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In-unit washers, central facilities and utility sinks

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Laundry

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Offering in-unit clothes washers tends to increase water use at apartments when compared to central laundry facilities.

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Typically central laundry facilities use far less water per occupant than providing in-unit washers and dryers.

Central Laundry Facilities

Typically central laundry facilities use far less water per occupant than providing in-unit washers and dryers. This is because tenants collect laundry and wash it all at once when they have to leave their home to do it, and wash and dry full loads because in most cases, they pay by the load. A recent study conducted by the Multi-housing Laundry Association showed that apartments with washers in-unit consumed 8,500 gallons more per year than those without washers. Another study by the National Research Center, Inc. dated March 2001 showed that tenants with in-unit washers use 3.3 times as much water and 5 times as much energy for laundering than tenants that use common area laundry rooms. A study conducted by a local coin-op laundry company in cooperation with the Portland Water Bureau showed that water efficient washing machines save 17% on water and sewer use over ordinary coin-op washing machines when used in common area laundry rooms. Energy savings are still being quantified. Another advantage of water efficient machines is that they require far less soap to clean clothes than ordinary machines. Providing tenant education on this issue is important since the efficient machines can clog if excessive amounts of soap are used.

For more information on these studies review the following web site:

- Multi-housing Laundry Association web site <http://mla-online.com/index.htm>