



There is a solution to this growing problem of nappy waste -  
**Washable Nappies!**

### A Change For The Better

One alternative to disposing of nappy waste in your bin is to use washable nappies. These are usually made from cotton and you can buy all shapes and sizes to suit your babies needs. They can work out slightly cheaper than disposables in the long term as well.

Many people think of washables as the old style 'Terry' nappies, today washables are well made, using breathable fabrics and can be bought in almost any style or design to suit you. You can find ones with velcro fastenings and also buy ones that adapt to suit your baby's shape as they grow. Washable nappies use a liner that holds most of the waste and this is flushed down the loo, the remainder of the nappy can be washed at home in your washing machine or given to a nappy laundry to wash for you. It really couldn't be simpler.

### So What Can You Do?

You can either buy nappies to wash at home, or use a nappy laundering service which will deliver fresh, sterilised nappies to your door each week and take away the dirty ones.



Working together to promote the use of washable nappies in Surrey are:

- The Surrey Authorities Waste Network (includes all of Surrey's local authorities)
- hospital maternity wards
- midwives
- health visitors
- local reusable nappy suppliers
- nappy laundering companies

For further information,  
please contact us on  
07768 916276  
or email  
[surreyrnn@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surreyrnn@surreycc.gov.uk)

**Isn't it about time  
you changed your  
baby's nappies?**

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Washable Nappies

**A Change  
for the  
Better**



Surrey Cloth Nappy Project  
Managed by the  
Surrey Authorities Waste Network



In Surrey 3.5% of the rubbish thrown away is made up of disposable nappies. The disposal of all this nappy waste by the council costs residents more than £700,000.

Few people are aware of what happens to 'disposable' nappies once the dustbin has been emptied. At present all of this waste is sent to landfill. Disposing of household waste in this way can cause environmental problems as rotting waste generates methane and can contribute to the production of leachate, a toxic liquid that has to be specially treated.

### Washing At Home

Washable nappies are available in any style, colour or size to suit your baby and your budget. Many modern washable nappies are 'knicker' shaped and fasten with easy-to-use Velcro or snap fastenings. Some come with a waterproof layer incorporated in the nappy, while others use a separate waterproof wrap, again with either velcro or snap fastenings. Traditional 'terries' are also still available, with plastic hook fastenings rather than pins.

Dirty nappies should be placed in a bucket with a tight fitting lid to prevent odours until you are ready to wash. A 60°C wash, using an anti-bacterial product, is normally enough to cleanse the nappies thoroughly - and many nappies (and even some waterproof wraps) can be tumble dried if you wish. Once into a routine, washing nappies every few days is not much extra effort - but the savings on your weekly shopping bill are noticeable. Although an initial investment is needed to purchase washable nappies, overall you can expect to save money on your nappy bill with even greater savings possible if you use the nappies again for a second child.

Washable nappies are available at a number of retail outlets, by mail order or from local washable nappy agents. You can see samples from a wide range of suppliers before you buy to help you decide which system is right for you. See 'Making the Change' for details of where to get further information.

### Nappy Laundering Service

If you don't fancy washing at home, don't have suitable facilities or simply don't have the time you can still use washable nappies!

A nappy laundering service will provide you with a supply of clean cotton nappies every week and take away the dirties. A special deodorised bin is supplied to hold the dirty nappies prior to collection. Strict washing guidelines are followed to ensure that the nappies are thoroughly sterilised. The service also provides waterproof wraps in sizes to fit every baby, from new-born to toddler size.

A one-off registration fee is normally payable, after which prices range from £7 to £11 per week for one baby, with a possible reduction for a second child at the same address. This makes laundering services very competitive compared to the cost of using 'disposables'. See 'Making the Change' for details of where to find information about a laundering service local to you.

### Making The Change

If you would like more information there are a number of sources that you can tap into.

#### **The Real Nappy Association**

A good central source of advice and information. For an information pack send a large SAE with two first class stamps to :  
**Real Nappy Association, PO Box 3704, London SE26 4RX.**

#### **The National Association of Nappy Services**

(NANS) can advise on a nappy laundering service local to you.  
**Call 0121 693 4949**

#### **The Women's Environmental Network**

They have produced an in-depth report entitled 'Preventing Nappy Waste' which is available for £13 plus post and packaging.  
**Call 020 7481 9004**

#### **Surrey Nappy Guide**

A new publication from the Surrey Authorities Waste Network that describes the different types of nappy available and how they work. There is also information about accessories you may need and some contacts addresses of people who have tried washable nappies and can talk you through any questions that arise.  
**Call 020 8541 9781**

