

PROPER HOME WASHING PROCEDURES (85)

The home washer is one of the most used appliances and yet most people do not use it to its full potential. It is important for everyone to understand the proper way to inspect, assort and classify laundry loads.

INSPECTION

Before washing inspect all clothing for pens, lipstick, pins, and foreign objects. Turn all pockets inside out. Button up and zipper up all garments before washing. This will prevent stretching and loss of shape. Turn jeans and cottons inside out to reduce dye crocking. Fine and delicate fabrics should be placed in net bags.

LOAD SIZE

The proper load size is a very important factor when assorting clothes for washing. The consumer is given a choice of picking the load size by categories on the washing machine.

- (1) Small-a small load is determined by putting in dry garments and it fills 1/3 of the washing machine.**
- (2) Large-a large load will fill 1/2 -2/3 of the washing machine.**
- (3) Super-a super load will fill 2/3 of the washing machine.**

A small load will fill approximately 16 gallons of water and a large load will fill 22 gallons of water. It is therefore important to save water by washing the most clothes that you can per load.

OVERLOADING

When you overload the washing machine the fabrics will not become clean. The fabrics are too cramped to create the proper friction and mechanical action that is necessary to remove soil. Overloading can also cause redeposition of dye and soil. This means that dye and soil in the washing machine transfers to other fabrics producing graying and streaking.

UNDERLOADING

When you clean too few fabrics it will not produce effective cleaning. There is a floating action and reduced friction.

COLOR CLASSIFICATION

You should assort the fabrics in order to get the most fabrics cleaned without having problems of soil and dye transfer. You should have at least a dark and a light load.

Dark garments with white trim are best washed with light garments if the dyes are fast. Dyes are usually fast and stable on polyester, nylon and acrylic. Dyes are usually poor on silk, rayon, cotton and denim.

LOAD SETTING

You have the choice of several settings which include cotton, easy care and delicate. You should bear in mind that each setting reduces the agitation and the wash time. The setting should be geared to the fabric and also the color. For example denims and jeans which have poor dyes should be washed on an easy care cycle if color loss is to be reduced.

DETERGENT ADDITION

Water alone will not clean fabrics. Add the detergent to the washing machine before the fabrics are entered. Do not use more detergent than necessary. Extra detergent will not produce any better cleaning. If the detergent causes excess suds switch to a lower suds detergent. Suds do not create any better cleaning.