



## LOW-ENERGY LAUNDRY JUNE ENERGY ACTION SHEET

This month's projected annual savings: up to \$176; 4.6% of energy use

**This month, reduce the energy and cost of doing laundry by more than half with these simple actions:**

- Set the wash and rinse cycles of your washer to cold instead of hot. **This cuts the energy your washer uses by over 90%.** The clothes get just as clean and they fade less quickly.
- Line-dry. **This alone can erase about 12% of your total electricity use – and the clothes last longer.** Hanging clothes outside quickly becomes a habit – and the time outside, a treat!
- If you own a washer, commit to replacing it with a front-loader or an energy-efficient (EnergyStar) top-loader when it stops working. **Compared to an old-style washer, [front-loaders](#) use 30 to 85% less energy and, over 10 years, save about \$600.** And, the clothes get cleaner and drier, which reduces drier or clothesline time.

Energy Use Based on Water Temperature

Wash/Rinse Setting	Electrical Use per Load	Cost per load
Hot / Warm	4.5 kWh	\$.54
Warm / Warm	3.5 kWh	\$.42
Hot / Cold	2.8 kWh	\$.34
Warm / Cold	1.9 kWh	\$.23
Cold / Cold	0.3 kWh	\$.04

**Assumes:** \$.12 / kWh, water heated electrically, top-loader.

Source: [michaelbluejay.com/electricity/laundry.html](http://michaelbluejay.com/electricity/laundry.html)



References are available upon request from [CreationCarePartners@gmail.com](mailto:CreationCarePartners@gmail.com). This info sheet employs the Task of the Month concept developed by Dr. Stephanie Kimball for Earth Care, an affiliate of Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light.

## HOW TO DO IT: HANG DRYING TIPS

- Until you get the hang of it, start by doing this once a week.
- Lighten your load – only wash clothes that are dirty!
- [Foldable drying racks](#) or this [over-the-door rack](#) can be a good fit for apartments.
- Check the weather forecast to decide when to wash.
- Lights take longer to dry than darks. Hang them where they'll get the most sun & air.
- To prevent fading and keep their shape, hang clothes inside out from their seams.
- Because more air flow = quicker drying:
  - pin items in a single layer, not folded over and,
  - if you can, use a line instead of a [rack](#) or "[umbrella](#)". See how to install a line [here](#).
- Clothes dry even in the winter cold. Or hang them inside – they'll humidify your home.

### HOW TO DO IT: WASHER TYPES COMPARED



	Front-loader	Energy Efficient Top Loader	Old-Style Top Loader (agitator in the center)
<b>Energy use</b>	Least. Less than half of old-style.	Less than old-style	The most.
<b>Water use</b>	Typically uses the least	Typically more than front-loader	About 2x as much as others.
<b>Total cost – 6 years <sup>1</sup></b>	\$1300. (Price: \$720. Running cost: \$560.)	\$1400. (Price \$700. Running cost: \$680.)	\$1800. (Price: \$580. Running cost: \$1180)
<b>Results</b>	Cleanliness: very good to excellent Treatment of clothes: gentlest Driest: requires the least dry time	Cleanliness: very good Treatment of clothes: not gentle Drier: requires less dry time	Cleanliness: good Treatment of clothes: rough Wet: requires long dry time
<b>Cycle</b>	75 to 105 minutes	60 to 80 minutes	35 to 65 minutes
<b>Other</b>	To avoid mold, must dry seal & leave door open between loads.	Laundry can tangle.	Most are noisy.

<sup>1</sup> Price: least costly 4.5 cu ft washers at Lowes on 10-8-21. Annual running cost: includes electricity and water for washer and drier. Assumes cold water wash & rinse, \$.10/kWh. \$8.4/1000 gallons water, 392 loads a year,

Estimated Annual Savings	Energy Footprint	Financial
Wash clothes in cold water	2.2%	\$46
Air dry your clothes	2.4%	\$130
Replace your old washer with a front-loader.	1.1%	\$40
Assumptions: 3-person household, \$0.12/kWh electricity, water heater and dryer are electric.		



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