

# Washing Detergent

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## Bio - Crete™

The Concrete Answer to Wastewater Treatment

The waste water from your washing machine and dishwasher flows to your Bio-Crete wastewater treatment plant. Your Bio-Crete unit is capable of treating this waste; however over the years of providing, servicing and maintaining Bio-Crete units we have noticed the overuse of washing powder & detergents occurring in some households.

Your Bio-Crete unit treats your household effluent by using bacteria to digest waste. Excessive use of washing powder can interfere with this process and cause problems in your tank. To combat these problems we have put together this advice sheet, with tips and information about washing agents.



- **Measure washing detergents carefully**

The amount of detergent you should use depends on the hardness of the water in your area and on the soil level of your laundry. *Use the necessary amount of detergent to clean your clothes, but no more.* Experiment with your detergent by reducing the amount used over time to discover the amount you need to achieve

clean

clothes.

**TOO MUCH SUDS  
IS NOT GOOD**

- **Avoid underfilling the machine**

This will save you energy, water, washing powder and money, as well as saving the environment and is much kinder to your Bio-Crete unit. Put a *full load* into your machine each time, you will wash more clothes for the same amount of washing powder and your clothes will still be just as clean.

- **Further Information**

If you require any further information regarding this information please do not hesitate to contact Bio-Crete using the contact details below. Further guidelines on sustainable laundry are available on [www.washright.com](http://www.washright.com).



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- **Use the lowest recommended temperature**

Most of today's washing detergents work well at low temperatures. Make a habit of setting the temperature at the lowest recommended setting, depending on the garments you are washing. This will encourage the bacteria in your Bio-Crete unit to treat your household waste.

- **Choose zero/low phosphate detergents**

Phosphate pollution has been identified by the Irish Government and the EPA as a major pollutant of Irish rivers and lakes<sup>1</sup>. The Shannon Regional Fisheries Board have identified that up to 15% of phosphates in the environment comes from fabric washing<sup>2</sup>. Your wastewater system can deal with phosphates, but overloading the system with excessive amounts of detergents will not allow effective treatment of phosphorous. Phosphate based detergent products can amount up to 25% of that detergent. Alternatives to phosphates are being developed. One of these is Zeolite, used in many detergents. When purchasing washing detergents read the label and choose a detergent with zeolite, rather than

phosphate listed as a major ingredient. *Many zeolite based detergents still contain phosphates or phosphonates, so care is still needed when using these products.* A zero phosphate washing powder is available, which washes clothes as effectively as other brands, and biodegrades very effectively in your Bio-Crete system.

<sup>1</sup> EPA, *Phosphorous Regulations National Implementation Report*, 2005

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.shannon-fishery-board.ie/aboutus/phosphates.htm>

