

CottonTails diaper service

BETTER FOR YOUR BABY. BETTER FOR YOUR PLANET. BETTER FOR YOUR BOTTOM LINE.

Cotton Tales: Adventures in Cloth Diapering

October 2010

A Major Milestone: One Ton of Diapers Saved from the Landfill

CottonTails Diaper Service cleaned its first load of dirty diapers less than 6 months ago, and as of this writing we have cleaned 7464 dirty diapers. Had all of those diapers been disposable, the combined weight would have been approximately 2100 pounds!

Thank you for helping us reach this milestone!

Dionne and I chose cloth for a variety of reasons, and while the environment certainly played a role in our decision to use cloth (and open CottonTails) it was not the deciding factor. If we thought that it was in the best interest of our son, we would coat his little bottom in creosote and diaper him in baby seal skin. We had no intention of making Eli an eco-martyr, so I feel a little disingenuous touting the environmental milestone we and our customers have achieved. That having been said, it is amazing how quickly the numbers add up.



Image credit: http://www.treehugger.com/files/2007/02/convenient_trut_29.php

Had each of those 7464 dirty diapers been disposable, the raw materials needed to produce them would have included approximately 750 pounds of wood pulp, 68 pounds of plastic, 4.25 gallons of oil, and 60 pounds of chlorine. These numbers do not include the resources consumed during the actual production process, or those used in transportation.

Another reason why it is a little disingenuous to engage in horn-tooting at this point is that this first ton of diapers is just a drop in a large and disgusting bucket. Each year, over 5000 babies are born in Shreveport and Bossier City. If each child takes two years to potty train and uses 60 diapers weekly, over 30,000,000 diapers are sent to the local landfill each year. Once those 30,000,000 diapers are buried, they will not decompose, meaning 1000 years from now the unlucky archaeologist studying the lost city of Keithville will find the completely intact disposable thrown away today.

As humbling as those facts may be, it is important to note that this is just the beginning. Together we have helped keep one ton of diapers out of the landfill, but that is just the first ton. With more and more people moving to cloth, the next milestone is right around the corner.

As a sign of our gratitude to our customers, we are giving you one free week of our diaper service. Thank you for your business, thank you for choosing cloth, and thank you for helping us change Shreveport, one diaper at a time.