

# Washing your Bummi's Diaper Covers

Diaper covers can be re-used until soiled or smelly.  
Simply rinse off any urine residue and air dry in between uses.  
Rotate your covers after each change.

Check the care instructions on the label of your cover!

The following products should be washed in **lukewarm water** and **hung to dry** or **air dried at a low** setting in the dryer:

[Bummi Original](#)  
[Bummi Cotton](#)  
[Whisper Pant](#)  
[Cotton Whisper Pant](#)

The following products can be washed in **hot or warm water** and dried at a **regular setting** in the dryer. Do not over dry.

[Super Whisper Wrap](#)  
[Super Snap](#)  
[Super Brite](#)  
[Training Pant](#)  
[Polar Bummi](#)

Always **close the Aplix™ closures** before washing

**Don't use bleach or whitening agents.** They will breakdown the fibers of your diapers and covers and are also very harsh on your baby's skin and the environment

**Never soak your covers!** This will interfere with their waterproof qualities.

Please note that some models of diaper covers should be washed separately from diapers.

Important tips for success in cotton diapering!

- **Don't** use bleach or whitening agents. They will breakdown the fibers of fabrics and destroy your diaper covers. Not to mention that they are very harsh on your baby's skin and the environment... When washing or soaking diapers, a good alternative to chlorine bleach is the environmentally friendly oxygenated bleach. But be careful, not all are created equal...make sure the product you choose contains no additives beyond sodium carbonate. One choice is available at: [Oxyboost.com](http://Oxyboost.com). They have instructions on their website as to how to use their product with cloth diapers. As always, do not soak covers.
- **Don't** use fabric softeners. They will leave a waxy residue on your diapers and covers and lead to leaking. Even using dry sheets in the regular laundry can leave a residue in the dryer, which can affect your diapering.
- **Don't** use any natural cleaning products that contain oils or softeners which may coat the fibers of your diapers or covers. We recommend Sensi-Clean or Sport-Wash which you can find at [Atsko.com](http://Atsko.com). These detergents leave no residue
- People have reported problems with the following cleaning agents:
  - All Free and Clear (and other Free and Clear detergents). They have brighteners!! Read labels carefully.
  - Dr. Bronner's Soap
  - Some versions of Bio-Kleen
  - 7Th Generation
  - Dreft
  - Ivory Snow
  - Most "pure soap" products

- Products that have been damaged by natural cleaning products can sometimes be saved! Repeat the following process twice: Run your covers and diapers through a wash with only hot water (if allowed by manufacturer's washing instructions). Run a second wash using 1/2 cup baking soda and 1/2 cup vinegar in the wash - and 1/2 cup vinegar again in first rinse cycle. Run a second rinse cycle with plain water.
- **Don't** use laundry detergents that contain perfumes, dyes, chlorine bleaching agents or any stain guard ingredients.
- **Don't** use too much detergent in your wash as this can lead to stinky ineffective diapers and covers and skin irritations. A little goes a long way!
- **Do** be careful when using diaper rash ointments, especially those containing fish oils. These can stain your diapers and covers, make them smelly and ruin their performance. Use all ointments sparingly. Flushable liners act as a good barrier for creams.
- **Do** use the highest water levels in your washing machine to ensure complete rinsing of diapers and covers. **Any detergent residue will affect the performance of diaper products!**
- **Do** unfold your diapers before soaking or washing to allow complete cleaning.
- **Do** add occasionally a 1/2 cup of vinegar to the first rinse cycle in order to remove any residual detergent. This deodorizes, sanitizes and brightens. **Don't** overuse or use in final rinse, as this will have the opposite effect! Your diapers may become smelly. **Don't** use vinegar on diaper covers except one time when you are trying to strip detergent residue off.
- **Do** use an extra spin cycle after washing. This will reduce drying time up to 25%!
- **Do** throw a dry towel in the dryer with your diapers. This will reduce drying time as well!

\*\*\* Make sure that your covers fit snugly and that you are using the correct size of diaper and cover for your baby.

\*\*\* Smell your diapers and covers after they are washed! If they smell stinky or like detergent - wash them again with less detergent and more water.

\*\*\* For a super waterproof system – do not tuck your diaper into the front flap of the diaper cover! It is meant to protect from leaking through the sewing on the front of the cover.

## Guide to Washing Cloth Diapers

Before You Start – Very Important!

Wash your diapers in hot water with a small amount of zero residue detergent before first use to make them absorbent. If your diapers are made of unbleached fabric, you will need to wash and dry them at least three times to remove their natural oils and waxes (wash other products separately). Test your diapers' absorbency by pouring a small amount of water onto one. If the water beads at all, you will need to wash again.

Please check carefully the washing instructions for the product you have purchased as they may differ from these.

### Diaper Storage

Dirty diapers and diaper covers can be stored dry in a diaper pail for 2-3 days before washing. Lining your pail with a washable bag can make transport to the washing machine easier.

1. Remove diaper and cover from baby. Flush away Bio-soft liner or shake off excess poop into the toilet. You can skip this step if your baby is exclusively breastfed, as the poop will wash out easily.

