

How to do Laundry in a Washington University Residence Hall

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CUT FROM BLACK

INT. WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALL STUDENT ROOM - DAY

We see a disorganized RESIDENT, implied to be a first-year student by of the confusion and residential college T-shirt, struggling to fit all of their laundry into one basket.

RESIDENT

No one told me the hardest part of college would be doing my laundry! If only I had learned to do this before coming to school... Between this and gen chem, I have a lot of studying to do.

Enter a supportive RESIDENT ADVISOR (RA), who sensed the resident's distress and came to provide assistance.

RESIDENT ADVISOR

I can see you're having a hard time, but don't worry! I am here to help and we'll get you settled in your new home. Come with me, and I'll show you how to take good care of your clothes and linens!

The two proceed to the laundry room in the building, making small talk as the resident carries their basket.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

We reunite with our two heroes as they enter the laundry room, and the air is saturated with the scent of detergent and the sound of mechanical whirring from the ice machine. The RA holds the door behind them to allow the encumbered resident through.

RESIDENT

Uh-oh! All the machines are full... guess I'll just have to buy new clothes!

A well-meaning, but uncomposed, RESIDENT #2 enters, apologizing frantically.

RESIDENT #2

I am so sorry! I was in a meeting and forgot my laundry was done! Let me get it out of your way now, because it sucks when people hog the entire laundry room.

Resident #2 removes their items from several machines, collates them, and departs. The RA begins giving instructions, and the resident walks through each action as described.

RA

Great; let's get started! First, you're going to want to split up your clothes into lights and darks, and any linens or towels can go in a separate machine, if you'd prefer. That means you'll need to open up two or three washers. Once you've sorted your load, take your clothes to the laundry room to choose a washing machine. To determine which washing machines are available, find one that displays the number 100 in the timer, located in the upper left hand corner of the machine. Open the lid and thoroughly read the instructions on the underside of the

lid. Next, determine the type of detergent you're using. If you're using liquid detergent, measure the detergent into the orange cap. I generally fill it until the cap is approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ full. If you're using detergent pods, place them at the bottom of the machine. The exact number of pods is usually designated by the size and dirtiness of the laundry load. Consult the detergent pod website for more specifics, Once the detergent is in the washing machine, place your set of laundry items on top. WARNING: be careful not to overload! The exact number of items is up to you, but be mindful of the size of the drum and the printed warnings on the machines. WARNING: do not pack your items too densely: allow them to fall naturally into the machine. Generally, the machine should be $\frac{2}{3}$ full. Next, look at the cycle options, and choose an appropriate temperature setting. If you're like me, you'll stick with Delicates (Cold) for everything, because you can't go wrong with that. Worst case, you run it again on a higher setting, but it's like baking in that you're better off underdoing it on the first try than burning anything. You may notice that your clothes have small tags or printed instructions, the location, size, and detail of which vary by brand and design; generally speaking, check near the bottom stitching of most tops (namely, shirts) and just under the waistband of bottoms (jeans, shorts, etc.). These instructions often provide a suggestion for both washer and dryer treatment, and have a myriad of symbols that describe specific care considerations. Once the machines are loaded and configured to your satisfaction, close the lids and move to the Bear Bucks reader mounted on the wall; the cost is \$1 per each machine utilization. Swipe your Student ID Card and follow the digital display's instructions, making sure to input the correct machine

number, as labeled in large, black font on the front or top of each washer and dryer. Repeat this swiping process for each machine you need, and go press the corresponding start buttons. If you open a washer while it is running, the process will stop until the start button is pressed again. Now is the productive or fun part, depending on your mood and your schedule: set a timer for 25 minutes and don't worry about your laundry until it goes off! The washer will be done after this time. You may choose to leave your basket sitting on top of one of your washers, because you will just need to bring it back later, anyway.

DISSOLVE

A song can be heard briefly, and is assumed to be the resident's alert tone. The camera joins the two residents in the hall and follows the last few steps into the laundry room.

RESIDENT

Ah, the timer just went off! Time to transfer everything from the washers to the dryers, right? I think I'll put all my clothes together in one, and my linens in another, because they probably need different heat setting to properly dry without getting damaged.

The actions of the resident again mirror the descriptions provided in quote. In the process of transferring clothes, we see the resident wipe out the lint trap.

