



Laundry

This is one area that can pile up very quickly whether your family is large or small. Dirty or clean clothes can quickly be strung from one end of the house to the other if not handled properly. The following system can be helpful in avoiding this calamity.

Sorting Process:

- Purchase a bench hamper and divide it into three sections. Two pieces of masonite cut to size and two 1"x 1" braces nailed to the masonite will make the center divider.
- Label a section for darks, lights, and whites. As family members bathe, they separate their clothes and put them in the correct section. As the section of the hamper fills, place the clothes in a square laundry basket. Each section of the hamper will hold 1 load of wash for a standard regular load washer.
- The bench hamper gives you three hiding places for dirty clothes.
- Install a shelf above your washer and dryer where laundry baskets filled with dirty clothes can be placed until the washer is free. A space the width of the washer and dryer will hold 2 laundry baskets. (There are now 5 places to hide dirty clothes.)



Washing Process:

- Install another shelf over your washer and dryer and purchase rectangular buckets that can be used for clean, folded clothes for each family member. Buckets can be labeled with each family member's name for quick identification.
- Socks can be placed in a separate bucket and assigned to a child for sorting and folding, or left for mother to fold when there is a lull in her day.
- A bucket for "items to be returned" is also handy. As clothes, books, etc. are found around the house, place them in the bucket. As their owners appear, you will know where to find their belongings.
- If there is enough room, a divided laundry sorter works well.
- A rod for hanging clothes is essential if ironing is to be reduced. A hook on a door or wall will work if there is not space for a rod.
- After clothes have been folded and sorted, family members can put them away. This procedure alone will cut two hours a week off the laundry process.
- If you are the type of person that never seems to get your clothes folded, this simple rule might be helpful to you. A new load of wash (6th hiding place) can not be put in the washer until the clothes in the dryer (7th hiding place) are folded and placed in the buckets. When buckets (8-10th hiding places) are full they must be emptied before other clothes can be folded.
- A family of four will require about ten loads of wash a week to keep wardrobes in order. Wash two loads of clothes a day for five days during the week. If you have a larger capacity washer and dryer, it will take fewer loads each day to keep up with demand. As clothes come out of the dryer, fold them on top of the washer and put them in the buckets. Hanging clothes can be hung on the hook.



Reducing Wash Loads:

- Since underwear is changed every day, having a two week supply for each family member reduces the necessity to wash, and provides a full tub of whites when they are washed.
- The amount of wash loads per week will be reduced, if the number of clothes per person is reduced. The more clothes a child has, the more times they will change during the day (especially girls) and the more clean clothes will become dirty from rummaging through drawers, dumping them on the floor and then walking on them.
- To eliminate this problem one mother took drastic measures. While her children were at school she washed all the clothes that were on the floor, packed up everything, took it over to her neighbors and left the clothes there for three months. She never had the problem again.
- Bath towels are used to dry clean bodies, so as long as they dry completely between use, they only need to be changed once a week.
- If family members bathe at night before retiring, sheets will stay clean much longer and will require less changing.