



# Arizona Department of Water Resources

*Protecting Arizona's Water supplies For Its Next Century*

## Clothes Washers: Residential Water & Energy Saving Tips and Technologies

**Washing laundry accounts for about 25% of indoor water use in an average home.** Conventional, top loading home washing machines use 39 to 43 gallons per load for the wash and rinse cycle combined! Using high efficiency alternatives, along with water-saving practices can reduce water use by half!

### Tips for conserving water and energy:

#### Tip 1

When purchasing a new washing machine or other appliance, look for the U.S. EPA [WaterSense](#) and [Energy Star Labels](#). Qualified washing machines come in either front-loading or redesigned top-loading models. Both models include technical innovations that help save substantial amounts of water and energy. Over their typical eleven-year life, these washers can save up to 7,000 gallons of water per year. That's enough water to fill three backyard swimming pools!



WaterSense & Energy Star labels, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency identify and promote water & energy efficient products.



#### Top-loading WaterSense and ENERGY STAR models

look like conventional machines from the outside, but have no central agitator and do not fill the tub with water. These machines use sophisticated wash systems to flip or spin the laundry through a reduced stream of water.

Many also have sensors to monitor incoming water temperature closely. They also rinse laundry with repeated high-pressure spraying instead of soaking them in a full tub of water.



**Front-loading WaterSense and Energy Star models** use a horizontal or tumble-axis basket to lift and drop laundry into the water instead of filling the entire tub with water and using a central agitator. Because they have no agitator, they are gentler on clothes, use less detergent, and clean better since rinse water isn't drained through the clothes.

Using approximately **30 - 50% less water**, these washers result in fewer gallons being heated. They also have faster spin speeds to extract more water from the laundry, saving dryer time and using approximately 60% less energy.

**Note:** Some but not all of water/energy-saving models require low-suds detergent. Ask a sales representative for recommendations.



### **Tip 2**

Select a washing machine with a volume under **4.0 cubic feet** that uses **less than 6.5 gallons** of water per cubic foot. You could reduce your water use by 30 to 50%.

### **Tip 3**

**Operate the washer only when the load is full.** If you must wash less than a full load, make sure to select the correct water level for each individual load.

### **Tip 4**

To avoid costly energy charges, **wash laundry during "off-peak" hours using cold water** whenever possible. Check with your water and energy providers for area specific conservation measures, such as restricted water use on certain days.



For More Water  
Conservation  
Information:

[www.azwater.gov/  
conservation](http://www.azwater.gov/conservation)  
(602) 771-8585

To Learn more about **WaterSense**: [www.epa.gov/WaterSense](http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense)  
To Learn more about **ENERGY STAR**: [www.epa.gov/energystar](http://www.epa.gov/energystar)

See your local city's water department website for rebates.

*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.*