



Arizona Department of Water Resources *Conserving Water Today For Arizona's Tomorrow*

Tips & Technologies to Save Water & Energy at Coin-Operated & Commercial Laundry Facilities



Hospitals, resorts and hotels are examples of places that either have their own laundry facilities or use independent commercial laundry operations. Laundry facilities with **conventional washer-extractors** typically use around 1.3 to 3.5 gallons per pound of dry cloth; the equivalent of 520 to 14,000 gallons per load for a normal 400 pound load of dry cloth. These facilities use water and energy not only for wash and rinse cycles, but also for steam-press equipment, reclamation of dry clean solvents, and back flushing filters. With so many water and energy intensive processes, it is important to save water wherever and whenever possible.



ENERGY STAR

Tips and Technologies to Conserve Water and Energy

For More Water Conservation Information:

www.azwater.gov/conservation

Statewide Conservation Office
(602) 771-8534

Phoenix AMA
(602) 771-8585

Pinal AMA
(520) 836-4857

Prescott AMA
(928) 778-7202

Santa Cruz AMA
(520) 761-1814

Tucson AMA
(520) 770-3800

Tip 1

Choose **ENERGY STAR** qualified commercial washers for your laundry facilities. This will **save you a significant amount of money** over the length of your contract and provide your customers with the best laundry performance possible.

By choosing ENERGY STAR qualified washers, you could trim about \$1,200 per washer from your utility bills over ten years.

For more model information and current ENERGY STAR qualification standards, please visit www.energystar.gov

Tip 2

For large-volume commercial facilities, use high efficiency, **continuous-batch (or tunnel) washers**. These washers can be programmed to use a specific amount of water, depending on how soiled the laundry is.

(Water Savings: 60 % - 70%)



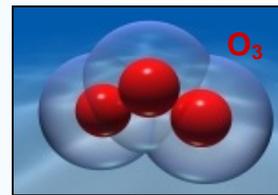
A continuous-batch washer

Always try to select equipment that is **easily programmable** and will use only as much water as is required for the degree of soiling of the item being washed. **(Water Savings: 20% - 40%)**

Tip 4

Use **ozone systems** to minimize water use for large commercial operations. Ozone is one of the most effective disinfectants, even better than chlorine.

- Ozone can sanitize laundry in cold water, saving energy.
- Washer and dryer times are shortened by expanding the fiber of linens, which allows for better airflow through the linens during drying.
- Fewer chemicals are needed to sanitize loads, which reduces the number of necessary rinse cycles.
(Water Savings: 20% - 35%; Energy Savings: 75-95%)



Ozone molecule



Water Recycling System

Tip 5

Install **high-recovery water recycling equipment**. (Water Savings: 70% - 95%)

Coin Laundry Facility Practices

Tip 1

Select **ENERGY STAR** qualified commercial clothes washers. In addition to conserving energy they provide the following benefits to residents:

Wash More Laundry Per Load. ENERGY STAR qualified commercial washers have more capacity than conventional top-load models with an agitator. Some front-loaders can wash more than 20 pounds of laundry at once, compared to 10 to 15 pounds for a standard top-loader. This means residents can do fewer loads and avoid having to bring larger items to the laundromat.

Enjoy Clothes Longer. Most ENERGY STAR qualified commercial washers are designed without an agitator, which results in a gentler wash than conventional top-loading washers that do have them.

Enjoy More Convenience. Some ENERGY STAR qualified commercial washers include web-linking technologies with notification abilities. These allow your residents to know exactly when a washer is available as well as the precise moment to move clothes from the washer to the dryer.
(Water Savings: about 40%)



Tip 2

Identify water saving machines and **post signs** urging customers to only do full loads of laundry, select the correct water level for their load, and turn off the extra rinse cycle, if applicable.

For **multi-family housing** with laundry facilities, use coin-operated machines in **one or two central locations**. This will result in **lower overall water use** than having a washing machine in every apartment, because people will be more likely to wash full loads when using a facility.

Look for the EPA WaterSense Label!

A WaterSense label means that products have been tested and certified to be at least 20 percent more water-efficient products, services, and practices. See: www.epa.gov/watersense/

This fact sheet has been developed by the Arizona Department of Water Resources' Statewide Water Conservation Program in an effort to strengthen the culture of conservation throughout Arizona.

October 2008; revised January 2009.