

My beautiful laundrette

No more sitting in the local Laundromat in your bathing suit. Hand-turned, pressure washing machines are a cheap, portable, environmentally friendly way for boaters, campers, and cottagers to clean clothes. Some apartment-dwellers even prefer it over the cost and hassle of the communal laundry.



Small and simple to use, pressure washers require 90 percent less water and detergent, need no electricity, and purportedly get clothes clean in minutes.

Most brands, selling for about \$60 Canadian, resemble a barbeque propane tank, fitted with an airtight lid and propped in a stand with a hand crank. The washer holds about 10 T-shirts, or 30 pairs of socks, or two pairs of blue jeans.

Just add two litres of hot water and two tablespoons of detergent, close the lid, and crank for two minutes. Dump, rinse, and crank again. The pressure created by the hot water, spinning, and airtight container forces dirt out of the clothes. Alas, for drying, you still need a sunny day.

More info: (www.laundry-alternative.com or click "laundry" at www.lehmans.com).