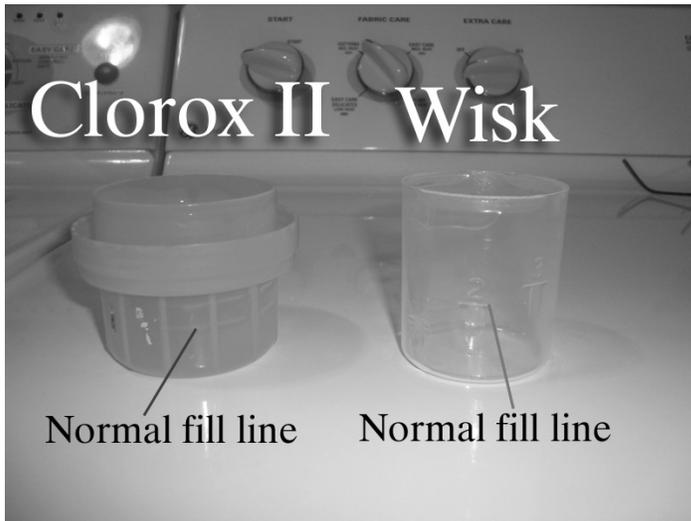


Washing Machines

Bea Koretzky, my neighbor, asked me to look at her washing machine because she was getting white spots that looked something like lint on her clothing when it came out of the wash. I felt it was soap build up under the agitator but my back was hurting and I didn't feel like pulling the agitator off. So I told her to put a couple of cups of white vinegar in her washing machine and run it through a cycle with hot water and no clothes. She did and told me later that it did the trick. This got me to start thinking (dangerous!) about how much soap is enough. I know it is hard to read the little lines on the detergent caps and felt a lot of people just guess. When I went on the web to do a little research I found it is a common problem. On the back of the detergent bottle, there are 'recommended' amounts for various types of 'laundry loads'. For a medium-sized load, the manufacturer suggested that you fill the cap to line "2". I looked on the outside of the cap and I couldn't find any numbers. But, on the inside, there they were. Very faintly, there were three lines - 1, 2, and 3. The bottle states that there are 16 loads per bottle - But, that's ONLY true if you use 'line 2' - the line suggested for medium loads. Use any line above 'line 2' and you'll get less than 16 loads per bottle. Fill it to near the top and you'll only get 8! And I think that's what most people do. They think one capful is to, or near the top and more is better. It is the opposite though. Overdosing can also cause soap deposits and lint to form inside your washing machine, which, say some manufacturers, might contribute to mold and odors. It could also plug or restrict ports or filters and that those deposits could result in mechanical failure. And for some high-efficiency washers, overdosing can produce excessive suds and lead to extended wash cycles as the machine tries to remove the soap.

There is a simple way to tell if you are using too much laundry detergent: Check the lint trap on your dryer. If you are collecting a lot of lint with each load, chances are you are using way too much soap. Cut back to half the recommended amount of detergent and you will see a drastic reduction in the amount of lint your in your dryer. Since some



detergents cost as much as 65 cents per load, using too much cleaner could also become expensive. So, to clean the hoses and eliminate un-dissolved lint and detergent in a washing machine use white vinegar. Pour 1 to 2 cups of vinegar into the

bottom of the washing machine tub and run through the normal cycle, without clothes, using the hot-water setting. The same information goes for liquid whitener also. Take a close look at the cap or read the back of the container and I bet you will see you are using too much of that also. DO NOT fill to the top!

SCAMS – I guess I could write every month about scams there are so many of them. Gail was checking our credit card statement and there was a charge for \$139.99 from ID Secure. We never asked for their services, a credit checking company. They are the same company that I wrote about that sends you a check that looks like a rebate and if you sign it you are signed up for a year for that same \$139.99. They hope you don't notice for a couple of months and will then refund the remaining months but not those already used. So... check your statements carefully.