

# IQAP INSIGHTS

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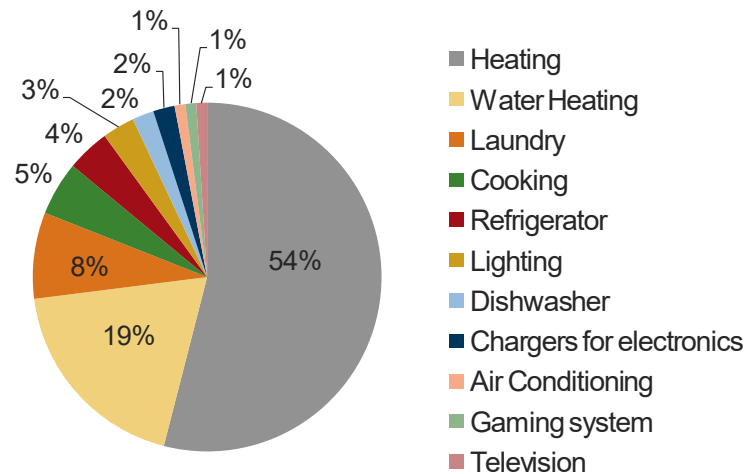
Welcome to summer! This edition of IQAP Insights focuses in on ways to save water and energy when washing clothes and dishes. Small actions add up to big savings.

## LEARN

In the average Fort Collins home, laundry accounts for 8% of energy use and the dishwasher accounts for 2%. If we factor in the energy it takes to heat the water for these appliances, those energy use percentages become much higher. Water heating accounts for almost 20% of household energy use.

It is important to think about how we wash our clothes and dishes. Luckily, there are many simple, free ways to reduce your use.

### Average Household Energy Use in Fort Collins



## ACT

### Washer, dryer and dishwasher best practices include:

- Wash only full loads.
- Skip the drying by hanging clothes and letting dishes air dry.
- Wash in cold water instead of hot.



### SOMETIMES HOT WATER IS NECESSARY

Turn down the temperature of your water heater to 120 degrees. This will get the water hot enough to kill germs effectively but save energy use. For every 10 degrees you lower the water heater temperature, you save 5% in energy use.

Most water heaters have an A-B-C knob:

- Hot - 120 degrees
- A - 130 degrees
- B - 140 degrees
- C - 150 degrees
- Very hot - 160 degrees



Source: Reliable Solutions Home Inspections

## ACT



### Washer/Dryer

- Switch loads while the dryer is still warm.
- Using dryer balls can help separate clothes and cut drying time.
- Clean the lint filter regularly to increase efficiency and safety.
- Use the high speed or extended spin cycle on the washer. This will remove as much moisture as possible before drying, reducing your drying time and the wear on your clothes from the high heat of the dryer.
- Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothes, which take less time to dry.
- Use a cool-down cycle, if your dryer has one. This allows clothes to finish drying with the heat remaining in the dryer.



### Dishwasher

- Scrape off excess food into the trash, rather than rinsing.
- If you do need to rinse, use the pre-rinse cycle on your dishwasher, instead of by hand.

### Handwashing

- If you don't have a dishwasher or sometimes need to wash by hand, plug the sink or use a bin to hold the water.
- If you cannot plug the sink or use a bin, try to do all the washing/soaping at once, then do all the rinsing.

## FIND OUT MORE

- If you own your home and have a sprinkler system, sign up for a free audit, which will help you save water by using your sprinkler system more effectively. Participants receive a system evaluation and watering schedule, and learn how to find leaks and keep vegetation healthy all summer long. Find out more and schedule your audit at [fcgov.com/sprinkler-audit](http://fcgov.com/sprinkler-audit).
- Ready for a new, more efficient clothes washer? Fort Collins Utilities offers rebates. Visit [fcgov.com/clothes-washer-rebates](http://fcgov.com/clothes-washer-rebates) to learn more.



  
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## RENEW YOUR IQAP PARTICIPATION

If you haven't already renewed participation for the upcoming year, please do so at [fcgov.com/IQAP-Insights](http://fcgov.com/IQAP-Insights). The IQAP program year is October-September.

**NEED ASSISTANCE?** Email [utilitiesaffordability@fcgov.com](mailto:utilitiesaffordability@fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2032.

Esta información sobre el programa "Income-Qualified Assistance Program", que ofrece una tarifa de luz y agua a descuento, puede ser traducida, sin costo para usted, 970-212-2900.