

CLOTHESLINES

Introduction

Drying your clothes on clotheslines, both outdoors and indoors, is a wonderful way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and save energy and money. What a simple way to help save our planet.



Advantages of Clotheslines

- Saves Energy: After the furnace fan, electric water heater, and air conditioning, the electric dryer is the next biggest household user of electricity.
- Clothes and sheets smell better.
- Clothes typically last longer without the wear from a machine dryer.
- Kills Germs: The sun's ultraviolet rays are an antiseptic and kill bacteria.
- It's a great humidifier for you and your plants when you hang clothes indoors to dry.
- Good for your health. Not only is it great exercise, if you are line drying outside you get some fresh air and the little bit of sunlight that you need every day.

Some Facts About Clothes Dryers

- 93% of Canadian houses have a clothes dryer, and the average clothes dryer was used for 5.8 loads per week in the winter, and 3.6 loads per week in the summer according to the results of a 1997 Canadian survey. (See http://www.oeenrcan.gc.ca/publications/infosource/pub/energy_use/sheu_e/sheu_5.cfm)

Environmental Facts

- The electric dryer uses approximately 6% of the total electricity used in a household and is a powerful emitter of carbon dioxide.
- An average household drying all their laundry on clotheslines would reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by almost one (1) ton annually saving over \$90 a year (based on electricity @.10 Cents a kWh)

Clothesline Tips

- Shake out clothing before hanging to diminish wrinkles.
- Hang shirts and tops from the hem or tail so clothespin marks don't show.
- Add vinegar to the rinse water (1/2 cup per load) to prevent any drying stiffness. Vinegar removes soap residues that cause stiffness and, as the clothing dries the vinegar odor disappears so you won't smell it.
- You don't need a yard or a porch to line dry, it also can be achieved with inside racks.
- Dresses, blouses, shirts, jackets and permanent-press clothes are best dried on non rusting hangers as this preserves the shape of the garments and reduces wrinkles.
- To dry sheets, fold the sheet hem-to-hem, then fold three to four inches of one hem over the line and pin at both ends. Pin the corners of the other hem a few inches inside the first two. The sheet should open toward the wind a blow out like a sail.
- Fold underwear at the waist over the line and pin at both sides. Pin bras by the hook and socks by the toes to line dry your undergarments quickly and efficiently.



Things You Can Do

We can improve our quality of life while we reduce the ecological footprint of our towns and cities by doing the following:

- Install an outdoor clothesline and dry all your laundry outdoors in good weather. (See Environmental Action Sheet # 4 for information on how to install an outdoor clothesline.)
- Purchase indoor clothes racks and dry all your clothes indoors in poor weather. (See Environmental Action Sheet # 5 for information on how to purchase indoor clothes racks.)
- Encourage your friends and neighbours to use outdoor and indoor clotheslines.
- Don't replace your clothes dryer when it wears out. Switch entirely to clotheslines.
- Hang your clothes proudly.



Clothesline, Original Watercolor by Laura L. Trevey

Further Information

Go Green Together, www.gogreenttogether.ca
Project Laundry List (<http://www.laundrylist.org/>)

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