

Saving Water in the Laundry

“Each time you do the laundry, you could be wasting up to 30 gallons of water,” said Raymond J. Raposa, executive director of the New England Water Works Association, the region’s largest and oldest organization of water works professionals.

Here are some simple but important steps you can take to save hundreds of gallons of water a week when doing your laundry:

- **Run your washing machine only when full.**

Washing machines use 30 to 60 gallons per load. Don’t run half loads. For smaller loads, adjust the water-level setting carefully or wait until you have enough laundry for a full load.

- **Presoak heavily soiled items before placing them in the washing machine to avoid washing them twice.**

- **Use a minimum amount of detergent to avoid rinsing more than necessary.**

- **Look for and fix leaky faucets, hose connections, pipes, and joints.**

- **Select a washing machine with water and energy conservation features when purchasing a new machine.**

- **Consider purchasing a horizontal-access, tumble washing machine, a special unit designed to save water and energy.**

Many utilities offer rebates on these washing machines.

- **Hand-wash and rinse in a stoppered sink or washtub.**

For further information about saving water in the laundry, contact:

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