



EMERALD KEEPERS

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For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

THE DIRTY SIDE OF LAUNDRY

Cleaning clothes is a chore with an environmental impact. A few thoughtful choices can save water, energy, money and cut down on pollutants, giving you clean clothes and a greener planet.

DETERGENT

Bulky plastic jugs of liquid laundry detergent are energy intensive to transport and rarely recycled. Single-dose laundry pods are increasingly popular but contain toxic chemicals and a plastic coating that degrades into harmful microplastics. The optimal detergent is a paper-packaged natural powder or laundry strip that dissolves in water.

WATER TEMPERATURE

The greatest environmental impact of laundry is the energy to heat water. Changing water temperature from hot (130F or higher) to cold (60 to 80F) significantly reduces energy and corresponding emissions. While hot water is more effective at cleaning sweat or grease, most clothes clean just as well in cold water.

Cold-water washing also prevents shrinking or fading and reduces the release of microplastics from synthetic fibers such as nylon, acrylic, or polyester.

DRYING

The dryer is one of the most inefficient household appliances, accounting for almost 6% of a home's energy usage. Hanging laundry to dry eliminates the energy intensive tumble dry. If you must use a clothes dryer, make sure your washing machine uses a high-speed spin cycle first. The energy used to spin is less than the energy required to dry. Natural wool dryer balls cut down on drying time and are a nontoxic alternative to dryer sheets. Clean out the dryer filter after every load to improve air circulation and increase efficiency.

APPLIANCES

The average top-loading washer should be replaced with an Energy Star front-loading washer

to save both water and electricity. An Energy Star washer uses up to 25% less energy and water than conventional machines.

A heat pump dryer is the most efficient option, and it's also gentler on clothes. Alternatively, an Energy Star standard dryer uses a moisture sensor to detect when drying is complete to help save energy.

To balance the emissions of manufacturing against operational efficiency, Energy Star recommends replacing most appliances after 10 years. But if your appliance still works, especially if it was the most efficient option when you bought it, you might use the machine for up to 20 years.

Remember to wash clothes less often, waiting for full loads to keep Coronado Emerald Green, Ocean Blue.

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