

How much real nappies cost

I have used the latest data from the updated lifecycle assessment study for disposable and reusable nappies.

Washing costs

Cost of electricity used per load:

| | Stock average | Cost | A+ rated machine | Cost |
|------|---------------|------|------------------|------|
| 40°C | 0.74 | 10p | 0.60 | 8p |
| 60°C | 1.04 | 14p | 1.00 | 13p |

Average cost of electricity per kWh is 13p.

Cost of washing powder:

A 3.6kg pack of shops own brand non bio powder costs £4.25 and states that it will wash 45 loads. This equates to 9p per wash.

Amount of washes needed:

To use real nappies full time and to wash them on their own as a separate nappy wash you will be doing an extra 3 loads a week. Times this by 2.5 years (the average time a child will be in nappies) and it equates to 390 washes.

Tumble drying (condensing, rather than vented, which is the higher usage):

I have taken an average kWh rating of A to D bands, this works out at 2.3kWh per load.

Using the same cost of electricity this costs 30p per load.

The report estimated that on average 26.6% of all washing cycles are followed by a drying cycle, I have used a percentage of 30%. Using the total washing loads of 390 over 2.5 years I have worked out that 30% equates to 117 loads of drying.

If you used a stock average washing machine and dryer, washed at 60°C, used a tumble dryer as many times as the national average and used a shop branded washing powder, the total cost of washing real nappies would be **£124.80** over 2.5 years, just an extra **96p** a week.

I have not included depreciation of the washing machine as WEN did as people have a washing machine before they have a baby so I feel it's not appropriate. I also have not included the cost of water rates as most people are not on a meter.

Total cost of using real nappies

Terry square nappy pack – Mothercare £48.96, total cost of £173.76, or £1.34 a week.

Flat pre-fold nappies – Junior Joy £175.00, total cost of £299.80 or £2.31 a week.

Shaped – Bamboozles nippa £232.00, total cost of £356.80 or £2.75 a week.

Pocket – Wonderoos £230, total cost of £354.80 or £2.73 a week.

All in One – MotherEase using small & medium only £479.60, total cost of £604.40 or £4.65 a week.

Huggies £700 total or weekly cost of £5.38

Pampers £750 total or weekly cost of £5.77

Shops Own £525 total or weekly cost of £4.04