

# IN THE UTILITY ROOM

## WASTEWATER & WATER CONSERVATION



### 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

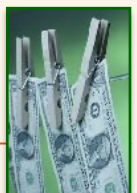
##### Read The Label - Save The Planet!

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 - ahhhhh!

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



### \$\$\$ DOWN THE DRAIN?

FRONT LOADING WASHING MACHINES USE LESS WATER

### SO, YOU WANT TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT WATER?

**T**he 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.