

NUTSHELL NAPPIES

>> Parents of 48 babies between 7kg-10kg trialled 14 disposable nappy brands. Five parents and their babies tried reusable nappies.
 >> A typical baby goes through about 6000 nappies, which can cost between \$4650 for the most expensive brand to \$1700 for the cheapest.

Cloth or chuck?

CHOICE babies put disposable and washable cloth nappy brands to the test.

According to market researcher IBISWorld, in 2008/09 Australian babies used 2.1 billion nappies – a staggering 5.6 million per day. To find the best disposable nappy, CHOICE asked 48 parents and their babies to trial 14 brands of disposable nappies.

As in our last survey, market leader Huggies comes out best for overall satisfaction (see table, below). However, some of the other nappies in our trial which performed well are considerably cheaper than Huggies – which means you can save real money on the 6000 or so nappies a baby uses before being toilet trained.



Our four Best Buys are Snugglers Crawler, Comfy Bots Medium, Mami Toddler (Aldi) and Especially For Baby Size 3. All four brands rated well and are considerably cheaper than the other recommended nappy brands.

Our Green Buy, Bambo Nature Midi, is certified by Nordic Ecolabel and has a biodegradable core with biodegradable starch granules, fully recyclable packaging and chlorine-free material.

machine and line-dried, are the most environmentally friendly option. While the overwhelming majority of parents are using disposable nappies, cloth nappies have made a comeback with CHOICE parents, with one in five of our triallists using cloth nappies or a mix of cloth and disposable nappies. As well as the traditional terry towelling “flats”, there is now a variety of conveniently fitted cloth nappies that help the environment and your purse.

For more information about our trial, as well as a full listing of the results and profiles for each of the nappies, go to www.choice.com.au/nappies (free for CHOICE Online members). **UTA MIHM**

Cloth nappies make a comeback

Recent research from the University of Queensland showed that home-washed reusable nappies, washed in cold water in a front-loading washing

DISPOSABLE NAPPY TRIAL RESULTS

Brand / product (number of triallists)	Overall score (%)	Price per nappy (cents) [pack size]#
WHAT TO BUY		
Huggies Crawler (Boy/Girl) (44)	85	42 [99]
Snugglers Crawler (45)	74	31 [108]
Comfy Bots Medium (45)	71	29 [56]
Mamia Toddler (Aldi) (41)	71	32 [50]
Especially For Baby Size 3 (47)	69	31 [116]
Bambo Nature* Midi (42)	68	66 [56]
ALSO RECOMMENDED		
Coles Dry Fit Crawler (45)	72	39 [72]
Pampers Cruisers Active Fit Size 3 (42)	71	43 [116]
BabyLove Crawler (42)	70	40 [90]
Homebrand Crawler (Woolworths) (42)	70	37 [16]
OTHERS		
7th Generation** Size 3 (41)	69	68 [44]
Moltex* Size 4, Maxi (42)	65	77 [80]
Cosifits Crawler (40)	53	29 [76]
Lullaby Medium (42)	53	31 [80]

TABLE NOTES * Independently certified for reducing environmental impact. ** Chlorine-free. # Price per nappy is based on the RRP of pack size closest to 90 and rounded to the nearest cent. You can make considerable savings if you look out for specials. Snugglers has two pack sizes containing 72 and 108 nappies respectively; we used the 108-pack as it was better value.

CASE STUDY

Cloth nappies on trial

CHOICE mum Janet, who participated in our trial of cloth nappies with baby Leo, has spent less than \$1000 on a variety of cloth nappies for her five children. This compares with a total cost for disposable nappies of up to \$23,250 for the most expensive brand – a massive saving.

Four other parents (and babies) trialled five different modern cloth nappies from four brands.

There were mixed opinions on the tested nappies, so always buy a single nappy or trial pack first.

The cloth nappy brands on trial (in rank order) are:

- Pea Pods
- Itti Bitti All in One and Snap in One
- Baby BeeHinds
- Eenee Weenees

