



# Resource efficient clothes washers

## FACT SHEET



APARTMENT & CONDO EFFICIENCY SERVICES



ENERGY STAR PRODUCTS



HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR



WISCONSIN ENERGY STAR HOMES

For more information call 800.762.7077 or visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com)

An average family will use between 300 gallons and 400 gallons of water a week to wash their clothes. Most of the energy used for clothes washing is used for water heating so reducing water use makes clothes washers more resource efficient. Using resource efficient clothes washers helps conserve our natural resources and protect the environment. They can also save you money.

### ENERGY STAR® QUALIFIED CLOTHES WASHERS

ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers are resource efficient. They use half as much water and less energy than conventional washers. A conventional clothes washer uses 30 gallons to 40 gallons of water for one load of laundry, while ENERGY STAR qualified machines use between 18 gallons and 25 gallons per load. These clothes washer could save you over 6,000 gallons of water in one year.

ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers:

- Use 50 percent less energy than conventional washers.
- Save up to 25 gallons of water per load compared to a conventional machine.
- Spin your clothes drier, reducing dryer time and energy use.
- Use less detergent.
- Reduce strain on septic systems because they use less water.

An added benefit of ENERGY STAR qualified washers is less wear and tear on your clothes. Most ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers use techniques that are gentler on clothes, making them last longer. Conventional machines use agitation to push and pull garments through a tub of water. ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers lift and drop clothes into the water using a tumbling action much like a dryer.

ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers come in both top- and front-loading models. Many have sensors to monitor incoming water temperature, ensuring the right mix of hot and cold water for the temperature selected and further reducing the energy used for water heating. They also rinse clothes with repeated high-pressure spraying instead of soaking them in a full tub of water.

If you wash ten loads of laundry a week, you will save more than 100,000 gallons of water over the 15-year life of the washing machine.



ENERGY CENTER OF WISCONSIN

Front loading clothes washers use less hot water and have a larger capacity than conventional machines, making them an energy efficient choice.

If you have a gas water heater and wash ten loads of laundry a week, you will save more than \$600 over the 15-year life of the washing machine. If you have an electric water heater, your savings will be even greater—more than \$1,000.

### BUYING TIPS

You'll need to balance features and energy costs when you buy a new clothes washer.

**Buy ENERGY STAR:** Clothes washers marked with the ENERGY STAR label clean clothes using 50 percent less energy than conventional washers and are available in both top-loading and front-loading models. Front-loading ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers also have larger capacities because they do not have agitators.

ANNUAL WATER USE FOR ENERGY STAR AND CONVENTIONAL CLOTHES WASHERS*			
NUMBER OF LOADS PER WEEK	ENERGY STAR WASHER GAL/YEAR	CONVENTIONAL WASHER GAL/YEAR	ANNUAL WATER SAVINGS GAL
3	3,900	6,200	2,300
5	6,500	10,000	3,500
10	13,000	21,000	8,000

\*Water and sewer rates vary widely. Check with your water utility to determine your savings.

## ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS FOR ENERGY STAR AND CONVENTIONAL CLOTHES WASHERS

NUMBER OF LOADS PER WEEK	ENERGY STAR WASHER	CONVENTIONAL WASHER	ANNUAL SAVINGS
GAS WATER HEATERS			
3	\$10	\$24	\$14
5	\$17	\$40	\$23
10	\$35	\$80	\$45
15	\$52	\$120	\$68
ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS			
3	\$19	\$44	\$25
5	\$32	\$74	\$42
10	\$64	\$148	\$84
15	\$96	\$223	\$127



ENERGY STAR is a label that identifies energy efficient products, such as clothes washers, which meet guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. By choosing products that have earned the ENERGY STAR label, you can reduce energy use with no sacrifice in product features or quality.

**Choose resource saving features:** Clothes washers will have either multiple water-level settings or sensors that automatically determine water levels. Washers with auto sensors will use only as much water as needed for the size of the load. Look for multiple temperature settings for wash and rinse cycles, as well.

**Get the model that is right for you, but be knowledgeable about energy costs:** Clothes washers come in a range of sizes. A conventional top-loading machine with a smaller tub may use less energy and water per load than its larger counterpart, but may cost you more to operate because its smaller capacity requires you to use it more often.

#### OPERATING TIPS

Whichever type of clothes washer you use, follow these suggestions to reduce your energy use in the laundry room:

- Wash full loads. Clothes washers are more efficient when operated with full loads.
- Wash clothes in cold water whenever possible.
- Air dry clothes whenever possible.
- Set your water heater to 120° F.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com)

Contact Focus on Energy to learn more about smart energy choices.

[energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)

The ENERGY STAR site provides information on energy efficient products that meet ENERGY STAR standards.

[aceee.org/consumerguide/mostenef.htm](http://aceee.org/consumerguide/mostenef.htm)

The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy maintains a current list of top-rated energy efficient appliances.

Focus on Energy is a public-private partnership offering energy information and services to energy utility customers throughout Wisconsin. The goals of this program are to encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, enhance the environment, and ensure the future supply of energy for Wisconsin. For information about the Focus on Energy services and programs, call 800.762.7077 or visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).