



Key laundry tips

Proposed guidance matrix



Which product to choose for what kind of job?

	Type of fabric	Colours	Darks/Blacks	Delicates/Wool/ Minimum Iron
	<p>White (colourfast) light colours</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Bathroom and kitchen towels, bedding, underwear, clothes, sports wear, T-shirts</p>	<p><i>Example:</i> Bathroom and kitchen towels, bedding, men's shirts, T-shirts, clothes, sports wear</p>		<p><i>Example:</i> Jumpers, wool, women's blouses, lingerie, silk</p>
<p>Soil level</p> <p>Very dirty (heavy soil)</p> 	<p>Difficult stains such as grass, coffee, fruit, blood. Pre-treatment of stains or pre-washing may be necessary.</p> <p><i>Please be careful with spot-treatment of delicate laundry; please note care symbols. Pre-treatment is not always possible.</i></p>	<p>Detergent for whites; follow dosage instructions for high soil levels.</p> <p>Powders (<i>containing optical brighteners and bleaching agents</i>) are especially effective in removing bleach-sensitive stains and removing clay and ground-in dirt.</p> <p><i>Do not wash pastels with a detergent containing optical brighteners as this may alter shades. Instead, use a detergent for colours.</i></p>	<p>Detergent for colours or a special 'black/dark' detergent; follow dosage instructions for high soil levels.</p> <p>Powders are especially effective in removing bleach sensitive stains and lifting out clay stains and ground-in dirt.</p>	<p>Use a detergent for delicates. Follow dosage instructions.</p> <p>Always use a special wool detergent for washing wool and silk. A wool detergent has a neutral pH and is enzyme-free. Iron carefully (<i>if allowed</i>).</p>
<p>Normal soil levels</p> 	<p>Fatty stains, such as on collars and cuffs</p>	<p>Detergent for whites; follow dosage instruction for medium soil levels. Liquid detergents may be better for pre-treating grease spots and stains prior to laundering.</p>	<p>Detergent for colours or a special 'black/dark' detergent; follow dosage instruction for medium soil level.</p> <p>Liquid detergents may be better for pre-treating grease spots and stains prior to laundering.</p>	<p>Detergent for delicates. Wool and silk may only be washed with a special wool detergent.</p>
<p>Light soil levels</p> 	<p>No real stains</p>	<p>Detergent for whites; follow dosage instruction for low-soil levels.</p>	<p>Detergent for colours or a special 'black/dark' detergent; follow dosage instruction for low-soil levels.</p>	<p>Detergent for delicates. Wool and silk may only be washed with a special wool detergent.</p>

How much detergent should I use?

The amount of detergent that you should use depends on the level of soils and stains and your area's water hardness, as well as your machine's load level. Follow dosage instructions carefully. You should dose less for a smaller load or more for a fully loaded 6-8 or even 10kg washing machine.

Water hardness is caused by soluble mineral salts, typically calcium and magnesium, sometimes iron and manganese in the water in variable amounts, depending on the source. Water that is largely free of calcium and magnesium is described as 'soft'. You can find out how hard the water is in your home by contacting your water supply company. You should adapt the dosing of detergents according to the water hardness level. As a general rule, the harder the water, the more detergent you may need to use to maintain an efficient washing cycle.

	 1/2	 1	 1 1/2
Soft	44 ml	66 ml	110 ml
Medium	44 ml	88 ml	132 ml
Hard	44 ml	110 ml	154 ml

This is an example of what a typical dosing table might look like. Always look at the actual product pack that you are using for dosing guidance with your detergent. On average (medium-hard water and average laundry soil levels), dose 88 ml of this product. If laundry is very dirty, go to 132 ml; if the water is soft and the laundry has a low soil level, use only 44 ml. There is usually information provided for maxi-machines with a larger capacity. Also, there may be tips concerning half-load washing. The dosing table shown here is relevant to a 4-5kg machine. When using an 8kg machine, an extra dose of detergent should be added.

How many loads can I wash with my laundry detergent pack?

Laundry detergents for washing machines have a uniform method of showing the number of standard loads that can be washed.

The number of standard loads (that is, with 'normally' soiled items under medium water hardness conditions) will be shown on the front label with the following common laundry 'basket' icon design. In all European countries, consumers can easily compare prices per wash between products if they look at the laundry basket information.



What wash temperature should I choose?

Modern detergents have been designed to perform well across a broad temperature range, from 30 (even 20) to 90 degrees Celsius. The appropriate temperature setting depends on the load that you are washing, but in many cases 30 or 40 degrees Celsius gives excellent results. In some cases, a higher wash temperature can be used, such as 60 or 90 degrees Celsius.

In general, it is recommended to use the 'eco-setting' on your washing machine with a good detergent, to benefit the environment. This saves energy without compromising on cleaning performance or convenience. Washing at lower temperatures will also allow you to properly clean delicate items without any risk of colour fade.

Tips for saving water, energy, CO₂ and money © A.I.S.E.

			
<i>Avoid underfilling the machine</i>	<i>Dose according to soil and water hardness – use the dosing instructions</i>	<i>Wash at low temperature</i>	<i>Save packaging – recycle or refill</i>

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