Saving Energy in the Laundry Room

About 90% of the energy used for washing clothes is for heating the water.

WASHERS -

- Washing a load of clothes uses about 30 gallons of water. Sort clothes and schedule laundry so you can wash only full loads. It takes almost as much electricity to run a small load as it does a full one.
- Wash clothes in cold water whenever possible. Not only does it save on water heating costs, it keeps your home cooler.
- Select the correct water level for each load. Don't use too much detergent. Over suds make your washer work harder and may require a second wash to remove the excess soap. Avoid a second wash by using a presoak product on heavily soiled fabrics.
- Wash clothing using cold water cycles whenever possible.

DRYERS -

- Dry your clothes outside on a clothesline or inside on a rack instead of putting them in the dryer, this could save your family almost $40 annually.
- Separate heavier clothes (towels, heavy cottons) from the lightweight fabrics (synthetics) for more efficient drying.
- Dry only full loads in your dryer but don't overload. It causes excessive wrinkling.
- Avoid over drying. This wastes energy and harms fabrics as well.
- Dry two or more loads in a row.
- Use automatic dryer settings, which save energy when compared to a timed cycle.
- Remove clothes from the dryer as soon as it stops, before wrinkles have time to set. Clothes you promptly fold or place on hangers require little or no ironing so you can save electricity as well as your own energy.
- Don't add wet clothes during the drying cycle.
- Clean the lint filter after each use and you can maximize airflow and efficiency.
- Keep dryer vents free of lint. A clogged vent wastes energy.
- Select the proper setting and time for the type and size load.

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