



## Recommendations to Cloth Diaper Co-op Participants

The three major areas of concern related to a cloth diaper co-op are:

- Is it legitimate? Is it legal?
- Is it ethical, using fair labor and protecting the environment?
- Is it sustainable, maintaining cloth diapers as a quality option into the future?

**To understand the ethics and sustainability of co-ops, please read the complete Real Diaper Association Report on Cloth Diaper Co-ops (<http://realdiaperassociation.org/diaperco-ops>).**

**To ensure that you're participating in a LEGITIMATE cloth diaper co-op buy:**

- Check the manufacturer's page to ensure they sell to co-ops
- Check that manufacturer warranties are still valid if you buy through the co-op
- The pricing and buy should not be secret (which usually indicates it's an illegal or unethical buy)

**Are the diapers being sold through the co-op without manufacturer approval?  
>>Report the co-op to the manufacturer.<<**

**To ensure that you're participating in a LEGAL cloth diaper co-op buy:**

- If the co-op host is not collecting and remitting sales tax on the buy, you're responsible for remitting your own use tax.
- Confirm that the cloth diapers are compliant per CPSC and FTC requirements and have the appropriate labeling and certifications.

**Are the diapers not CPSIA compliant? Have the materials used not been tested for flammability?  
Report them to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) at [saferproducts.gov](http://saferproducts.gov)**

**Do the diapers not include care labeling? Report them to the Federal Trade Commission**

**Other things to watch out for:**

- Watch out for under-estimated **customs fees**, which could result in a second collection before getting your diapers.
- Do you **trust the host** to complete the transaction that you've paid for?
- Do you know how to get **support from the co-op or manufacturer** with the items you're purchasing if you have difficulty using them?
- Look for **local support** in cloth diapering from other parents who can fill in the gap for missing care labeling and give advice on their experience with new, experimental fabrics and diapers.

"Co ops have really helped me in learning to cloth diaper. I am so grateful for the two I have joined, the community is wonderful." – RDA Cloth Diaper Co-op Survey respondent, 9/13

**Looking for inexpensive, reusable cloth diapers?**

**<http://realdiaperassociation.org/budgetdiapering>**



[www.realdiaperassociation.org](http://www.realdiaperassociation.org)

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