

### Saving water in kitchens and laundries

#### Washing Up

- **Dishwashers:** choose a water efficient model - the best domestic models only use 10 litres per cycle; make sure that you always have a full load before running and don't rinse the plates under the tap first – just scrape the leftovers into your compost bin.
- **Hand washing:** washing up and then rinsing under a running tap can use up to 150 litres per load. Always use a bowl for washing and rinsing.
- **Spray taps:** fitting a simple aerating spray tap or flow restricting valve reduces the flow of water by up to 50%. In larger kitchens, a trigger-operated spray gun provides an effective way to reduce water use and maintain effective cleaning

#### Food Preparation and Cooking

**Fact:** Running the tap can use up to 20 litres of water a minute - which would give enough for a bath in just 5 minutes. (Source: Environment Agency - Water Wise)

- **Washing vegetables and salads:** washing under a running tap can use up to 20 litres a minute. Use a bowl; fit a spray tap
- **Drinking Water:** cool jugs of water in the fridge so you don't have to run the tap for ages to serve your visitors.
- **Kettles:** only fill the kettle with enough water for your needs; this will reduce your fuel bills too.
- **Steamers, woks & peelers:** many kitchens turn all their equipment on first thing in the morning. Significant water savings can be made by reducing the flow volume to the minimum necessary for effective operation and by turning the water off when the equipment is not in use. Using a connectionless steamer, or recycle the condensate by fitting a closed loop system which returns the condensed steam to the steamer pan.
- **Ice machines:** check the overflow regularly. A very small overflow can use around 200 – 300 cubic metres/year at a cost of up to £1100 a year!

#### Food Waste Disposal

In larger kitchens with macerators a number of actions can be taken to reduce the water use.

- Only use when necessary.
- Fit a Passive Infrared Sensor. This will sense when food is sent down the channel and activate the water flow
- Look at alternative methods of disposing of food waste. For example, Green Cone composters will accept all food waste and reduce it to water and CO2.

For more information, including health & safety and environmental data visit:

[www.greencone.com/in\\_depth\\_look](http://www.greencone.com/in_depth_look)

#### Equipment

**Dishwasher:** Make regular maintenance checks to ensure that dishwasher sprays are not dislodged or missing and are functioning correctly.

Whenever you replace kitchen equipment, make sure that you choose the most water and energy efficient models that allow you to adjust cycle times and temperatures.

### Which? Best Buy - (Domestic) Dishwashers (that also score well on water/ energy use)

- Bosch SKT5102 Classixx - £350 (Overall score – 79%, 5 out of 5 for water/ energy use)
- AEG-Electrolux Favorit F50674 – £390 (Overall – 73%, 5/5 for water use & 4/5 for energy use on eco programme)
- Miele G1225SC - £599 (Overall- 73% , 5/5 for water use & 4/5 for energy use on eco programme)

More detail and Best Buys is only available to Which? subscribers. Consider a £1 for 1 month trial <https://www.which.co.uk/signup>

### Laundry

Fact: A single washing machine cycle can use up to 100 litres of water (22 gallons) - and the average family uses their washing machine five times a week . That's 26,000 litres (5,720 gallons) in a year. (Source: Southern Water website)

However, as with all appliances significant improvements are being made. Look for the most efficient appliances – the best domestic washing machines use around 30 litres.

### Which? Best Buy - Washing Machines (that also score highly on water & energy use)

- LG F1403FD - £559 (Overall score – 72%, 5 out of 5 for both water & energy efficiency)
- Bosch WIS28440GB Logixx - £667 (Overall – 76%, 5 out of 5 for water use, 4 out of 5 energy)
- LG F1443KD - £699 (Overall – 74%, 5 out of 5 for water use, 4 out of 5 energy)
- LG F1443KD6 - £699 (Overall – 74%, 5 out of 5 for water use, 4 out of 5 energy)
- Hotpoint WMF 760 P Aquarius+ - £289 (Overall – 73%, 5 out of 5 for water use, 4 out of 5 energy)
- Hotpoint WMF 760 A Aquarius+ - £322 (Overall – 73%, 5 out of 5 for water use, 4 out of 5 energy)
- Zanussi ZWF16581 - £348 (Overall – 73%, 5 out of 5 for water use, 4 out of 5 energy)
- Hotpoint WMF 760 G Aquarius+ - £270 (Overall – 73%, 5 out of 5 for water use, 4 out of 5 energy)

### Laundry Tips:

- **Towel & linen agreements:** many guests will be more than happy to have their towels and bed linen washed less frequently - see our separate fact sheet.
- **Programme selection:** by choosing the correct programme you can reduce water use without compromising wash quality. Consider soiling level. Use the correct amount of detergent; overuse may lead to poor rinsing and the need to rewash or increase
- **Rinse times:** Using coloured linen allows the use of lower temperature washes – avoiding the need for 'whiter than white' results
- **Grey water collection:** it may be possible to recycle the washing water for other low grade uses such as flushing toilets or watering plants.
- **Cleaning Chemicals & Detergents:** change to biodegradable, phosphate free detergents to prevent environmental pollution and allow re-use of your grey water.  
[www.ma-enviro.co.uk](http://www.ma-enviro.co.uk) provide a range of phosphate free, plant based cleaners.

Two other companies, *Ecover* & *Bio-D* produce a full range of both domestic and commercial cleaning products - see [www.ecover.com/gb](http://www.ecover.com/gb) or [www.biodegradable.biz](http://www.biodegradable.biz) for a list of products and where to buy them.

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