- Put wet or soiled diapers in the pail, to be stored until laundry day. Dirty diaper covers can go in the pail too (never soak them!) Secure any velcro type tabs by sticking them to the fold back tabs (on the inside back of the diaper cover or diaper)

## Washing Diapers

Unfold your diapers before washing, and separate any liners or inserts. Nylon diaper covers (such as the Bummi Original or Whisper Pant) will need to be washed separately by hand or in a cool wash cycle.

- Run a cold pre-wash (or a short cycle with no detergent).
- Do a regular wash in hot water with zero residue detergent (stick to the lower end of the recommended amount if you have a front loader or HE machine.) If you are using anything other than zero residue detergent, use a maximum ½ of what the detergent package tells you to use (1/4 if you have a front loader or HE machine.)
- Rinse diapers in lots of water to avoid build-up of detergent, bacteria or urine.
- Dry in the dryer or outside on a clothesline - sunlight is a natural brightener and disinfectant! Reduce drying time by doing an extra spin cycle and/or throwing a dry towel or dryer balls into the dryer with your diapers. Once washed, your diapers should not smell like urine or detergent! If they smell of detergent, wash them again in plenty of hot water and less detergent. If they smell like urine, either straight out of the wash or once your baby wets them, make sure that you are using enough hot water and enough detergent.

You may need to adapt your washing routine to your washing machine, water supply etc. Always check the care instructions on the label of your products, and follow manufacturers' washing guidelines if they vary from these.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Soaking</b></p> <p>Do not soak diapering products – except for cotton prefolds, (they have no elastic, velcro, laminate or snaps!) To soak prefolds, dissolve a very small quantity of oxygen bleach in half a pail of water. Your diapers can be soaked for up to 4 days. Make sure your pail fastens well for safety's sake. On washing day, dump your pail contents into the washing machine, spin out liquid and wash as usual along with your diaper covers.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stains</b></p> <p>Stains don't mean your diapers are dirty! A cold pre-wash helps keep stains from setting- but if you do have unwanted stains, try drying wet diapers in direct sunlight. Please do not use chlorine bleach. A small amount of oxygen bleach in your wash is okay if it contains no additives and is well rinsed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Front Loaders &amp; HE Machines</b></p> <p>Since your machine uses so little water, set your water levels to high to make sure your diapers are cleaned and rinsed properly. You can also increase water levels by tossing a wet towel in the wash with your load to make it heavier. An extra rinse is also recommended.</p>
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## Washing Products

Choose a detergent that does not contain any of the following additives, as they can create residue problems, which will lead to leaking, diapers that do not absorb properly, and stinky covers.

- Fabric softeners
- Natural oils
- Perfumes
- Dyes
- UV brighteners
- Stain guard ingredients
- Enzymes

Bummi's recommendations for safe washing products are:

- Sensi-Clean and Sport-Wash [www.atsko.com](http://www.atsko.com)
- Charlie's Soap [www.charliesoap.com](http://www.charliesoap.com)
- Country Save [www.countrysave.com](http://www.countrysave.com)
- Allen's Naturally [www.allensnaturally.com](http://www.allensnaturally.com)
- Mountain Green Baby Free & Clear [www.mountaingreen.biz](http://www.mountaingreen.biz)
- \*Seventh Generation Delicate Care [www.seventhgeneration.com](http://www.seventhgeneration.com)
- \*Nature Clean Powder or Liquid [www.naturecleanliving.com](http://www.naturecleanliving.com)
- \*Claudia's Choices [www.claudiaschoices.ca](http://www.claudiaschoices.ca)
- \*Wonder Wash [www.wonderwash.net](http://www.wonderwash.net)

If you decide to use a bleach alternative (always sparingly!) for prefold soaking or occasional stain removal, it should contain no ingredients beyond sodium carbonate or sodium percarbonate. We recommend:

- Oxy-Boost Oxygen Bleach [www.oxyboost.com](http://www.oxyboost.com)
- \*Nature Clean Oxygen Bleach [www.naturecleanliving.com](http://www.naturecleanliving.com)
- \*BioVert Oxygen Bleach [www.prolav.com](http://www.prolav.com)

\*easy to find in Canada

## Troubleshooting

If your diapering system is the right size and absorbency for your baby, you shouldn't have any problems with leaking. If you do, make sure that:

1. You have done all the pre-washes necessary for your diapers, and they have reached full absorbency (water absorbs on contact with fabric – no beading!)
2. Your prefold diaper is not tucked under the flap on the inside front of the diaper cover
3. The diaper is completely tucked into the diaper cover around legs, back and belly (any bit of fabric peeking out can cause wicking of moisture onto clothes)
4. You are not using ointments containing petroleum or fish oils
5. If using any diaper cream such as zinc oxide, you are using a liner to protect the diaper from the cream
6. The diaper cover fits snugly and you are using the correct size of diaper and cover for your baby. Even the best diaper cover will not work if your diaper is not absorbent enough.
7. You are changing your baby's diaper often enough. Newborns need to be changed about every 2 hours!

## Detergent Residue

**If your diaper covers leak right through, you likely have a detergent residue problem. You will need to "strip" your diapers by doing several hot washes with no detergent, and adjust your washing routine. Other signs of residue are smelly or yellowed diaper covers, and diapers that do not absorb properly.**