

Troubleshoot to Save Water



If your washing machine is not maintained in top operating condition, you could be wasting water. Some common clothes washer problems can be fixed by do-it-yourselfers,

but others need the services of a licensed plumber or appliance repair technician. NOTE: Make sure you unplug the machine before attempting any repairs; in some cases, you will need to shut off the water supply as well.

DOES YOUR WASHING MACHINE LEAK?

You may need to tighten the water-inlet valves or hose connections. Check the hoses for cracks or kinks, too. Make sure the drain hose is inserted properly in the drain pipe or drain basin.

IS WATER LEAKING FROM THE PUMP?

If water leaks from the pump, tighten or replace the clamps. If water still leaks, replace the pump.

IS YOUR WASHING MACHINE SLOW TO FILL UP?

Check the hoses and the water-inlet valves. If the hoses have water in them, the water-inlet valve is probably defective and will need to be replaced.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Check your owner's manual to pinpoint specific trouble areas or call the manufacturer's toll-free customer service number. For additional information, visit manufacturers' websites for troubleshooting tips. Also visit sites such as www.doityourself.com, or use your favorite search engine to find other home improvement sites.



Saving Water Saves Money!



Every gallon of water you conserve will reduce your monthly water bill. Follow these tips to ensure that your clothes washer uses water as efficiently as possible.

- Wash full loads. A full load is the most water-efficient way to wash your clothes. (This is true even if your machine has an adjustable load setting.)
- If your clothes washer does have an adjustable load setting, select a smaller setting for a smaller load.
- When washing lightly soiled clothes, use the shortest wash cycle

In addition, some cities and towns in New Mexico offer rebates to homeowners who replace older water-using appliances (such as clothes washers and toilets) with new water-wise models. Call your local water utility to find out how you can qualify for rebates and receive more information about reducing water use in your home.

WATER USE AND CONSERVATION BUREAU
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A Waterwise Guide to Clothes Washers



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New Mexico Office of the State Engineer

Washing Machines Use a LOT of Water

In the typical home, washing clothes consumes more indoor water than anything except flushing the toilets. (If you've already converted your older toilets to more efficient low-flow models, then your clothes washer might be *numero uno* when it comes to indoor water use.) Because water use is a major concern here in the desert climates of New Mexico-and because washing clothes is such a water-intensive activity, it's important to make sure your clothes washer is as water-wise as possible.

NEXT-GENERATION WASHING MACHINES ARE STINGY WITH WATER

The typical older washing machine (pre-1995) uses approximately 41 gallons per load. By comparison, newer clothes washers generally use 23 gallons or less. That means you can reduce your water bill and save thousands of gallons of water each year by choosing a new water-efficient clothes washer when it's time to replace your old washer.

There are two basic designs for clothes washers: top-loading and front-loading. Most older-model residential washing machines load from the top. However, a standard top-loading machine can use more water to fill up and wet the clothes thoroughly. In addition, the machine uses more energy to "pull" the clothes around the machine using the agitator arm.



Most of the newer, water- and energy-efficient machines are front-loading. A front-loaded machine allows clothes to "fall" as they spin, which uses less water and is gentler on fabrics. Front-loading washing machines can be more convenient for disabled homeowners to use, too.

LOOK FOR THE ENERGY STAR® LABEL

The Energy Star® program, administered through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, recognizes energy-efficient washing machines that can save from 35% to 50% in energy and water use over standard washing machines. Participating Energy Star manufacturers offer all sizes and types of clothes washing machines. For more information, including specific models and how much money you can save by using an Energy Star labeled washer, visit the website at www.energystar.gov/products/clotheswashers/.



TIPS FOR BUYING A NEW CLOTHES WASHER

Replacing your old water-guzzling clothes washer with a new water-efficient model can dramatically reduce your indoor water use. New-generation clothes washers also spin clothes drier, thus reducing drying time and saving energy. The top brands and most efficient models of clothes washers may cost more initially, but the savings you receive in reduced water, gas or electricity and detergent will save you money over the lifetime of use.

Here are some questions to ask the salesperson when shopping for a new washing machine:

- Is this a water-efficient machine? Is it Energy Star® approved?
- How many gallons of water per load will I save, compared to the older model of this machine? Compared to my present machine?
- Does this washer have a water-saver option, to allow rinse water to be reused?
- Does this machine automatically adjust the water level needed for the load being washed?
- What is the average annual water cost to operate this machine?
- What is the average annual energy cost to operate this machine?
- Is there an Extra Rinse option? If so, how do I shut off this option?