

IN THE UTILITY ROOM

WASTEWATER & WATER CONSERVATION



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Weekly Tips

Monday

Mmm - what IS that?

We all do it - reuse old tins to store 'useful' stuff? This is how accidental poisonings happen. It can also be an explosion waiting to happen if the liquid inside is flammable.



Tuesday

GET THE GREASE OUT!!

Old quarts of oil, pints of degreasers, used motor oil used to soak and store machine parts - this is clutter and potentially dangerous. NEVER pour this stuff down the sink - ask at your library, or local government, when the next hazardous waste event is or where you can recycle this locally.



Wednesday

Read The Label - Save The Planet!

Caustic cleaning products aren't good for you or our water resources. Consider cheaper, less toxic, alternatives.

Thursday

Energy Star Pays You Back

A WaterSense™ labeled washing machine or a newer hot water heater can save you money!



Friday

Fresh air - ahhhhhh!

Just a thought - drying clothes outdoors costs nothing, except for a few pins!



HELPFUL HINTS SAVE \$\$\$'S

\$\$'s DOWN THE DRAIN?



FRONT LOADING WASHING MACHINES USE LESS WATER

SO, YOU WANT TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT WATER?

The Utility/Laundry Room is the 'catch-all' closet for cleaning products and appliances.

If your washing machine is over 5 years old, a newer model will use less water and less electricity, especially if it is a front loading version. Additional savings are possible if you wait to do a full load, or use a machine which can adjust water level to the size of the load.

Using cold water detergents will reduce electricity use and, if you have hard water, try a little baking soda and borax.

Phosphorus has been banned in laundry soaps in MI for many years - but check the ingredients on other cleaning agents to be sure they are phosphate free.

Phosphorus is a known contributor to overgrowth of algae in surface waters.



Avoid over use of chlorine and other caustic products. Read the label!

Space out loads of laundry to protect your septic system from flooding and discharging solids to the drainfield.

Consider waiting to do laundry until last thing at night. This will give your septic system time to settle and discharge slowly. Plus you may have off-peak electricity savings!

Read the measurement instructions for any detergents, additives and softeners you use. More is NOT better!



Use 'antibacterial' products sparingly! Overuse of such

products have lead to detectable levels of the main ingredient triclosan in almost all water sources. While the research is still ongoing it is obvious that treatment systems that rely on bacteria to work don't do well when dosed with antibiotics! Hot water and soap will clean and sanitize most items.