



## Wash, rinse, spin, save

### *Do laundry for le\$\$*

**I**s your money going down the drain each time you do laundry? The following tips will help you get your whites whiter and your brights brighter using less electricity:

#### **Washing**

**\$** Use lower temperature settings. Unless you're trying to remove greasy stains, wash in warm or cold water instead of hot, and rinse only in cold. Experiment with various laundry detergents to find one that works well with cooler water. Pre-soak heavily soiled clothes.

**\$** Turn down the thermostat on your water heater. A setting of 120°F is adequate for most home needs.

**\$** Load the washer to capacity when possible, but don't overload. Check your machine's load capacity. You might even want to weigh out a few loads of laundry to get an idea how much laundry ten or 18 or 20 pounds represents. Washing one large load will use less energy than washing two loads on a low or medium setting. But when you don't have a full load to wash, match the water level to the size of the load.

#### **Drying**

**\$** Separate laundry and dry similar types of fabric together. Lightweight synthetics, for example, dry much more quickly than bath towels or cotton clothes.

**\$** Remove clothes from the dryer while they're still slightly damp to reduce the need for ironing – another big energy user. Overdrying not only wastes energy, but causes shrinkage, generates static electricity and shortens fabric life.

**\$** Dry two or more loads in a row to take advantage of the heat still in the dryer from the previous load.

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

**\$** Empty the dryer filter after each use; a clogged filter restricts air flow and reduces dryer performance.

**\$** Dry full loads, when possible, without overfilling the dryer. Drying a few items at a time wastes energy, but overloading causes clothes to dry unevenly and wrinkle. Air should be able to circulate freely around the drying clothes. If your washer and dryer are properly matched, a full washer load will be about the right amount for the dryer, as well.

**July 2000**  
**CLF**



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 In good weather, take advantage of free solar energy by hanging clothes outside to dry.



**One voice, countless opportunities**  
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