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Cloth Diaper Washing Instructions

To maintain the joy of cloth diapering, it is important to establish an effective cloth diaper laundering routine. What will work for you depends a great deal upon the locale in which you live. The following instructions have been specially formulated to meet the needs of customers in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. If you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to contact us at **(904) 240-4878**.

Step 1: From Baby to Pail

We recommend you use a dry pail to store your soiled diapers in until washday. There is no need to use any water on your diapers before you wash them. The simplest way to do this is to line a laundry hamper or trashcan with a water-resistant fabric bag. Both wet and dirty diapers can be placed there immediately after removing them from your baby.

As far as dirty diapers are concerned, simply shake (no need to dunk) solid material into the toilet and place the diaper into the dry pail.

Step 2: The Soak

Soaking your diapers before laundering loosens soils for easy removal in especially dirty loads. Normal loads or even very soiled loads washed in a highly effective machine may not require this step. The method that you follow will depend upon the type of washing machine that you use. There is no need for detergent in this soak.

For Top-loaders: Place soiled diapers, wipes, and washable pail liner in a full washtub of cold water and let soak for at least an hour or run diapers through a cold soak or rinse only cycle in your machine.

For Front-loaders: Run your diapers through a cold soak cycle or rinse only cycle in your machine.

Step 3: Washing

It is not necessary to use whitening agents such as borax or chlorine bleach in cleaning your diapers. These harsh chemicals will merely degrade the waterproofing of your covers and lessen the durability of your natural-fiber diapers. Also, detergent residue is the enemy of clean, fresh diapers. Normal baby waste products are protein-based soils. Detergents work against fatty soils. The most important elements of a diaper washing are hot water and lengthy agitation. Below are specific instructions for each type of washing machine.

For Top-loaders: Drain and spin soaked diapers. Add two tablespoons (2 T.) of liquid laundry detergent. Run the longest wash cycle with the hottest water temperature. Next, run a short cold wash. Follow these with an additional cold rinse.

For Front-loaders: After soak cycle, add two teaspoons (2 tsp.) of liquid laundry detergent. Run the longest wash cycle with the hottest water temperature. Follow with an additional cold rinse.

NEVER, NEVER use FABRIC SOFTENER or BLEACH to wash your diapers!

Step 4: Drying

Cloth diapers may successfully be dried by machine or on the line. If you are using any type of pocket diaper (i.e. FuzziBunz), they must be dried on low heat. Other types (prefolds, inserts, Bummi, etc.) may be dried on high. If you are unsure, always check the manufacturer's recommendations.

If you choose to line-dry, some people find that "fluffing" the diapers in the dryer for twenty minutes or so after they are dry helps to make them softer.