



Line Drying: Fact Sheet

LINE DRYING ADVANTAGES

- **Saves Energy:** Second to the refrigerator, the electric dryer is the second biggest household user of electricity. According to the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, as of 2005 there were 88 million dryers in the United States. Each of these consume approximately 1,079 kilowatt hours of energy per household, emitting 2,224 pounds of carbon dioxide. Every individual who chooses to do one less dryer load makes a difference.
- **What is Lint?:** Lint is bits of disintegrated fabric from your clothes. Clothes typically last longer without the duress of a machine dryer.
- **White and Bright:** Exposure to sunlight is the best natural bleach for your clothes. Worries about fading your brights or jeans? Simply hang them inside out.
- **Line Drying Kills Germs:** The sun's ultraviolet rays are an antiseptic and kill bacteria.
- **Line Drying is perfect for things that can't go in the dryer –** rubber backed throw rugs, car mats, and extra large blankets.
- **Line Drying indoors on a retractable or folding clothesline is a great humidifier for you're your plants, skin and hair.**
- **Line Drying is good for your health.** Not only is it great exercise, if you are line drying outside you get some fresh air and the little bit of sunlight that you need everyday.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTS

- The electric dryer uses approximately 6% of the total electricity used in a household and is a powerful emitter of carbon dioxide (approx. a ton of CO₂ per household ever year).
- Until about 50 years ago the clothesline was a part of the American backyard, but as the popularity of the electric dryer grew, it quickly became viewed as a mandatory appliance. In 2007, a 2006 Pew survey found that 83% consider them a necessity, as opposed to 62% a decade ago.

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TIPS ON LINE DRYING

- Shake out clothing before hanging to diminish wrinkles.
- Hang shirts and tops from the hem or tail so clothespin marks don't show.
- Add vinegar to the rinse water (1/2 cup per load) to prevent any drying stiffness. Vinegar removes soap residues that cause stiffness and, as the clothing dries, the odor disappears so you won't smell like a pickle!
- You don't need a yard or a porch to line dry, it also can be achieved with inside racks (ie: retractable clotheslines – see product sheet).
- Dresses, blouses, shirts, jackets and permanent-press clothes are best dried on hangers as this preserves the shape of the garments and reduces wrinkles.
- To line dry sheets, fold the sheet hem-to-hem, then fold three to four inches of one hem over the line and pin at both ends. Pin the corners of the other hem a few inches inside the first two. The sheet should open toward the wind a blow out like a sail.
- Fold underwear at the waist over the line and pin at both sides, pin bras by the hook and sicks by the toes to line dry your undergarments quickly and efficiently.

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