**Cooling The Wash**

A switch to a lower temperatures on the washing machine can have a somewhat major impact on most utility bills. It takes about gallons of water to do a wash and rinse, or about 17 gal. for each cycle. How much water is dependent on which button you push. A hot wash and warm rinse combo, which is the hightest setting on most machines, require 25 gallons of hot water. A load a day on such a setting, especially for the electric water heater, could easily cost 100 dolars a year.

Changing the rinse water to cold, a procedure which most experts say does not affect the result of the wash will save 8 of those gallons per day, or $25 year. By changing wash setting from hot to warm, you could save another 25. If you have a gas water heater, the savings would be $10 a year for each strategy. To increase the savings even further, use a cold water detergent, and wash and rinse with cold water. You may well be satisfied with the cleaning results.