

## Eco-Hip Gear for School

The average American family spends more than \$500 on back-to-school supplies for kids, including a slew of items that are replaced from year to year. Why not make a serious effort this year to reduce the impact your back-to-school shopping has on the environment?

Several companies offer recycled school gear with kid-appeal. From backpacks to pencils, here are some products worth checking out:

- **Bags, pencil cases and folders from recycled drink pouches** – The New Jersey firm **TerraCycle Inc.** recycles aluminum and polyethylene drink pouches from Capri Sun and Kool-Aid into pencil cases, lunch bags, tote bags and homework folders (ranging in price from \$1.99 to about \$10). While not ready for store shelves yet, a kid-friendly backpack made from drink pouches is in the works (expected to retail for \$12.99). The company also offers a recycled cardboard Eco Binder, for holding notebook and classroom papers. Visit [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net) for ordering information or to locate a store.



**TerraCycle's pencil case is made from recycled drink pouches.**

- **Organic hemp bags and backpacks** – Only water and mechanical combing (no chemicals or pesticides) are used in **Rawganique's** certified organic hemp clothing, linens, bags and backpacks. There are five styles of backpacks, available in seven colors, ranging in price from \$30 for a mini pack to \$85 for a deluxe pack that includes several compartments. Order at [www.rawganique.com](http://www.rawganique.com).

- **Recycled pens** – Earth Write pencils from **PaperMate** are made from recycled newspaper. They're available for about \$2 per dozen through numerous Web sites, including [www.officeworld.com](http://www.officeworld.com) and [www.greenofficestore.com](http://www.greenofficestore.com).

– Deirdre Wilson



## Infant Emergencies: Are You Prepared?

Most of us spend plenty of money on products that will help keep our babies safe, but how much time do we spend preparing for serious emergencies? September is **Baby Safety Month** – a good time to take stock of what we do and don't know about caring for an infant in an emergency.

### Your Baby & You

When Nicholas Hermann was 16 months old, he choked on some food, and his mom, Tara Summers Hermann, had to act quickly to clear his airway. Luckily, Tara is a registered nurse and her husband, Luke, is an emergency room physician. She knew what to do. But she worried about what her babysitter, or even her parents, would have done if they'd been caring for Nicholas.

To ease that worry for all parents, the Hermanns created an easy-to-use guide to basic emergency first aid called **baby MEDBASICS®**. It's a durable "board book" with spiral-bound pages and color tabs that allow you to quickly access information on CPR, choking, fevers, bleeding, burns and poison emergencies involving babies. While the guide is designed to be easily accessible (with either a strap or hook for hanging it on a doorknob or stroller) it's a good idea to spend time reading the book *before* an emergency occurs so that you're well-versed in what to do.

The home pack version (\$39.50) comes in a sturdy nylon folding pack with a hanging strap. The travel version (\$29.50) comes in the same folding pack, with a plastic break-away clip for attaching it to a stroller or diaper bag.

The guide includes basic emergency care and prevention tips, illustrations and a page for your emergency contact information. The home pack also features an emergency preparation checklist and an inside pocket to store your child's important health documents.

You can order Baby MEDBASICS at [www.babymedbasics.com](http://www.babymedbasics.com) or by calling 917-353-1932.

– Deirdre Wilson