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12.10.2011

Making the Switch to Cloth Diapering

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Since I first became a momma about three and half years ago, I've always had a (very) slight interest in cloth diapering. But to be perfectly honest the process always intimidated me. It seemed like it would be a lot of work and I was leery of how well they worked. I have several friends who cloth diaper and were kind enough to educate me on the process (Thanks J and M!). I started researching it more online and realized how much money we could save.

In the end, I opted for what they call a hybrid pocket diaper. The process is so much easier than I'd imagined and the diapers are too cute on. And the amount of money we're saving is insane!

We have a 22 month old in diapers full time. She was wearing Seventh Generation Disposables during the day and wears Huggies Overnights each night. Our 3 year old wears undies but Pull-Ups for naps and UnderJams for night. Based on this, I calculated that we're now saving \$117+ per month. That's about \$1,400 a year. And here's the kicker: a savings of \$3,000 or even 4,000 **per child** over the average 3 years of diaper use. (Not to mention thousands of diapers we're no longer sending to a landfill).

So, let's get in to how to process works. I ended up choosing to go with [Charlie Banana](#) one size diapers because I figured they'll work for our current kids and any future babies, so I'm getting more bang for my buck than if I had opted for sized cloth diapers. There are a lot of snaps to adjust size and adjustable elastic in the legs to get a custom leg opening fit. They fit babies/toddlers 8-35 pounds.

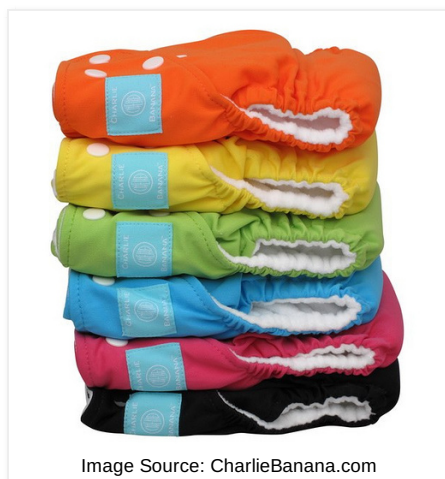
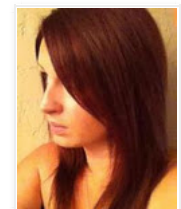


Image Source: [CharlieBanana.com](#)

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WELCOME



Hi! I'm Dawn. Thanks for stopping by my little piece of the blog world! I'm a Air Force wife and mom of 2 (soon to be 3). We're stationed in a small town and blogging saves me from cabin fever. I regularly post on sewing, crafting, cooking, and the beautiful, crazy journey they call parenthood.

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These are the diapers. Cute, right? The fleece inside the diaper is SO soft. You just place a cloth diaper insert (or two for older toddlers) in the pocket of the diaper. These are pictured below. So far, zero leaks. We do have to use disposables at night time though.



Initially I decided to order just one **6 pack of the diapers** to test the whole cloth diapering thing out and see how I liked using them. Each diaper comes with two cloth inserts: one small and one large (so you don't really need to order extra inserts). I ended up ordering another 6-pack and 12 diapers has been working out pretty well for us over the last 6 months. Soon, I plan to order two more 6-packs so that we have 24 diapers total before baby #3 arrives. You have to change and wash the diaper every time you change baby, so the more you have the less you have to do laundry. Once we have everything I want, the total investment for cloth diapering will be around \$500. Even if we only had one child, that would still save about \$3,500 during the diapering years.

You can also use a **bio-liner** which makes stinky diapers easier to clean up and these liners are flushable. They go on top of the diaper, next to babies skin. These come in a roll of 100. I don't use them for every diapering, especially if she's already had a stinky diaper that day. These aren't necessary but they're inexpensive. I plan to buying this **diaper sprayer** soon though and then these won't be needed.

For on the go, there are **disposable inserts**. These go on top of the diaper next to baby's skin as well and mean you don't have to change the actual diaper each time. Since my son is older and has more pee volume, I use one cloth insert and a disposable at night and it's working great.

Some reviews said they're too rough but we don't mind them. I recently tried the **Gro-Via disposable inserts** and I have to say I LOVE them. They're much softer, have elasticized leg areas and stick on to the diaper. They hold a lot of pee too! Now that my youngest is almost two and has more pee volume, I use one cloth insert and one of these and she's go to go for several hours for every diapering to prevent leaks. Here's a pic comparing the two (Charlie Banana's in on the left and GroVia's is on the right):



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Finally, you'll need somewhere to keep the wet/stinky diapers until you wash them. I choose this [Planet Wise Hanging Wet/Dry Diaper Bag](#) which hangs in my laundry room. No stink and it's machine washable/dry-able. It comes in a ton of colors. I opted for a plain brown one so it'll match most of our home decor.

I originally posted this review on my mommy blog last summer, which I've since ceased. After reading my review Charlie Banana sent me a complimentary [Wet/Dry Tote Bag](#) for my diaper bag for on the go and it's working wonderfully.



Here are a few points of interest on what I've found works best for me when it comes to washing the diapers:

- Do a hot rinse.
- Run a hot wash cycle with powder detergent. I've tried several and [Rockin' Green](#) is by far my favorite. I love that you can choose a Hard or Soft water formula and even the scented ones are baby/cloth diaper safe.
- Do a hot rinse.
- Do a cold rinse.
- Diapers hang to dry. Don't put them in the dryer! They won't last as long. Inserts and diaper bag I dry in the dryer on medium.
- Plain "Dawn" dish soap can be used from time to time to [strip diapers](#), if necessary. Since I switched to Rockin' Green a few months ago, I haven't needed to strip my diapers at all!



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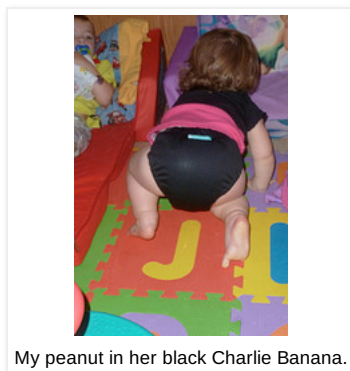


A final note...The Charlie Banana site charges high shipping prices (see note below as to why) so I order everything through Amazon. Being a Prime member, I choose prime eligible products so that I get free, 2 day shipping.

UPDATED NOTE: Charlie Banana contacted me and explained their high shipping fees and I wanted to pass that info along to you. "I did want to explain why we have high shipping — we do get a lot of questions on this. Because we are an international company, we ship from Hong Kong, versus the USA, which makes our shipping higher. This is also why we have a minimum order of \$49, so people aren't paying too much for just one diaper! And we want our customers to shop our retail partners and support our small businesses and mom companies."

I love, love, love that they took the time to contact me personally about this and the email was really personal and friendly. It makes me so happy to have such great experiences like this with a company I choose to spend my money with!

I'm still a bit of a newbie to the process but I'm learning as I go and we're in a place where the whole process works well for us now. Feel free to post any questions or comments below. If I don't know the answer, I'll ask my veteran cloth-diapering friends and find out for you!



My peanut in her black Charlie Banana.

Note: This post was so popular on my now-defunct mommy blog, I edited the original post with what I've learned over the last 6 months so I can re-share it here. I was not paid to do this...I'm simply passing on some products I love and use (and that save a lot of money)!! All links are for Amazon except the Tote bag, as they don't carry it. I use Amazon because I find it to always have the best prices.

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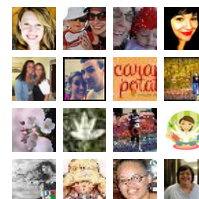
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