



## RECOMMENDATIONS WASHING PRODUCTS



### Before washing

- If possible treat stains immediately. Dry stains stick on textiles and are more difficult to remove.
- Sort your laundry by white, color, fabric type and dirtiness.
- Fill your washing machine but do not overload it. Every time your washing machine is running half empty, you waste money, energy, water and detergent as the amount of electricity and water are almost identical whether the machine is half or completely full.
- When buying a new washing machine go for the efficiency classes A/A/A (Energy efficiency A / cleaning efficiency A / spin dry efficiency A). Water consumption per run should not exceed 8.5 L per kg capacity. Energy consumption per run should not exceed 1.2 kWh per run. The best ecologic washing machines are listed under [www.oekotopen.lu](http://www.oekotopen.lu).
- When buying a new washing machine check the capacity (6 kg or 7 kg) to adapt it to the quantity of laundry you normally have.
- Hang out your clothes in the fresh air whenever this is possible. Not all clothes have to be washed after you have worn them one time.

### Choice of detergent

Avoid detergents with scenting substances. These substances are harmful to the environment and can lead to allergic reactions. Clean clothes may also have a neutral smell.

Prefer detergents with the indication „Clever akafen“. These products comply with the strict criteria catalog as to substances and impact on the environment.

- If possible buy refills and keep the original container. This reduces the amount of waste and precious raw material is saved. Furthermore this system is less expensive than buying hard containers every time. It is important to comply with the dosage indications of the manufacturer and to use the same product for refill as the original product.
- Avoid supersized packages. They contain unnecessary filling substances without any cleaning power but that are harmful to water.
- Prefer separate components (basic detergents, softening agent, bleach and stain remover). As each component has an extremely high dosage, make sure you use the correct dosage.



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## Ecologic washing

- For normal laundry prewashing is always unnecessary.
- Comply with the dosage indication of the manufacturer. Too high dosages are harmful to the environment but also hard on your budget. Water quality and dirtiness of the fabrics are other elements to be taken into account. As manufactures continuously adapt their products, dosage indications can change too. Please check these out even if you are always using the same product.
- Call your commune to ask for information about the water quality to be able to adapt the detergent dosage.
- Normal laundry can be washed with 60°C allowing you saving about 40 % in comparison with a 95°C program. Most detergents are efficient already at lower temperatures and washing at high temperatures is mostly unnecessary.
- Dry spin your laundry at a very high speed, the less water fabrics contain, the less time an energy they need to dry.

## After the washing

- Leave the detergent filling and the door of the washing machine a bit open for the remaining moist to dry out.
- If possible dry your laundry outside and not in the drier. You will probably save a lot of energy.





## Ecologic disposal

- Do not throw empty packaging in the household waste as this material can be recycled. Take empty containers to the recycling site in your neighborhood or put them in the Valorlux collection for PE and PET containers. Containers with dangerous substances (containers with danger symbols) do not belong into the Valorlux collection bag but should be taken to the **SuperDrecksKëscht®** on the recycling site or the mobile collection container of the **SuperDrecksKëscht®**.

The choice of the right detergent is determined by various factors as type and color of fabrics, dirtiness ...

A list of the shops participating in the action „Clever akafen“ is available under [www.sdk.lu](http://www.sdk.lu).







