



GreenNY

Greener Laundry Detergent

Laundry detergent is a common product that helps keep our clothes and fabrics clean and sanitary. However, some can contain ingredients that can be harmful to the environment and our health. In addition, many detergents come in single-use plastic and other packaging that adds to our waste stream. To lower the environmental impact of your laundry detergent use, follow the guidance below.

1. Purchase Concentrates or in Bulk

Purchasing laundry detergents in a concentrated form or bulk reduces the amount of waste generated from packaging. Also, consider laundry detergents that come in powder or strip form to lower greenhouse gas emissions from shipping all of the water weight in regular detergents. While using concentrated products, it is very important to follow manufacturer instructions to ensure the product is properly diluted.

2. Purchase Laundry Detergents that Meet These Specifications

Purchase laundry detergents that carry the following third-party green certifications:

- Green Seal (GS – 51)
- UL EcoLogo (ULE 2776)

In addition, look for laundry detergents that also carry one, or both, of the following third-party certifications:

- Cradle to Cradle
- USDA Biobased

Finally, ensure that front-line staff is trained on these specifications so they can follow them when making small and one-off purchases of laundry detergent.

3. Use Only What You Need

To save money and ensure the correct amount of detergent is used, utilize dispensing systems in large laundering operations and provide training for proper use. In addition, for smaller laundry operations, train staff in the proper operation of the washing machine, including the amount of detergent needed for differing wash scenarios.