

With all the supplies we need and our ever growing desire to look after the planet, it can be difficult to wade through all the babble to find the products that work. To help you sift through what's out there, here is a quick review of five staples for every kid returning to school.

### [MEC Bookbag Daypack](#)

According to the reviews on the MEC website, there are kids who have been using the same backpack for six years. That is not only value for your money but is also good for the environment since you won't have to replace it anytime soon. Although this bag was made in Vietnam, MEC is known for its fair labour practices and it spot checks the manufacturers. My favourite design detail is the laptop holster which is raised, so when the backpack is tossed to the ground the laptop doesn't get bounced off the concrete.

### [Eco-jot Notebooks](#)

These are beaut



iful notebooks made from 100% post consumer waste which makes them the friendliest tree paper notebooks around. They are designed and made in Canada. So if you have to write it down, try eco-jot. I keep a small eco-jot notepad in my purse for those times when I just can't find a scrap of paper to write on.



### [Frogfile's Better Binder](#)

This binder is made from 100% post-consumer recycled chipboard. It comes in a variety of sizes starting at 1/2 inch. We haven't bought this product yet, but I think the kids will have fun decorating it. In the future, Frogfile intends to sell binder sleeves so if the metal insert is still good, you should be able to buy a new binder sleeve. Love that idea!

### [Juice Pouch Pencil Cases](#)

If you have been feeling guilty about all those juice boxes you send with lunch and would like to appease that guilt, then think about purchasing a pencil case made out of non-recyclable juice boxes. I can't imagine the juice company thinks twice about having their product becoming adverts toted around by elementary school students. Better than the landfill.

### [Zebra-eco writing instruments](#)

These pens and pencils are made with no less than 70% post-consumer recycled content with 100% post-consumer packaging. The website will let you know the content of recycled materials in each product.

If you have come across other great finds, leave a comment and let us know about them.

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