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THE LAUNDRY ALTERNATIVE

Put the spin on your own laundry by shaking it clean in the Wonderwash, just like our soldiers do overseas.

Lid is off of talking washing machines

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If your washing machine could talk, what would it say?

"Gee, could you guys be more disgusting?" or "Hey, the lid still closes — why don't you cram some more stuff in here?"

Now you can find out what's on a washer's mind, courtesy of the Electrolux Group's "Washy Talky." The company dubs it "the precocious home servant" that uses high-tech microprocessors and a voice response system to communi-

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cate with its user (pre-programmed patter, of course).

The washer coaches the user through the loading process and makes suggestions on water level and load weight. It says things like, "Drop detergent, close lid and relax!" If you forget to close the lid, the machine will politely remind you.

The user-friendly washer is even bilingual, fluent in

English and Hindi. It recently was introduced in India, where it's marketed under the Electrolux Kelvinator brand name.

It is expected to become available soon in North America. You might want to get ready by rehearsing a little small talk with your faithful but mute machine.

If you'd just as soon not converse with a machine, the Washy Talky has a voice deactivator button. Visit Electrolux online at www.electrolux.com

Meanwhile, the war against ring around the collar rages in Afghanistan. U.S. troops are getting out that tough desert dirt in compact, portable washing machines.

The Wonderwash does a five-pound load in only a minute or two, using little water or detergent and no electricity. The unit, which

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weighs less than six pounds, uses a pressure wash system. The warmer the water, the more pressure builds inside the machine when it's agitated.

Environmentally friendly Wonderwashes are becoming popular with boaters, campers, RVers, singles, seniors, college students and others.

It sells for \$42.95. Read more about it at www.laundry-alternative.com.



It seems there's a cleanup wipe for every imaginable task

these days.

Easy-Off, the oven-cleaning people, have come out with a heat-activated microwave wipe. The pouch holding the wipe is heated for a minute on high, then pops open and mists the interior. The cooled towelette then is used to remove cooked-on splatters and spills inside the oven.

A box of pouches sells for about \$3 in grocery stores and discount chains.

The latest entry in the wipe whirlwind comes from Murphy Oil Soap. The **Murphy Soft Wipe** is pre-moistened with oil soap, and is safe for all wood surfaces.

The re-sealable pouch contains 18 wipes and also sells for about \$3 in the cleaning-product section of most stores.