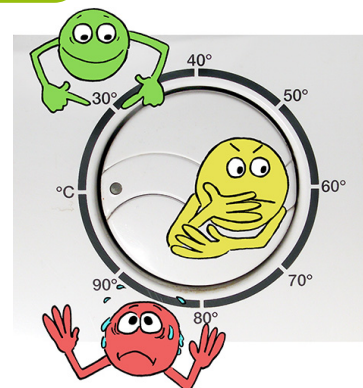


Saving Electricity: The temperature is the key

Washing machines heat up the cold water from the conduit. To do so, they use electricity and they need especially much of it if high temperatures are being used.

- One wash cycle at **60°C** needs about **three times** more energy than one wash cycle at **30°C**.
- One wash cycle at **90°C** needs about **five times** more energy than one wash cycle at **30°C**.



Very hot temperatures are helpful if the washing is soiled with faeces. Sometimes fabrics also need to be boiled for medical reasons. Ask your doctor if you suspect that you should wash garments with 90°C. Apart from that: Cleaning rags and kitchen towels should be sterilised. This can be done, however, by boiling water in the electric kettle and pouring it over them in the sink. This needs a lot less electricity.

Notwithstanding, it is recommendable to do a 60°C wash about once every month to keep the machine itself clean.

Tip 1: Don't wash too often

Dirt can be seen or smelt. Jumpers, jackets, jeans, etc. often need nothing more than a good airing to be fine again! This protects the fabric and saves energy, water and washing agent!

Tip 2: Don't wash too hot

Use the 30°C (or 40°C) setting if at all possible!

Tip 3: Avoid the prewash

A prewash is only helpful if garments are **extremely** dirty!

Tip 4: Fill the machine up

Avoid wash cycles with only a few items. A washing machine should be full (although not crammed) when it is switched on.

Tip 5: Avoid short programmes

Newer washing machines allow you to shorten the washing cycle by 50% or more at the press of a button. Caution! This does not save any energy – even the opposite is true: Longer programmes make the washing soak for a longer period of time and thus allow the washing agent to act upon the garments more effectively. Short programmes make the water hotter to achieve the same cleaning result. This requires more electricity.

The manuals of many washing machines include tables with the energy usage of each of the different programmes measured in kWh (kilowatt hours).

... Yes, but will everything be clean, then?

Easy answer: **Try it out!** One thing is for sure: These tips save energy and money. We think you will be more than happy with the washing results as well but in case you are not, you can always revert to your old ways of washing.

For the environment:

If at all possible, wash **after 6 p.m.**. During the day, a lot of electricity is needed everywhere (in offices, industry, etc.). Many power stations that produce it release fumes that burden the air and the climate. In the evening, however, there is more power in the grid than needed. Therefore, it is better to use it that time!

Washing agents are poisonous for fish and other creatures that live in the water. Employ **washing agents sparingly**. The amount recommended on the package is usually too much. Use washing agents that do not pollute waters unnecessarily and **avoid fabric softeners** altogether. Pay attention that either of these labels is on the packaging:



To keep the **washing machine hygienic**, it should be cleaned several times a year. Especially important:



Clean the **lint filter** and the **rubber seal**. For the latter: Half a table spoon of citric acid (in German: Zitronensäure) on half a litre of lukewarm water (no more than 40°C!) is an ideal detergent!

Important when buying a new washing machine:

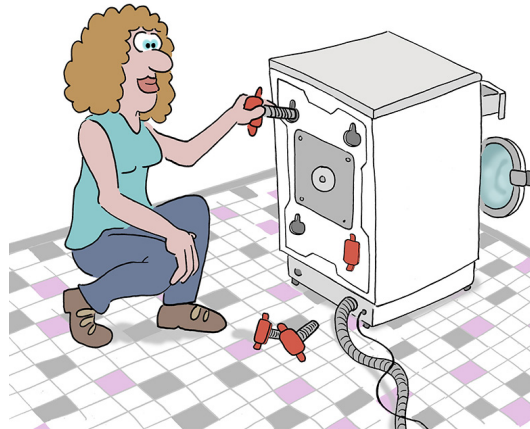
Buy an economical device – ideally having the energy efficiency category A+++
Purchase advice: <https://www.topprodukte.at/> > Haushalt > Waschmaschinen

A+++

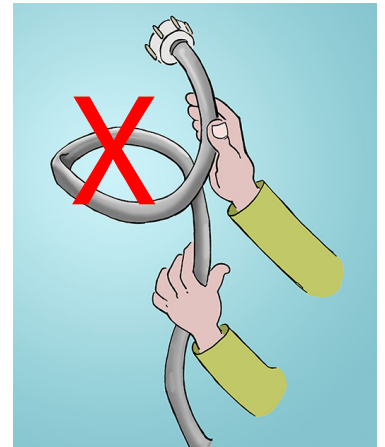
Three things that are very important after unpacking a new machine:

1. Remove the transport locks!

The drum is secured with screws to prevent it from getting damaged during the transport. These screws must be removed by all means! Plastic caps are often included in the delivery to close the holes afterwards. Keep the screws in a safe place so that the machine can be transported safely if needed.



2. Do not kink hoses.



3. The washing machine must be upright.

To work properly the machine must be placed upright. To adjust, its feet that can be screwed in and out. A bubble level is helpful to determine when the machine is even. Measure in both directions –

from left to right and from front to back. Ideally, the washing machine is placed on an anti-slide mat. Such a mat is available from DIY stores for about 10 €. It muffles noise and vibration and prevents the machine from moving.

