

WATER SAVING TIPS IN WASHING (116)

The active household in Florida does many loads of wash in a week. It is interesting to note that on a regular top loader washing machine that the setting Super load uses approximately 43.2 gallons of water for washing and rinsing. On a small load setting you use approximately 22.6 gallons of water. On a large load setting the water usage is approximately 33 gallons of water. If every household reduced water consumption on each load by more than 10 gallons you would save on your water bill as well as help in the water consumption so desperately needed. You can still achieve proper and efficient washing by lowering the water level on your wash loads. In no way I am attempting to deter your washing efficiently but simply giving you professional tips for more efficient washing procedures.

WATER LEVELS

Many professional drycleaners who do wetcleaning do not use high water levels for washing. The lower water level may give more efficient washing since the concentration of the detergent is greater. Less water in the washer is believed to make for safer washing. The theory is that when garments and fabrics float in a high water level there is more of a tendency to stretch and lose shape. The lower water level gives less of a tendency for garments to stretch and also increases mechanical action, making for a cleaner wash. Washing machine manufacturers usually give consumers a vague guide in loading a washing machine. A super load may be classified when garments are filled to the top of the wash basket. A large load is several inches below the top of the washer and a small load may be less than $\frac{1}{2}$ the basket capacity. You can therefore wash clothes one level below what you normally use. When your load is a super load try using a large load water setting. When you have a large load, try using a small load setting.

LOAD CLASSIFICATION

You want to obtain maximum soil removal without causing dye bleeding or transfer. This means it is better to combine two small loads and run one large load. You may also find that some darker garments can be mixed with lighter garments if the fabric is color fast. Color fast fabrics are usually polyester, nylon and acrylic.