

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS



## ***Green Tip: Laundry Tips for Maximum Energy Savings***

There are a number of easy ways to save energy when doing laundry. Follow these suggestions to keep energy use to a minimum:

\*Use lower temperature settings. Use warm or cold water for the wash cycle instead of hot. By presoaking heavily soiled clothes, a cooler wash temperature will clean the clothes properly. The temperature of the rinse water does not affect cleaning, so always set the washing machine on cold water rinse.

\*Turn down the thermostat on your water heater. A setting of 120 F is adequate for most home needs. By reducing your hot water temperature, you will save energy with either hot or warm wash cycles.

\*Load the washing machine to capacity when possible. Check your machine's load capacity in pounds, then weigh out a few loads of laundry to get a sense of how much laundry 10 or 18 to 20 pounds represents. Washing one large load will take less energy than washing two loads on a low or medium setting.

\*If washing lightly soiled clothes, use the suds-saving feature if it's available on your washing machine. This saves the wash water to be reused in the next load. Only use this feature, though, if the second load is to be washed right away.

\*Reduce the manufacturer's recommendation for detergent by  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$ . Most manufacturers recommend more detergent than needed.

\*When using a clothes dryer, separate your clothes and dry similar types of clothes together. Lightweight synthetics, for example, dry much more quickly than bath towels and natural fiber clothes. If your dryer has a setting for auto-dry, be sure to use it instead of the timer to avoid wasting energy.

\* Don't add wet items to a load that is already partially dried.

\*Dry two or more loads in a row, taking advantage of the heat still in the dryer from the first load.

\*Clean the dryer filter after each use. A clogged filter will restrict flow and reduce dryer performance.

\*Check the outside dryer exhaust vent. Make sure it is clean and that the flapper on the outside hood opens and closes freely.

\*In good weather, consider placing clothes outside on a clothes line and using free solar energy to do the drying!

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