RESIDENT

Ew, this lint is kinda gross. This seems like something you need to clean up after you dry your clothes, instead of leaving it for the next person!

Resident #2 reenters.

RESIDENT #2

I'm sorry! WARNING: It's also a dangerous fire hazard. In the future, I promise I'll keep in our community standards in mind.

The RA is pleased by this but detects a hint of sarcasm. Resident #2 departs soon thereafter. Moving on, the RA elects to give some final pointers as the resident loads their laundry into two separate dryers.

RA

Excellent work! In my experience, drying your clothes on low and linens or towels on high will have the best effect. WARNING: Oily substances are a major fire hazard. Of course, many items of clothing may be 100% cotton and liable to shrink, so you might want to contemplate purchasing a drying rack and air drying certain articles. You can open the dryer while it is in use; it will stop running until you press the start button again, which is handy for safety and removing articles prior to the full spin cycle. If you really want the advanced course, be sure to look into an iron, especially for those more wrinkle-prone items and formal attire. Let's not get too ahead of ourselves, however! Throw a dryer sheet in each machine to help with

static cling, and do the same payment/activation method you used for the washers. Press those start buttons, and set a timer for 45 minutes; time for another break! The dryer will be ready afterwards!

DISSOLVE

We hear the same song go off, and the camera lingers on the door as we await the return of our protagonists. They do not keep us waiting long, and their idle chat overpowers the ambient white noise of the room. As the resident removes their items and cleans the lint traps, the RA nods approvingly, and moves to open the door.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALL STUDENT ROOM - MIDDAY

We see the noticeably more organized RESIDENT, neatly and calmly removing their laundry from their basket and beginning to fold.

RESIDENT

No one told me the best part of my day would be doing my laundry! It's a good thing I have more practice with the folding and hanging part, otherwise I would be asking an awful lot of my RA to explain.

Enter the proud RESIDENT ADVISOR (RA), who came to follow up on the resident's recent success.

RESIDENT ADVISOR

Well, there you have it; now you know how to do your laundry in a college environment! Have a great rest of your day!

CUT TO BLACK

ROLL CREDITS

Audience Analysis

Write a 1 -2 paragraph summary describing your intended audience and their familiarity with your topic.

Our intended audience is entry-level first-year students who have little-to-no prior experience doing laundry. We also address the particulars of Washington University residence hall facilities, further narrowing our audience to members of those communities. For all intents and purposes, our video could be used in some form of orientation, and the admittedly slightly cheesy tone is meant to fit in the same vein. Summing up, it is important that our how-to achieve accessibility, clarity, and imperativeness.

Purpose

Summarize the usefulness or new skill your instructions impart and why you think they will be helpful or necessary for your audience. What does the process achieve? Explain any underlying themes or theories. Encourage success. Outline the process in a few easy steps if it is complex.

Doing laundry is an important skill that all individuals should be accustomed to, especially as they grow older and more independent. As students enter college, they enter a time ripe for and rife with learning and development, and we seek to capitalize on that by imparting valuable life skills. The process achieves basic hygiene and clean clothes, which are important from both social and health standpoints. It is also worth noting that many find getting physical affairs in order to be a boon for psychological affairs as well.

Outline of process:

1. Gather clothes in basket
2. Go to laundry room
3. Split clothes into lights and darks
 - a. any linens or towels can go in a separate machine
4. Open two or three washers and place your detergent pods at the bottom, followed by a set of laundry items on top.
 - a. Be careful not to overload!
5. Look at the cycle options and choose an appropriate temperature setting.
 - a. Your clothes may have small tags or printed instructions and a myriad of symbols that describe specific care considerations
6. Once the machines are loaded and configured to your satisfaction, close the lids and move to the Bear Bucks reader mounted on the wall.
7. Swipe your Student ID Card and follow the digital display's instructions, making sure to input the correct machine number, as labeled in large, black font on the front or top of each washer and dryer.
8. Repeat this swiping process for each machine you need, and go press the corresponding start buttons.
9. Set a timer for 25 minutes
10. Transfer clothes from washers to dryers
 - a. Split clothes and linens; otherwise, divide up laundry items based on material and desired temperature setting
11. Place a dryer sheet in each machine to help with static cling
12. Repeat payment/activation method used for the washers.

13. Set a timer for 45 minutes
14. Return to claim clothes
15. Fold and store clothes as desired

REFERENCES

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