



Safer School Supply SOLUTIONS

As a team comprised of mostly mothers, we know that there just isn't enough time in the day to research nontoxic products. To help you shop back-to-school safety and easily, we've put together our favorite tips for choosing safer school supplies.

Here's a round-up of some of our favorite safer-swap-school-supply-solutions!

Many of the products mentioned are available on [AmazonSmile](#) so your purchase can benefit MADE SAFE, a program of Nontoxic Certified.

The Problem:

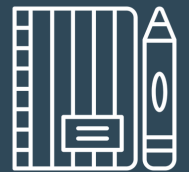
School supplies are known to contain toxic substances. These can include things like phthalates (developmental toxicity), triclosan (endocrine disruption), PVC (pollution and toxicity), BPA (endocrine disruption), and more.



Backpacks

Backpacks need to be sourced from natural materials like canvas, denim, hemp or cotton to avoid the worst chemicals. These are carried widely. As a general rule, avoid shiny, sparkly or strong-smelling backpacks as they're likely off-gassing chemicals straight from the manufacturer.

Classroom Tools



Your search for notebooks, pens, pencils, colored pencils, erasers, and more should lead you to [Wisdom Supply Co.](#) They have a collection of school supplies that won't pollute your body or the earth.

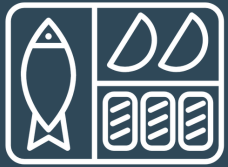
To learn more, [listen to an interview](#) with MADE SAFE Founder Amy Ziff, or [read our blog](#) on toxic substances in school supplies.



Water Bottles

Water bottles should use zero plastic. Look for [stainless steel options](#) such as MADE SAFE Certified [Pura bottles](#), or a glass solution, potentially in a silicone sleeve to survive trips with kids!

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Lunch Packs, Bags and Boxes

For lunch packs, look for stainless steel

bento box style or stainless containers like these from [Lunch Bots](#) - you'll invest in these once and use them for years. Even when dropped and dinged, they still work great and are lightweight and durable. [U-Konserve](#) is another brand we recommend.



Say no to PVC lunch bags and vinyl lined lunch boxes.

Quick tip: avoid #3 plastics. Opt instead for natural, reusable, fun and cute lunch bags, snack bags, backpacks and totes from [Fluf](#).



Sandwich & Snack Bags

Instead of plastic sandwich and snack bags that can contain and leach phthalates, try a [reusable wrap](#) made from bee's wax like [Abeego](#).

Waterproof Gear



For waterproof gear - be very careful to source only natural rubber or you're likely using something toxic for you or the planet. These [Stonz rainboots](#) are a good solution. The next best choice is polyurethane gear, like those from [Puddle Gear](#), but polyurethane is really hard on the environment so while better than PVC, it's not an ideal solution. We have to recognize however, that sometimes better is the best choice.



Hand Soaps

For hand soaps that are free of endocrine active antimicrobial and antibacterial ingredients, shop a variety of [MADE SAFE certified solutions](#).



Hand Sanitizer

Need a [hand sanitizer](#) without the hormone-disrupting chemicals? Opt for [Kosmotology's natural spray](#). It's MADE SAFE certified and easy when soap & water aren't accessible.



Wipes

Kids often need to take [wipes](#) to school. Be sure you're getting wipes that aren't made from plastic! We like these handy [MADE SAFE certified wipes](#) by [Caboo](#).