

Energy Saving Tips

Laundry

There are two ways to reduce the amount of energy used for washing clothes—**use less water and use cooler water.**

CLOTHES WASHERS

- **Wash and dry full loads.** Washing full loads can save you more than 3,400 gallons of water each year. If you are washing a small load, use the appropriate water-level setting.
- **Do not overload the washer.** Your clothes may not get fully clean and may need to be washed again.
- **Wash your clothes in cold water.** Hot water heating accounts for about 90 percent of the energy your machine uses to wash clothes — only 10 percent goes to electricity used by the washer motor. Depending on the clothes and local water quality (hardness), most laundry can be washed exclusively with cold water, using cold water laundry detergents.

DRYERS

- **Don't over dry clothes.** Besides using more energy than is needed, over drying is hard on fabrics. If your machine has a moisture sensor, use it.
- **Dry towels and heavier cottons in a separate load** from lighter-weight clothes.
- **Clean the dryer's lint filter** after every load to improve air circulation and prevent fire hazards.
- **Inspect your dryer vent.** Remember to inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material -- not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.
- **Use the cool-down cycle** to allow the clothes to finish drying with the heat remaining in the dryer.
- **Consider air-drying clothes** on clothes lines or drying racks. Air drying is recommended by clothing manufacturers for some fabrics.

