

DIAPERS STRIP WASH

Stripping is required to remove residue or detergent build-up or diaper creams could cause leaking since they prevent the fibers from absorbing or allowing the moisture to pass through. If your diapers still smell of urine or detergent after washed, it's a good indication that they need to be stripped. Cleaned diapers should not have any smell, not even detergent smell.

There are a few methods for stripping cloth diapers. The stripping method you choose may depend on the amount of build-up and also the hardness of your water. For best results when stripping diapers, use the hot water (if your washing machine does not have hot water pipe, you can soak your *INSERTS ONLY* in a hot water bucket for few hours) as well as the highest water and agitation setting possible. Also be sure to rinse diapers completely before you dry them. *Diapers should be cleaned, be it dry or wet before you strip wash.*

1. Simple Method – for regular maintenance

Wash your clean diapers (*INSERTS ONLY*) using hot water 2-3 times without detergent. Rinse them until the water runs clear and there are no suds left in the rinse water.

NOTE: IT IS ADVISABLE NOT TO WASH OR SOAK PUL COVER IN HOT WATER AS IT WILL DAMAGE OR SHORTEN THE LIFE SPAN OF THE LAMINATE LAYER

2. Dish Soap – to remove build-up due to diaper creams, oils or detergent

Add a small amount of dish washing soap, 1 teaspoon for high efficiency machine and 1 tablespoon for regular machine. This dish soap will cut through and wash away grease that may be causing the build-up. Keep adding soap little by little until you feel there is adequate soap for the number of diapers. Don't add too much soap at one time or the washing machine might overflow. This dish soap is NOT low suds and is not meant to be used in the washing machine so keep an eye on it, especially if you have a high efficiency washing machine. Rinse with cold water until there are no more bubbles. It usually takes 2-4 rinses in highest water level setting.

NOTE: You can also squeeze juice of 1 lemon into the 1st rinse cycle for double action in grease cutting and pleasant-after-wash smell

3. **Vinegar – for smelly diapers, to remove mildew, mold, detergent build-up.**

Use vinegar with caution. Some diaper companies do not recommend adding vinegar to the wash since it is acidic and it could damage the waterproof PUL cover. Also, if you have hard water, using vinegar can cause your diapers to stink even more. However, distilled white vinegar naturally breaks down uric acid and soapy residue. It also attacks mold and mildew, prevents yellowing and acts as a fabric softener. Vinegar (about 1/2 cup) can be added to your final stripping rinse to remove the last of the detergent residue and to soften your cloth diapers. It is a good idea to dilute the vinegar before adding it to the rinse cycle. Hold 1/2 cup of vinegar under the stream of water as the washing machine fills up for the rinse cycle. If you use vinegar and you notice your diapers start to smell, discontinue use. Vinegar is not necessary or recommended unless you develop consistent problems with smelly diapers, residue build-up, mildew or mold.

4. **Bleach - to remove bacteria**

Chlorine bleach should be used with extreme caution. If you use it too frequently, it will break down the fabric fibers and shorten the life of your diapers. It could also be harsh and irritating to your baby's delicate skin. However, bleach is very effective in getting rid of bacteria. Bacteria can cause diaper rash, infection and smelly diapers. Using bleach only when absolutely necessary or if you think you have a problem with bacteria.

Dilute ½ cup of bleach into the washing machine for 8-10 covers, 15-20 inserts. You can soak for a couple of hours before washing as normal. Rinse 2-4 times in highest water level setting. If your diapers smell of bleach after the rinse, rinse for another 2 times or till there's no more bleach smell on your diapers.