

## Why Cloth Is Not The Solution To The Diaper Problem



Almost immediately upon launching and many times since, we've been contacted by individuals worried about the environmental impact of disposable diapers who encouraged the Diaper Bank to advocate cloth diapers as a better option.



We love our Mother Earth here at the Detroit Area Diaper Bank and do as much as we can in our day-to-day operations to reduce our carbon footprint. We are in no way "anti-cloth". However, there are factors at play in the communities we strive to help that do not make cloth diapers the best option:

- ◆ people that can't afford diapers also can't afford detergent, bus fare to the laundromat and money to wash extra loads
- ◆ not all public laundromats allow the washing of soiled cloth diapers for health and sanitation reasons
- ◆ very few day care centers accept cloth diapers, even fewer in inner-city areas that provide subsidized services
- ◆ homeless and domestic abuse shelters work with transient populations with fluid life situations; shelters only use disposable diapers for a combination of ease-of-use and sanitation
- ◆ it is very difficult to find cloth diapers in larger and adult sizes and they're not as easy to conceal under clothing

**For the communities the Diaper Bank was created to serve, cloth is unfortunately not the solution.**

We appreciate the comments we've received and are happy to continue the dialogue about these issues and entertain ideas for other solutions.

If you'd like to support the Diaper Bank in a **green** way that still helps us fulfill our mission, you can look for **chlorine-free** disposable diapers to donate or specify that you want funds you donate to be used only to purchase chlorine-free products.

