

It's a wrap

Curious about cloth diapers? Here's what you need to know.

With cheerful fabrics, major moisture-wicking abilities and touch-free fasteners, modern cloth diapers are nothing like the nappies your grandma used. They make changes a snap and don't clog landfills. Plus, choosing cloth saves money, too. "It's possible to get set up with cloth diapers and accessories for around \$350 to \$500 for 2½ years of use," says Paula DeVore, cloth diapering expert and owner of Babyworks (babyworks.com), who notes that disposable diapers over the same time frame may cost upward of \$1,800.

To get started, you'll need two washable diaper pail liners, a diaper sprayer attached to your toilet to wash poop into the bowl and a waterproof wet bag. Here, the most common types of cloth diapers and our favorite picks for each:

👉 **Pocket diapers** consist of an absorbent insert made of microfiber, hemp, cotton or bamboo that slips between a waterproof exterior and a wetness-wicking liner. Many pocket diapers offer a one-size-fits-all option. For full-time use, you'll need at least 24. **We like:** Rumparooz one-size-fits-all reusable diaper features patented interior gussets to keep leaks at bay. (\$24-\$26, kanga-care.com)

👉 **All-in-ones** have the layers—cover and moisture-absorbing insert—tacked together, so it's your easiest alternative. All-in-ones are best for day use and sometimes need an extra soak to get clean. **We like:** Thirstie's Duo AIO built-in soaker sops up liquid without giving



Use an additive-free detergent to wash cloth diapers at home.

your baby a bulky behind. (\$16-\$17, clothdiaper.com)

👉 **Diaper covers** pair with the prefolded diapers provided by a laundering service. You can also use a fitted diaper with a cover. DeVore recommends six covers and 36 prefolds if you're washing at home. **We like:** Econobum One Size Cloth Diaper Cover is waterproof and affordable. (\$9, econobum.com)

👉 **Hybrids** blur the categories of disposables, cover and pocket diapers. Cloth or disposable inserts catch messes while the cover (usually) stays clean. **We like:** gDiapers offers a rainbow of colors and designs; try the flushable/compostable/tossable inserts or the washable microfleece, cotton and hemp inserts. (\$18-\$22 for diaper covers, and \$15-\$32 for inserts, gdiapers.com) — DENISE CASTAÑON

DAVID MARTINEZ



Cloth considerations Reusable diapers have some drawbacks, namely more laundry. Lessen your load by hiring a weekly diaper-laundering service for \$80 to \$90 a month. Also, when you're out, carrying around dirty diapers can be a hassle. Additionally, you may need to test a few styles to find the one that works best for you and your baby. — D.C.