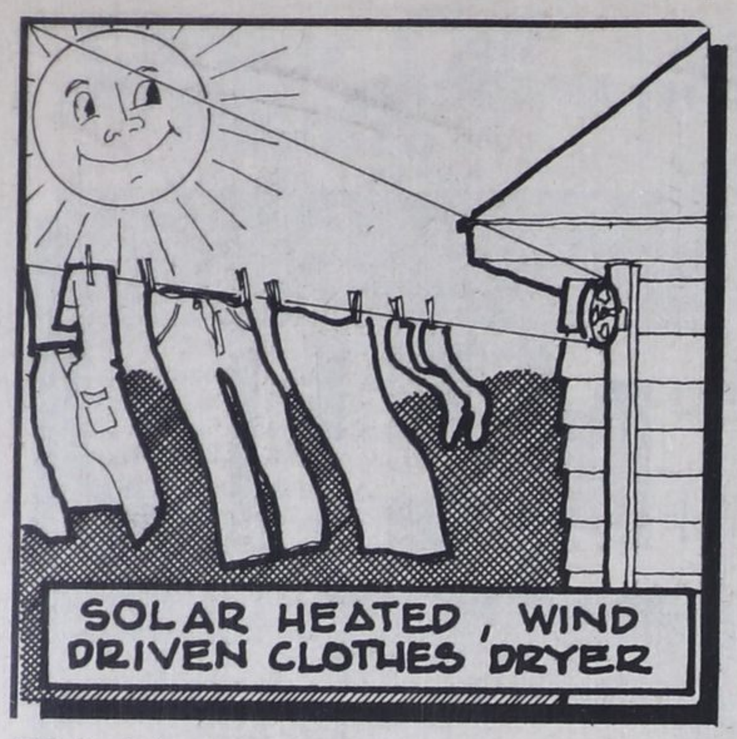


The Energy Facts Of Clean Clothes

The most energy efficient way of washing clothes is to take a bar of soap down to the river's edge and scrub away. Clearly, few Canadians are prepared to go to this length to save energy. In fact, even if they were, how many are close to a river? Luckily, we don't have to go back to the ways of our ancestors to wash and dry our clothes in an energy efficient manner.

The following suggestions can help you reduce the energy and dollar costs of keeping your clothes clean.

Washing

The biggest cost item in washing clothes is the hot water. So whether you're hand-washing in a sink or using an automatic washing machine, cutting down on the hot water saves energy. Many people now use nothing but cold water washes and are very satisfied with the results. Washing in cold water has the added benefit of reducing the likelihood of shrinkage and colour bleeding.

Full Loads

Make the most of the energy used to run your washing machine by operating it only when you have a full load. When this is not possible, save water by using the correct water level setting for the size of the load.

Drying

The most energy saving way to dry your clothes is to use a solar heated, wind-driven clothes dryer or, as it is more commonly known — a clothesline. In summer, using a clothesline gives your clothes that fresh out-of-doors smell. In winter, the family wash drying in the basement can contribute approximately 26 pounds of moisture to dry winter air.

However, if letting your clothes air dry is not feasible, then use your clothes dryer in an energy saving manner:

- **Short cycles** — Use the shortest appropriate cycle to not only save energy but to prevent clothes from overdrying.
- **Full loads** — Dry a full load each time you turn the dryer on to make good use of the heat produced. (But avoid overloading)
- **Vents** — Vent your dryer to the outside during the summer to get rid of moisture-laden air. This saves energy by speeding up drying time.
- **Lint filter** — Clean your lint filter after each load to reduce drying time. At least once a year, clean the outside of the dryer drum, the motor, and exhaust pipes to get rid of lint build-up.

Thinking of Converting to Natural Gas?

As oil prices soar, and the danger of supply interruption continues, you may be one of the many Canadians considering converting from an oil to a gas furnace. Or, perhaps, switching to electrical heating seems like a wise move. However, do remember that conversions may save oil, but they still use energy.

There are many factors to take into account when considering the various heating fuels — a major one being cost. Before you switch to another fuel, you should investigate ways to reduce your heating bill by increasing the efficiency of your existing "system". Insulating and simply turning down your thermostat are two ways of substantially reducing your fuel bill. In which case, the advantage of switching to another fuel may be significantly lessened.

But will changing fuels actually save you money? And if so, how much?

