

**Prairielands Groundwater
Conservation District**

Laundry Room Lessons

**Saving Water, Energy, & Money
in the Laundry Room**



**PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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Clean Clothes & Water Conservation

Small changes can make a big impact in terms of overall water consumption — and that’s especially true in the laundry room. When it comes to the way you do regular laundry, taking a few simple measures can save significant water and energy.

So what are some of the best ways to conserve water in the laundry room? How can you take



steps to lower overall water usage in the way you clean linens and clothes? What small changes are the best to implement? To help answer these questions, here

is a look at some top tips for conserving water in your household laundry habits.

Re-use Towels

The towel you use to dry after a shower does not need to be laundered after each use, so hang it up and re-use it instead. Washing your household’s towels when they actually need to be washed is a much better use of water than daily loads.

Use Less Hot Water

Saving money in the laundry room has to start with hot water usage because turning cold water to hot water is the most energy-intensive part of the laundry process.

Use warm or cold water when possible, and you instantly save on water energy costs.

Run Full Loads

Rather than running many small loads of laundry, save



them to run larger, fuller loads instead. Every time the machine is used, you’re consuming water, so consolidating washes will be more efficient.

Use Size Cycles

When you need to run a small load for some reason, take advantage of the washer’s “small load” option/setting, which will use less water because it is washing fewer items.

Skip the Extra Rinse

Many washing machines have an option for an extra rinse cycle, so skip this step to save water. Use the right amount of soap in the first place, and you won’t need it anyway.

Insulate and Lower the Temperature on Your Water Heater

Your water heater will function most efficiently when it’s insulated, so be sure to insulate it well — especially if you have an older model. Likewise, turn down the water heater’s thermostat to 120 degrees instead of anything higher, which would be both unnecessary and costly.

Upgrade to an Efficient Washing Machine

When your existing machine breaks, opt for an efficient machine to replace it. An efficient washing machine can save as much as 7,000 gallons

per household per year!



There are both front-loading and top-loading machines now that use between 12 and 18 gallons per load of clothes.

Upgrade to an Energy-Efficient Water Heater

Likewise, when the time comes to replace your water heater, go with an efficient model. The cost savings of using an efficient water heater will make the purchase worthwhile, not to mention you may be eligible for government rebates for tankless and solar units.

Use the Proper Type and Amount of Detergent

Choose the detergent that works for with your machine. Today, many detergents are formulated for both regular and high-efficiency machines, but some brands offer separate product lines. Pick the wrong one, and you may end up with too many suds in your clothes.



Take the guesswork away—measure! Use the marks inside the cap for liquid detergents or those on the provided scoop of powdered varieties. If the measured marks are too difficult to see (especially the one's inside the cap), mark the outside with a piece of colored tape.

Too much trouble? Consider trying detergent pods to get the job done quickly and correctly each time.

Think about how much you're washing (and how dirty your clothes are). Your detergent's instructions ask if you're washing a "normal," "medium," or "large" load, but what do those words really mean?

If you're washing clothes with a lot of stains, use a little more detergent. Fill your cap to the next line. If you have hard water, you'll also need a little more detergent. Watch out for suds. Too many suds might shut down your high-efficiency machine, and can wear on the equipment over time.

Switching to cold-water washing may call for a change to a specially-formulated cold-water-detergent. Understand though that these detergents may not deliver their best performance if also used with warm water. Keep a detergent intended for warmer temperatures on hand for those times when a higher temperature wash water is required.

Doing laundry is a normal part of life, but wasting water doesn't have to be. Use these tips to begin saving water and energy as well as money in your home's laundry room today!

For more information or program speakers, please contact us at (817) 556-2299 or email karensiddall@prairielandsgcd.org.

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