

*Living consciously with creation in mind does not necessarily mean living without.
It does mean living differently.
It does mean living simpler and intentional lives.
The choice is ours to make.*

Stewardship of Creation Tip #2 Washing Machine: Energy & Water Conservation

By choosing a cold/cold wash instead of a cold/warm wash, you could reduce the energy used for washing clothes by 38 kilowatt hours per month for standard washing machines, and by 8.6 kilowatt hours per month for efficient washing machines.*

- Unless your clothes are heavily soiled, they will still get clean when washed with cold water.
- Full loads are more efficient to wash than partial loads.**
- If you are planning on getting a new washing machine, purchase an Energy Star machine.
- If you have a choice between a top-loading or a front-loading machine, choose a front-loading machine. Front-loading machines are energy efficient, require minimal water usage, have excellent washing results, and exert less wear and tear on your clothes.***

(*Based on monthly use of 20 loads per month. For more information, go to www.prairiestewardship.org. Select "Typical Household Appliances: projected monthly CO₂ emissions for ND and MN.")

**From: *The Newman's Own Organics Guide to a Good Life: Simple Measures That Benefit You and the Place You Live*, by Nell Newman with Joseph D'Agnese, New York: Villard, 2003.

***<http://www.greenlivingtips.com/articles/163/1/Green-washing-machines.html>)

Awakening: The gift of clean water

"I grew up in a Third World country, taking safe and clean water for granted. While traveling in a rural area on a tourist resort island of a neighboring country, I came to realize that not all my neighbors had what I did. I saw the following occur at a stream: a woman washing clothes, someone getting water, and the same body of water being used as a latrine.

I realized then that I had always taken safe and clean water as a given - the water I drink, cook with, bathe in, wash clothes and dishes with, and water our garden with.

It was only after witnessing what occurred at the stream did I realize how precious a gift water is."

Reflection: Each of our actions affects the lives of others, even when we don't realize it.

If you have had a transformative experience that has changed your relationship with creation, please consider sharing that with us. We would like to share these experiences with others, along with stewardship tips. By doing so, we hope to awaken ourselves and maybe see the world through new eyes.

Prairie Climate Stewardship Network
Engaging the faith community in climate stewardship.

For more information and opportunities to engage in creation care, go to www.prairiestewardship.org
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