or wrinkle guards will not be suitable; however, a detergent with non-chlorine bleach or oxygen bleaching capabilities may be fine. And just to be clear, soaps are not detergents, and soaps are generally not suitable for washing diapers.



Top Mainstream Detergent Picks








































The detergent picks in the mainstream category would most likely be located at your local grocery or discount store. Some detergents listed are store brands and thus not available elsewhere.

Rating	Detergent Brand	Enzymes	Dyes	Scents	Brighteners
		☑ Ingredient Absent	☑ Ingredient Absent	☑ Ingredient Absent	☑ Ingredient Absent
★★★★★	All Free and Clear - Military Version	☑	☑	☑	☑
★★★★★	Arm & Hammer for Sensitive Skin	☑	☑	☑	☑
★★★★★	Arm & Hammer Essentials	☑	☑	☑	☑
★★★★★	Astra Aldi Brand	☑	☑	☑	☑
★★★★★	Publix Free and Clear	☑	☑	☑	☑
★★★★★	Purex Free and Clear	☑	☑	☑	☑
★★★★★	Sun Free	☑	☑	☑	☑
★★★★★	Xtra Perfume and Dye Free	☑	☑	☑	☑

Top Environmentally Friendly Detergent Picks


These detergents will likely only be found online or in your local health food store. Smaller stores that do not

carry a particular product may be willing to special order it in for you, just ask.

Rating	Detergent Brand	Enzymes	Dyes	Scents	Brighteners
		 Ingredient Absent	 Ingredient Present		
★★★★★	Allen's Naturally Powder/Liquid <i>Standard & HE compatible</i>				
★★★★★	Country Save Powder <i>Standard & HE </i>				
★★★★★	Mountain Green Free & Clear <i>Standard & HE </i>				
★★★★★	Mountain Green Free & Clear Baby <i>Standard & HE </i>				
★★★★★	Nellie's All Natural Laundry Soda <i>Standard & HE </i>				
★★★★★	Planet Ultra Liquid				
★★★★★	Planet Ultra Powder <i>Standard & HE compatible</i>				
★★★★★	Planet 2X Ultra <i>Standard & HE </i>				

The evaluation included in the above chart is made with the current (March 2008) knowledge available in regards to detergents and cloth diapering. Detergent makers are free to change their formulations without notifying the public. Realize that washing conditions, diaper collections, and personal sensitivities vary. Use this chart as an aid to find the detergent that will work best with your own conditions.

Detergent Tips:

1. Powdered Detergents should always be dissolved completely before adding to the washing machine.
2. HE compatible generally refers to a low sudsing detergent. A detergent rated HE  has been certified for use in a High Efficiency washing machine.
3. Detergents are now highly concentrated. It is important to accurately measure your detergent amount and not just "eye-ball" it.

Complete Detergent Chart for Traditional Washing Machines:
<http://pinstripesandpolkadots.com/detergentchoices.htm>

Complete Detergent Chart for HE Washing Machines:
<http://pinstripesandpolkadots.com/hedetergentchoices.htm>

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