

Washer & Dryer Tips

Increasing efficiency in the laundry room is also good for the environment because you'll save water and help combat climate change.

1. **Wash in cold water.** Or at least choose warm wash/cold rinse. Usually, about 90 percent of energy used for washing laundry goes toward heating water.
2. **Wash full loads only** (but don't overload). If you have less than a full load, adjust the water level setting.
3. **Try presoaking.** You can get clothes cleaner and save energy with 15 minutes of presoaking and five minutes of agitation rather than 15 minutes of agitation.
4. **Remove lint for efficiency AND fire safety.** Get in the habit of checking the lint filter on your dryer after every load. Also, vacuum the exhaust duct and the exterior dryer vent a couple of times a year. Lint build-up blocks airflow and lengthens drying times.
5. **Avoid over drying.** It wastes energy and it's harder on your clothing. Remove clothes from the dryer promptly and fold or hang up to prevent wrinkling.
6. **Don't overstuff the dryer.** It will take longer to dry your load if the dryer is tightly packed.
7. **Line dry laundry outside when possible.**

What ENERGY STAR® washers do

Premium-efficiency ENERGY STAR qualified washers come in front-load or top load styles. Both:

- Cut water and energy use by more than 40 percent compared to conventional models.
- Spin clothes faster, removing more moisture, reducing drying time — saving even more energy costs.

Front-load machines generally require a little more cleaning and maintenance than top-loading models. Cleaning "tablets" that you can drop in the machine make it easier. Be sure to read and follow the washing machine owner's manual for maximum savings and performance, and always use laundry detergents labeled "HE" (high-efficiency).