# RECOMMENDATIONS DETERGENTS



## General recommendations

- Don't let dirt get into your house. Use „dirt barriers“ (i.e. doormats). Take off your dirty shoes before you enter your home. Use a pair of shoes or slippers that you only wear inside your home.
- Avoid using chemicals as much as possible. Use the vacuum cleaner, broom or microfiber towels. To prevent microfiber towels from losing their cleaning power, avoid washing them with water softener.
- Buy only products, you really need.
- When buying detergents, give preference to products with the label „Clever akafen“. These products fulfill the strict criteria of the campaign „Clever akafen“ as their components (i.e. tensides, solvents, scents,...) are checked as to their impact on the health of the users and the environment.
- Use only products, you really need. Normally detergents or neutral cleaners, lime removers (lemon or vinegar detergents), dishwashing soap, alcohol cleaners and scouring powder are enough.
- Never mix detergents. This can lead to a chemical reaction and for instance toxic gas.
- Always use detergents in their original container. When filling detergents into other containers, put labels on these containers to avoid confusion.
- Comply with the dosage prescriptions of the manufacturer. Too high dosage is dangerous for your health and the environment but also for your purse. Even if you always buy the same products, look for the dosage prescriptions as composition and concentration regularly change.
- Read the safety instructions of the manufacturer on the packaging. Store your products in a way to prevent children and animals from reaching them.
- Wear safety gloves when in direct contact with dirt or detergents.
- Avoid using disinfection products. They can lead to allergies for the user and increase the resistance of germs. If nevertheless you use disinfection products (i.e. during flu periods), use them appropriately and with care.
- Beware of scents in detergents. Scents frequently lead to allergies and skin reactions. They have no cleaning power.



## In the kitchen

- Fill your dishwasher entirely.
- Ask your commune about the hardness degree of your water. The amount of regeneration salt is determined by this. Set the dosage on your dishwasher accordingly.
- Use dishwasher detergents without chlorine additive.
- Set the washing program according to the dirt of the dishes. Generally a temperature of 50 °C is sufficient to hygienically clean the dishes.
- When buying a new dishwasher, look for the energy and water consumption. You can find information on the website [www.oekotopten.lu](http://www.oekotopten.lu). Adapt the size of the dishwasher to the size of your household.
- When doing dishes by hand, use hot water and little detergent. Use appropriate gloves and start with the dishes that are less dirty.
- Use drain sieves. The more dirt gets into the drain, the easier pipes get clogged leading to bad smells. Drain and pipe cleaners are unnecessary as a pipe snake or suction cup lead to the same results in a faster and less dangerous way.
- Try to remove dirt from the oven or the stove immediately. Detergents or neutral cleaners are mostly not sufficient. To remove crusts from the oven apply detergents in thin concentration and only remove the next morning. Ceramic stove tops can be easily cleaned with a scratcher.
- Regularly remove lime deposits in pots, waterheater and dishwashers.

## In the bathroom and for the toilet

- The most important tool in the water closet is the toilet brush. If used regularly it avoids urine stone and lime depots.
- Avoid room sprays - smells disappear by regular and correct aeration.
- Use soft sponges - scratched surfaces get dirty and worn more rapidly.
- Use mild detergents and neutral soaps to clean washbowls, bathtubs and other surfaces. Microfiber towels and water are sufficient to clean fittings and mirrors and replace chemical products.
- Water stains as well as light lime depots can be removed with dry microfiber towels.
- Use whiting or baking powder and water to cover joints between the tiles when they are dirty. Wait for 15 minutes and rinse. Acid cleaners will damage the joint filling.
- If you want, you can avoid using scented products (in toilets - as they are aggressive for mucosa) bath cleaners, drain cleaners, disinfection and hygienic cleaners.



## For the floors

- The ecologic alternative are floors that are easy to clean with smooth surfaces. Detergents and microfiber towels will be enough to remove dirt. Special care is only needed for natural stone floors and oiled or waxed wooden floors. Brighteners and polishers damage furniture and floors.
- Avoid one-way products as for instance one-way cleaning towels.

## For windows, mirrors, glass, lampshades, ...

- To clean glass surfaces use microfiber or synthetic towels. Window towels and paper is ideal to clean windows as well as a window wiper.

## Ecologic disposal

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The choice of the appropriate detergent is determined by several factors, as for instance type of dirt, material to be cleaned, etc.

Seek advice from your reseller. A list of the shops participating in the campaign „Clever akafen“ as well as detailed criteria catalogue for ecologic detergents and cleaning products are available under [www.clever-akafen.lu](http://www.clever-akafen.lu).

