



**March  
2012**

**Austin Home &  
Vacation Show  
March 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>  
Packer Arena.**

Come see what's new  
in 2012 with our  
Conserve &  
Save® Energy  
Savings Rebates.

Bring in your  
Connections  
Newsletter to receive a  
free CFL Light Bulb!  
*(Available while supplies last)*

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**Information for  
Customers using  
On-Line Bill Pay**

To avoid a possible  
penalty when  
submitting  
payments by  
bill-pay, payments  
should be received  
a day prior to  
the due date.

Payments made  
through our website  
are posted  
immediately  
to your account.  
Check it out at  
[www.austinutilities.com](http://www.austinutilities.com)

# Connections

*Strengthening our Community...*

*one customer at a time!*



## *'Click' onto WiFi*

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- **1 Mb only \$19.99 per month**
- **3 Mb only \$24.99 per month**
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### **FREE Installation**

### **NO long term contract**

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**Call Jaguar Communications: 507.214.1000**

*Ask about bundle packages for phone and television to save even more!*

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### **Office Hours**

*Monday*

**8:30 am - 5:00 pm**

*Tuesday - Friday*

**8:00 am - 5:00 pm**

*Saturday & Sunday*

**Closed**

**Austin  
Utilities  
Office**

**will be closed  
Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>  
in observance of  
Good Friday**

## Rebate of the month

*Because we all benefit when we conserve and save*

### March — Clothes Washer

The average American family washes almost 300 loads of laundry each year. Families can cut their related energy and water costs just by purchasing a clothes washer that's earned the Energy Star.

Clothes washers that have earned the Energy Star have a greater tub capacity which means you can wash fewer loads to clean the same amount of laundry. They are available in front-load and top-load models. The top-load models look like standard machines on the outside, yet they do not waste water filling up the tub. They clean using sophisticated wash systems to flip or spin clothes through a stream of water. Many have sensors to monitor incoming water levels and temperature. They also rinse clothes with repeated high-pressure spraying instead of soaking them in a full tub of water.

When purchasing a new clothes washer, consider the following:

- **Use less water.** A full-sized Energy Star qualified clothes washers uses 14 gallons of water per load, compared to the 27 gallons used by a standard machine. That's 50 percent less water,

per load. Over the machine's lifetime, that's a savings of 43,000 gallons of water!!

- **Use less energy.** On average, a new Energy Star qualified clothes washer uses 270 kWh of electricity and costs \$60 to run, each year.

- **Is your washer over 10 years old?** It's estimated that there are 84 million top-loading washers with agitators, 24 million of which are at least 10 years old, still in use across the country. Washers manufactured before 1998 are significantly less efficient than newer models. Together, these inefficient washers cost consumers \$2.6 billion each year in energy and water.

If every clothes washer purchased in the U.S. this year earned the Energy Star, we would save 790 million kWh of electricity, 32 billion gallons of water, 2 trillion BTUs of natural gas every year, resulting in energy bill savings of about \$350 million, every year.

Austin Utilities customers benefit with a rebate up to \$100 when they purchase a new Energy Star rated Clothes Washer. To learn more about Conserve & Save rebates, visit our website at [www.austinutilities.com](http://www.austinutilities.com).

## Clothes Dryer Tips

ENERGY STAR does not label clothes dryers because there is little difference in energy use among models. Here are some ways to reduce energy consumption when using your clothes dryer:

### Use the moisture sensor option.

Many new clothes dryers come designed with a moisture sensor, which automatically shuts off the machine when clothes are dry. Not only will this save energy, but it will also save wear and tear on your clothes caused by over-drying.

### Clean the lint filter.

Cleaning the filter after every load will improve air circulation and increase the efficiency of the dryer. It's also an important safety measure.

### Scrub the lint filter regularly if you use dryer sheets.

Dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter that reduces air flow and, over time, can affect the performance of the motor. Use a toothbrush to scrub it clean once a month.

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*



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