To determine the cost of using another fuel, use the following table to help you convert the amount of fuel you use into the equivalent amount of an alternative fuel. Simply multiply the amount of fuel you are now consuming (in gallons, kWh or cubic feet) by the conversion factor shown in the table. Then multiply that amount by the unit cost of the alternative fuel (use prices in your area).

Once you've calculated the cost of using an alternative fuel, the actual cost of conversion must then be taken into account. Consult local fuel dealers to get estimates on the cost of conversion and then divide this cost by the total savings to get a rough idea of the payback period.

If you are considering converting to natural gas, you should be aware that the lower temperatures and higher moisture content of the flue gases produced in natural gas-fired systems can lead to condensation in and deterioration of a brick chimney. In most cases, this can be avoided by the installation of a steel chimney liner. Be sure to include the cost of the liner and its installation in your conversion calculations.

Conversion to natural gas is often carried out by changing only the burner in the furnace. However, if you are thinking of replacing your entire furnace and are looking at gas, you may want to consider purchasing a new high efficiency gas furnace. These furnaces, which are 90%-95% efficient, compared to the 60% efficiency rating in conventional gas furnaces, should be available within the year.

But, whichever fuel you choose, the supply is finite and reducing, as much as possible, the quantity you use not only saves you money, but stretches Canada's reserves.

CONVERSION FACTORS

1 cu. ft. of Natural Gas	—	.0060 gal.	of Oil
1 cu. ft. of Natural Gas	—	.0092 gal.	of Propane
1 cu. ft. of Natural Gas	—	.1760 kWh	of Electricity
1 gal. of Oil	—	166.6 cu. ft.	of Natural Gas
1 gal. of Oil	—	1.52 gal.	of Propane
1 gal. of Oil	—	29.2 kWh	of Electricity
1 gal. of Propane	—	.109 cu. ft.	of Natural Gas
1 gal. of Propane	—	.654 gal.	of Oil
1 gal. of Propane	—	19.2 kWh	of Electricity
1 kWh of Electricity	—	5.69 cu. ft.	of Natural Gas
1 kWh of Electricity	—	.034 gal.	of Oil
1 kWh of Electricity	—	.052 gal.	of Propane

Moisture Problems

I HAVE JUST UPGRADED THE INSULATION LEVELS IN MY HOME BUT NOW I HAVE A LOT OF CONDENSATION ON THE INSIDE OF THE WINDOWS. DID I PUT TOO MUCH INSULATION IN MY HOUSE?
Householder in Kimberly, B.C.

Your condensation may have one of two causes:

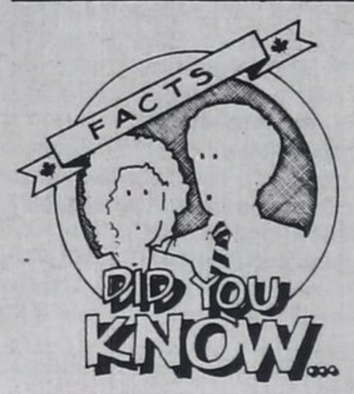
1) Leaky Window

If the condensation is between the panes of glass in double-glazed units the problem is air leakage. This can be reduced by caulking the fixed joints and weatherstripping all moving joints around the inside pane of glass. Condensation inside sealed windows indicates a defective "seal", which can usually be completely corrected by replacement of the window.

2) Humidity Levels Too High

The moisture or humidity levels in your house may be too high. Homes today are being insulated and tightened, which in some cases, is causing condensation problems as the warm, moist air stays inside and is not replaced by the dryer (and colder!) air from outside. Thus, it is no longer necessary to maintain high levels of indoor humidity for winter comfort.

No moisture problems should arise when moderate levels of humidity are coupled with the proper use of an air/vapour barrier



The rinse and hold cycle on a dishwasher uses three to seven gallons of hot water.

•

Allowing dishes to air dry can reduce a dishwasher's energy requirements by at least one third.

The momentary surge of power when turning on a light (whether fluorescent or incandescent) is equal to only 1or 2 **seconds** of lighting time.

•

Cool white fluorescent lighting is five times as efficient as incandescent light.

•

The energy consumed by our food system is distributed as follows:
18% on the farm
32% processing & packaging
20% transportation
30% home preparation

•

Operating a dishwasher can be twice as expensive as washing dishes by hand.

A typical sub compact car can achieve 11% better fuel economy with a 4-speed manual transmission than with an automatic transmission. New lock-up automatic transmissions which are available on several new models also achieve good fuel economy.