

LAUNDRY & HOUSEKEEPING

Undertaking laundry activities on-site consumes water, energy and materials. Housekeeping requires the use of chemicals and water and can have implications for energy use. The following actions should help your business to achieve savings.

Selecting New Laundry Equipment

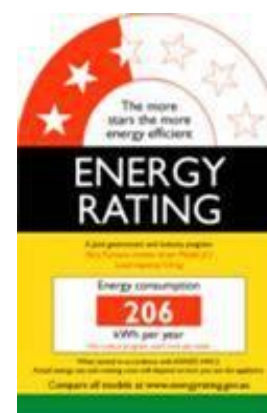
Reduce water and energy requirements by purchasing efficient washing machines. Only domestic washing machines are licensed under the energy and water efficiency labeling schemes. Ask the manufacturer or distributor about energy and water use by commercial machines. As a rule, front loading machines are more water efficient than top loaders, and gas-powered clothes dryers have an operating cost about one third that of electric dryers.

Energy Efficiency Labelling

Common appliances that use electricity are registered and labelled under the Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) program, which rates their energy-efficiency – the more stars, the more energy-efficient the appliance. This mandatory rating program includes the following products:

- refrigerators & freezers
- air-conditioners
- clothes dryers
- clothes washing machines
- dishwashers

To search for an efficient appliance, go to www.energyrating.gov.au/appsearch



Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS)

Common water-using appliances are registered and labelled under the WELS Scheme, which awards stars for water efficiency – the more stars, the more water-efficient the appliance. The following products are rated under this scheme:

- clothes washing machines
- dishwashers
- toilets & urinals
- showers
- indoor taps & flow controllers

A searchable database of all products can be found at www.waterrating.gov.au



Existing Laundry Equipment

- Disconnect the hot water supply to washing machines, thus avoiding water heating costs. In warm climates, cold water temperatures can exceed 25° C, which is equivalent to a warm wash setting. A wide range of detergents are now available which are effective in cold water.
- Schedule washes to ensure machines operate at full load.
- Adjust the water level setting on washing machines to the minimum necessary for the load. Where washing machines are used by guests, the level should be selected and fixed or machines are inevitably used on the highest setting.
- Considering re-using or recycling laundry rinse water for use in gardens – see [Greywater](#) section
- Use a washing machine with a very high spin speed (over 1000 rpm) as this will remove most of the moisture, leaving very little additional drying to be done.
- For small operations, consider using the washing line for drying.

Housekeeping

Energy Saving Work Practices

Work practices that can keep energy costs down include:

- opening blinds and using natural light when cleaning rooms
- turning off all lights and unnecessary appliances when cleaning is finished - particularly in rooms which will not be occupied immediately.
- checking heater thermostats and resetting if necessary. The ideal temperatures for thermostats is to heat up to 20°C maximum in winter and to cool down to 24°C minimum in summer.
- checking refrigerator temperature settings to ensure they are at an optimum range for their contents. For example, bar fridges containing drinks in guest rooms should be set at around 4°C.
- checking windows are closed when air-conditioning or heating is in use.

Water Saving Work Practices

Responsible work practices are important in reducing the volume of water used during housekeeping activities. Much water use can be avoided if staff are trained to be 'water-wise', including:

- running taps during cleaning only when necessary.
- reporting leaking taps or other equipment so that problems can be fixed immediately.