



High Efficiency Clothes Washer Fact Sheet



What are the benefits of high efficiency clothes washers?

Washes Clothes Cleaner - Your clothes will be cleaner (and softer!) because these machines rinse clothes better and get out more of the detergent. Also, the tumble-action of the front loaders cleans better than conventional agitators that stir up clothes to get them clean. New generation agitators offer slower speeds and an advanced design which improve performance.

Uses Less Detergent - Because high efficiency clothes washers use less water, you use up to 2/3 less detergent. In fact with front-loaders, it's important not to oversuds the machine. Too many suds will reduce the cleaning action and make rinsing out the detergent much more difficult. Be sure to follow manufacturer directions and measure carefully.

Washes More Gently - Since front loaders tumble clothes rather than stir them up, less friction is made between the clothes, which creates less chance of damage from clothes getting caught around the agitator. You'll find you can machine-wash delicate items such as lingerie and wool sweaters, that you would normally wash by hand. You will also notice less pilling and lint buildup in your dryer filter.

Runs More Quietly - Forget about wanting to turn up the volume on your radio when you do laundry. Tumble-action machines run so quietly that some new users think their machine isn't running at all. This feature is particularly valuable if your laundry facility is in your living space rather than in the basement.

Handles Large and Bulky Items with Ease - Now you don't have to go to a Laundromat to wash your quilt, pillows or sleeping bag. You can wash these items in a standard-size tumble-action machine. These machines actually wash better when you stuff them full when loading.

Friendlier to the Environment - These high efficiency machines use about 60% less energy and 40% less water than conventional machines; that means less stress on our natural resources, and a cleaner conscience for you (along with your cleaner clothes).

Shorter Dryer Time - Most high efficiency clothes washers have high spin cycles which make clothes come out of the washer much less wet. (This is known in the industry as remaining moisture content or RMC.) With a much lower RMC, drying times can be cut in half.

Saves You Money - Not only will you be able to run your dryer less, savings you energy costs and time; you'll also spend less money on detergent, clothes (they'll last longer!), and the dry cleaners (now you can machine-wash items you used to have dry cleaned).

How can high efficiency clothes washers save you money?

Consider the purchase and operating costs. Qualifying tumble-action clothes washers typically cost between \$700 and \$1100, and as low as \$500 (before available rebates). Though more expensive than conventional machines, which typically cost around \$400 - \$500, high efficiency clothes Washers cost considerably less to operate than conventional washers. Typical users save \$50 to \$90 a year on total utility charges. This means that the incremental purchase cost can be recovered in less than 1 year.

What would be the difference of using high efficiency clothes washers vs. old style clothes washing machine?

Old-style clothes washing machines use about 45 gallons per load. New high efficiency models use only 15 gallons per load. High efficiency clothes washers come in several configurations: top loading, front loading, and slant loading. They save water and energy, and are more gentle on your clothes.

Participating water service providers in the High Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate Pilot Program Partnership with Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) include:

