

# Why no bulk laundry and dish liquids?

We know a lot of folks are looking to reduce their plastic consumption, and buying in bulk is often a great way to do just that—you can reuse your containers and buy as much as you need. However, several years ago, we made the decision to stop carrying cleaning liquids in bulk.

**Why?** Well, it's a long story. There is, sadly, **no net plastic reduction** in purchasing cleaning liquids in bulk. Liquids come in thick, plastic, gallon jugs, which we would pour into a bigger container. Product loss was high, as it was usually impossible to get all the liquid out of the container into the bulk bin. This, paired with the fact that 50% of folks are probably going to need to purchase a new plastic container in which to put their bulk liquid, made the plastic reduction null. In fact, we ran some tests where we weighed the gallon jug and compared it to the possible savings of having people reuse their containers, and the gallon jugs (that we would just have to toss in the recycling bin) actually used more plastic (because they are thicker).

**In short, as a business, we think it is important not to invisibilize the actual environmental impacts we have on the planet as consumers.**

But there is hope! If you want to make the best choice to reduce your plastic consumption for laundry and dish washing, your best options are:

- Purchase full gallon jugs! Brands like Dr. Bronner's and Oasis are highly concentrated and last a long, long time.
- Purchase the Biokleen or 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Laundry Soaps that come in sensible cardboard containers. They use a minimal plastic liner on the inside, which can be separated from the cardboard shell after use and discarded.
- Switch to powdered laundry detergent. With liquid detergent, you are basically buying reconstituted powdered soap which has had the water added back in. Liquid soaps also require more fuel energy in their transport.

**We want to support our customers (and ourselves!) to make the best, most environmentally sustainable choices available.** That is why, a few years back, we chose to stop hiding the plastic waste that comes with buying bulk laundry and dish soap in bulk, and instead offer our customers more gallon and powdered options. We remain committed to looking for new brands that package their products in more sustainable ways—sadly, for this particular department, brands are still way too dependent on plastic. We hope more companies will switch to plastic-minimizing alternatives, and we will carry them when they do!

*Love, OA Sundries Department*

*December 2019*