

# Energy efficient washing machines

**Be sure to choose a washing machine size that suits your family best. Buying a washing machine larger than you need because it has more stars on the rating label will not save energy.**

## Energy star rating labels

The washing machines from various manufacturers have different energy consumptions for similar washing loads. So, look for the red and yellow energy rating label.

These labels carry an energy consumption figure and a star rating from one to six stars and tell you how much energy they use annually in kilowatt-hours according to Australian test standards.

The energy rating label on the clothes washer shows an average energy consumption figure in a red box. This indicates how much electricity the clothes washer will use over 12 months. It is based on the assumption that the clothes washer will be used, fully loaded, 150 times a year.

To calculate the energy cost simply multiply the energy consumption figure (kWh) by the current domestic electricity [tariff](#).

## Types of washing machines

### Twin tub washers

Twin tub washing machines have a washing tub and spin drying tub. While they require more operator time than automatic washing machines, they allow flexibility for personal washing methods.

The spin dry tub provides spray rinse and spin drying facilities. Twin tub washing machines are mostly small, compact, lightweight and mobile.

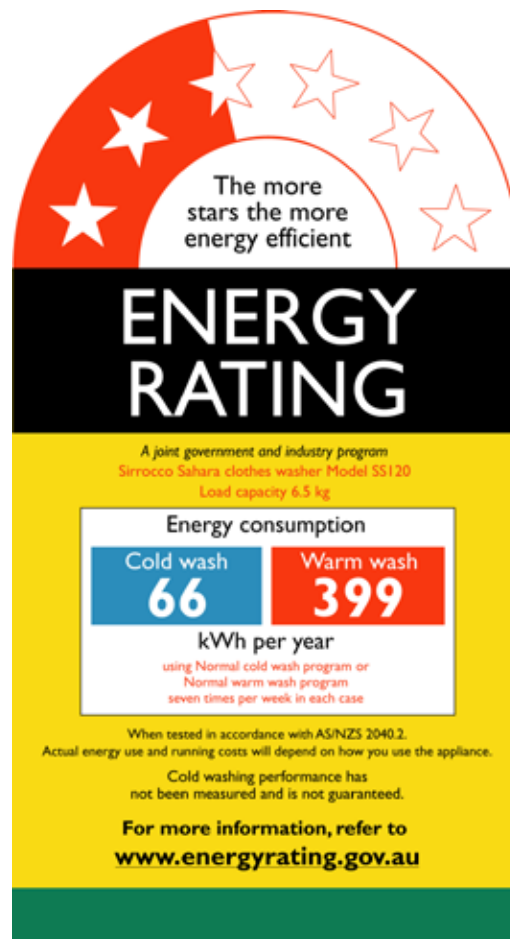
### Front and top load automatic washers

Automatic washers will wash, rinse and spin dry a load of laundry without any need to intervene.

They offer many features including a choice of water levels for large and small loads, variable wash and rinse temperatures, variable washing and spinning speeds and even automatic dispensing of bleach and fabric softeners.

## Handy hints

- Washing your clothes in cold water will save considerably on hot water energy if you have an electric hot water system or a solar hot water system with the booster turned on.
- A front loading machine is more efficient than a top loading washer for hot or warm washes, as they use about 50 percent less water. If you always wash in cold water, however, the difference between the energy consumption of a top loading and front loading machine is small.



- By rinsing in cold water you save energy needed for hot water. Cold water can be used for the complete cycle with detergents specially recommended for this purpose.
- Wash full loads rather than lots of smaller loads. Better results will be achieved if you group clothes by colour and fabric, and by how dirty they are. Wash a group of lightly soiled items on a shorter cycle rather than adding something more soiled and using a heavier cycle.

## COOLmob

Power and Water sponsor COOLmob to provide subsidised home energy audits and water audits. For more information about reducing energy and water consumption and to organise a \$10 audit visit [coolmob.org](http://coolmob.org) for Darwin or [dkacoolmob.org](http://dkacoolmob.org) for Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.