

What is a collapsible washer?

Collapsible washers are compact, lightweight and operate similarly to traditional washing machines. Small models can easily handle small loads and have the ability to quickly wash clothes or linens in a range of scenarios, including when camping or even just for at-home emergencies.

Collapsible washers can be an excellent investment when space is at a premium and every square inch really matters. They can also help to minimise your electricity usage and bills as well as reduce your environmental footprint.

Do portable washers use a lot of water?

When compared to traditional washing machines, portable washers use far less water and can therefore be a more eco-friendly option for small loads. This is good news as water will need to be added to the machine manually, either via a jug, bucket, or tap.

How long does a mini load take to wash?

Although the cycles on different models of portable washing machines will vary, they will typically take less time to complete than a standard cycle in a traditional washing machine. Some cycles can take just 15 minutes, with others stretching to approximately one hour.

How much detergent should I use in a portable washing machine?

It is important to consult the manufacturer's guidelines when it comes to determining which detergents can be used in a portable washing machine. As portable washers are significantly smaller than standard washing machines, it is important to reduce the amount of detergent you are using by around 75%.

Can you use fabric softener in a portable washing machine?

As most portable washers do not contain a fabric softener dispenser drawer, you may choose to skip this part of your washing routine. However, it is still possible to add fabric softener simply by pausing the washer before it starts its rinse cycle.

Remember that you will need to use significantly less softener than you would in a standard-sized washing machine. Additionally, it is usually best to dilute your preferred fabric softener with at least three parts water to ensure that it doesn't cause any unnecessary staining.

Using too much detergent and/or softener will extend the amount of time your cycle needs to run for, so always ensure that you are using an amount suited to the size of your portable machine and the load.

What not to put in a portable washing machine?

As this type of washing machine should never be overfilled, you will need to make other cleaning arrangements for heavier garments such as thick jumpers and coats. Portable machines will also struggle to handle larger linens, such as blankets and bedding. Some models may be able to wash a single blanket. However, as spin cycles are typically less vigorous than in standard washers, you may need to be prepared for increased drying times.

Additionally, as portable washers aren't quite as powerful as traditional machines and offer only a limited number of cycle types, it is important to treat garments with heavy staining before washing. This will help you to ensure that you don't need to rewash garments multiple times to remove stains.