

Nappy Fabrics

Reusable nappies come in a variety of fabrics. What you choose depends on what your priorities are - quick drying, low impact on environment, what goes against baby's skin etc.

Here is a quick guide to the different types available.

Cotton

The most traditional nappy fabric, it has been used for decades. It is available in many different colours, unbleached and organic.



Hunny Highlights

- Strong and durable
- soft
- natural fibre
- fairly quick drying but can take a bit longer than synthetic fabrics
- Cotton has a high absorbency rate and holds up to 27 times its own weight in water.
- Can withstand washing at high temperatures (but this really isn't necessary with modern washing methods)

Hunny Heads-up

- It is highly vulnerable to pests - pesticides, fungicides and fertilisers are widely used and residues may remain in the fabric.
- Cotton is one of the world's most damaging crops - both to the environment and farmers. Organic cotton is produced without chemicals and has low environmental impact
- Although soft, it may stiffen after washing - a quick blast in tumble drier will soften and once nappy wet again, it will be immediately soft - i.e. once baby wees

Examples of cotton nappies

Bummis pre-folds
Terry squares
Starbunz All-in-one

Bamboo

A fairly recent development in nappy fabrics, it is becoming more and more popular due to its high performance and green credentials.

Bamboo is extremely fast growing and because it is a type of grass (I never knew that!) & can be continually harvested. It is a cheap, sustainable and extremely efficient crop. It is much more absorbent than cotton (up to 60%) but it does take longer to dry.



Hunny Highlights

- silky and soft
- durable
- great environmental choice as it is fast growing with little need for pesticides being highly resistant to pests
- this also means no nasty pesticide residues against baby's skin
- very absorbent - an excellent night time nappy choice
- perfect booster material - bringing the benefit of bamboo to any type of nappy but quicker drying than a whole nappy made from bamboo
- anti-bacterial (still retained after many washes)
- biodegradable (although if mixed with synthetic fibres, this may not be the case)
- can be useful if your baby is allergic to other fabrics

Hunny Heads-up

- takes a long time to dry - you may need more nappies in rotation
- can go a bit hard in hard water areas - a quick blast in the tumble drier will remedy this
- needs a 'stay-dry' liner to wick moisture away and keep baby dry - particularly if using at night

Examples of bamboo nappies

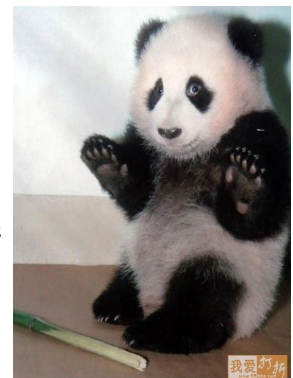
Lollipop bamboo

TotsBots Bamboozle

Blueberry One Size Bamboo

Wonderoo One Size (bamboo booster)

In case you are worried about Giant Pandas - bamboo textiles are not made from the type of bamboo that Pandas eat!



Microfibre

Also known as 'microterry'*. This is a synthetic man-made fibre mainly made from polyesters, it is tough and soft to the touch. It is absorbent and also a very quick acting fabric. Because of the way it traps moisture in between its fibres rather than on its surface it is also quick drying.



Hunny Highlights

- Very quick drying - excellent if you have limited drying facilities - it comes out of the machine almost dry
- wicks moisture away from the skin well, keeping baby dry
- stays soft no matter how many times it is washed - again, great if you have no tumble dryer
- absorbs moisture quickly
- prevents the growth of bacteria inside the fabric

Hunny Heads-up

- Man-made, synthetic fibre - not as sustainable as other natural fibres
- not as absorbent as natural fabrics such as bamboo
- not biodegradable

Examples of Microfibre nappies

Lollipop Softee

Pop n Gro pocket (inserts)

Pop n Gro One Size

Charlie Banana

Blueberry One Size Microterry

Starbunz Stuffer (using the Starbunz inserts)



*"microterry" = a type of fabric not a small Terry Wogan ...

Fleece

Another man-made fibre, made from 100% polyester fibre. It does not absorb wetness but sucks the moisture away, keeping the baby's skin dry. It is used either as a nappy fabric, as a liner or lining, and as an outer wrap. Microfleece is the usual choice for lining nappies - it is lightweight and wicks moisture away from baby's skin. A heavier weight fleece is used as a nappy fabric and for wraps.



Hunny Highlights

- Extremely quick drying - comes out of the machine almost dry- perfect if you have limited drying facilities
- Lightweight and stays soft no matter how many times it is washed
- Wicks moisture away from baby's skin - a good choice for liners or as a lining
- Fleece wraps help moisture to evaporate, keeping nappy area cool - excellent if your baby has eczema or sensitive skin
- Fleece resists staining and solids don't stick to it- if the nappy is lined with fleece, there is no need to use a liner although many parents prefer to for convenience

Hunny Heads-up

- Synthetic fibre - non-biodegradable, although it can be made entirely from recycled plastic bottles
- Probably the least absorbent nappy fabric

Examples of fleece nappies

Lollipop Micro Nappy

The majority of nappies have a microfleece lining - except Lollipop Bamboo and Softee, Tots Bots Easyfit and Bamboozle Stretch, Pre-folds and flat nappies

Hemp

This is another environmentally friendly choice. It is made from the processed stems of the plant and requires no pesticides or fertilisers to grow. It is usually used as inserts rather than nappies as it can go stiff after washing a few times. It is incredibly absorbent - even more so than bamboo - and because of this, takes a long time to dry. It is usually mixed with another fabric such as microfibre or cotton as it is not very quick acting and can be a bit coarse on its own.



Hunny Highlights

- The most absorbent nappy fabric
- Environmentally friendly, although usually mixed with other fabrics
- 3x stronger than cotton

Hunny Heads-up

- Takes a long time to dry
- Goes stiff after a few washes
- Fairly coarse fibre on its own

Hunnybums currently do not stock any hemp-containing nappies.