

*Sustainability Tip #1:*

# Laundry



Though the end result of doing laundry is clean clothes, the laundering process itself is not necessarily clean. A typical top-loading washer uses approximately 40 gallons of water per load, and a dryer can use up to five kilowatts of electricity per hour. This is why Bates has now replaced its washers with energy and water conserving front-loaders. However, the next time you head to the laundry room, keep the following tips in mind to save even more water, electricity, and money:

**Washers**

- Much of the energy consumed by a washer is used to heat water, so wash clothes on the "cold" or "warm" settings rather than "hot" whenever possible.
- Detergents designed specifically for cold-water washing are now available.
- Wash full loads to make the best use of the energy required to run the machine. If you must do a smaller load, adjust the water level accordingly.
- Improve efficiency by sorting clothes according to fabric type, color, weight, and degree of soiling. Wash heavy items such as towels separately from light items.

**Dryers**

- Clean the lint filter before each load to improve air circulation and efficiency.
- Dry full loads to make the best use of the energy required to run the machine—but not so full that air can't circulate around the clothes.
- Take advantage of retained heat by drying two or more loads in a row. You can also use the dryer's "cool-down" setting (which may have a different name depending on your model) to complete the drying process without actively heating the air.
- Consider air-drying a load to cut down on dryer use.

**Detergents**

You can make your laundry routine even "greener" by using environmentally friendly detergents, fabric softeners, and stain removers. Look for phosphate-, petroleum-, and chlorine-free products, and use only as much as needed for a given load.