

Back to School ECO Supplies

With summer half way over, it's nearly that time to start thinking about getting ready to go back to school. Besides new clothes, most of the back to school mayhem revolves around school supplies. Ah, the scent of pencils a.k.a. freshly cut down trees, PVC plastic pencil boxes, and petroleum based crayons. Can you smell it now?

With more unhealthy choices than ever, let us shed light on some super healthy, eco-friendly alternatives that come together to make a healthier you, a healthier Earth and healthier air to breath. Whether you're buying for yourself or a child in your life, look at these companies to provide you some well needed solace in the crazy world of school supplies.

Rating Key:

super big thumbs up
the best

big thumbs up
still great, but could be a tad better

thumbs up
a good alternative, better than the standard

Backpack

Instinctive

100% recycled 600 D polyester

Rating: Although it's a 'poly' and generally we should try to move away from plastic, it gets a **thumbs up** because it is 100% recycled.

www.instinctivebags.com

3 Ring Binders

Naked Binder

100% recycled and recyclable, 100% post-consumer waste, FSC certified, made in USA

Rating: A **super big thumbs up** for being made from 100% post consumer waste and easily 100% recyclable, as well as the company's environmental and community commitment.

www.nakedbinder.com

Lined Notebook Paper

GreenLine Paper Company

100% recycled, 100% post-consumer waste

Rating: A **super big thumbs up** for this post-consumer recycled paper that can obviously be recycled after use.

www.greenlinepaper.com

Spiral Notebook

Enviro-Notes

100% recycled, 30% post-consumer waste, made in the USA

Rating: These 5 subject notebooks get a **big thumbs up** for being recycled and made in the USA.

www.allgreenthings.com



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Folders

Naked Binder

100% recycled and recyclable, 97% post-consumer waste, FSC certified, made in USA
Rating: With a **super big thumbs up**, Naked Binder wins again-- eco-friendly folders that are easily customizable with a creative thought and the perfect pen, crayon or marker.
www.nakedbinder.com

Computer Paper

Mohawk Fine Papers

100% post-consumer waste, 100% recycled, Green Seal certified, Green-e Certified
Rating: A **super big thumbs up** for the certifications and recycled content of the copy paper, as well for the company's environmental commitment.
www.thegreenoffice.com

Tab Dividers

Naked Binder

30-100% post consumer waste, recycled and recyclable, FSC certified, made in the USA
Rating: Another **super big thumbs up** for making non-plastic tab dividers.
www.nakedbinder.com

Pencil Zip-up Organizer

Sewing solution—if you don't sew, find someone who does and give him or her some old fabric from clothes once worn and buy a new zipper to create a one of a kind pencil case.

Pencils

O'Bon

Made from recycled newspaper

Rating: These pencils are made from recycled newspapers to preserve our forests and get a **super big thumbs up** for sustainability. Get recycled colored pencils here too!
www.myobon.com

Pencil Box

Simple solution- find any old box or new box made from eco-friendly or recycled materials to use as your pencil box. There doesn't seem to be a good solution on the market for eco-friendly or recycled pencil boxes.

Pen

Ecotopia

Made of 100% recycled paper, recyclable

Rating: A **big thumbs up** is given to these pens because of their recycled body and low cost compared to other recycled pens.
www.ecosh.net



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Dry Erase Markers

AusPen

100% Recycled, non-toxic, refillable, and recyclable

Rating: These markers get a **super big thumbs up** for being recycled, non-toxic and reusable.

The company is all about keeping toxic waste out of landfills and classrooms.

www.ecosmartworld.com

Crayons

Stockmar Wax Crayons

Made from Beeswax, non-toxic

Rating: Although little pricy, these crayons get a **big thumbs up** for being non-toxic, non petroleum based and made by a company focused on the health of humans and the environment.

www.brightgreenideas.com

Markers

Clementine Art

All natural, non-toxic, 100% post-consumer packaging, chemical and dye free

Rating: A **super big thumbs up** for these natural markers. There don't seem to be any others that even compare. There are only 4 colors, however, which is the only downfall. Make more colors, please!

www.sevenplanet.com

Scissors

Kid's Kleenearth Scissors

Made from 30% post-consumer waste

Rating: These children's scissors get a **thumbs up** for being made from post-consumer waste and for being better than the standard.

www.thegreenoffice.com

Erasers

Ecotopia

PVC free, phthalate free

Rating: A **thumbs up** for this PVC and phthalate free eraser that is healthier than many traditional erasers on the market.

www.ecosh.net

Glue Sticks

Coccolina

Solvents and petroleum free, non-toxic

Rating: A **thumbs up** for this glue stick that is petroleum free unlike many of its counterparts.

www.theultimategreenstore.com



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Wet Wipes

Seventh Generation

Chlorine, fragrance, dye and alcohol free, masking agents free

Rating: A **big thumbs up** for the wipes that were whitened without chemicals and made from plant-derived ingredients.

www.seventhgeneration.com

Cereal Box

A pretty obvious one-- grab your favorite natural, perhaps organic, cereal, eat it up and take the box to school.

Recloseable Sandwich Bags

Natural Value

No PVC's and no plasticizers, carton is 100% recycled

Rating: Although you should try using "reusable" cloth bags, many schools require these plastic baggies. A **thumbs up** is given for their PVC freeness and recycled carton.

www.livecofriendly.com

Self-Stick Notes

Redi-Tag

100% recycled, 80% post-consumer waste

Rating: These notes are just as good as the standard, only environmentally friendly. They get a **super big thumbs up!**

www.thegreenoffice.com

Disinfecting Wipes

Seventh Generation

96% post-consumer resin bottles, natural ingredients

Rating: These natural disinfecting wipes are free of nasty chemicals and get a **big thumbs up** for their sustainable company philosophy.

www.seventhgeneration.com

*find it online or at a local store

Tissues

Recycled Tissues

100% recycled, 30% post-consumer waste

Rating: Soft and hypoallergenic are these recycled facial tissues which gets them a **thumbs up** for their sustainable fibers.

www.mossenvy.com

Lunchbox

Kids Konserve

100% recycled plastic bottles/petspun, BPA and lead-free insulation

Rating: A **thumbs up** for the eco-friendly lunch sack made from 8 recycled plastic bottles.

www.kidskonserve.com

