

Criteria for allergy-friendly washing machines

1. Basic situation

Freshly washed linen is not always pleasant for allergy sufferers. The fragrance, washing result and texture of the fabric surface can have a negative effect on wearing comfort and skin tolerance.

Detergents and fabric softeners play an important role due to their product composition and the fragrances or perfumes they may contain. But also the complex functions of a washing machine have a decisive influence on the washing result and thus on the tolerability for allergy sufferers. Because of direct skin contact, the fabric should be free from irritating detergent residues as well as from pollen and animal allergens after washing.

ECARF certifies washing machines with the best washing results with regard to pollen and animal hair allergens. The following criteria are used for determination. They are subject to the principle that as little allergen exposure as possible is generally beneficial to health.

2. Criteria

- The European Foundation for Allergy Research (ECARF) awards washing machines with the ECARF quality seal when all the following parameters are met:
- The unit offers the possibility of intensive rinsing in the standard programs (at 30, 40 and 60 degrees, the term "standard programs" does not apply to special programs such as "spinning" or "extra short programs" which are not designed for intensive rinsing)
 - either*
 - through additional rinses, increased rinsing water volume or longer rinsing time
 - or*
 - with an extra rinse, which triggers an additional rinse if necessary;
- The maximum water consumption does not exceed the following values:
 - 20l / kg Laundry for machines with a load \leq 4 kg according to the manufacturer
 - 18l / kg Laundry for machines with a load $>$ 4 kg according to the manufacturer's instructions;
- The detergent residues do not exceed 0.74 meq/kg (Rinsing Efficiency according to IEC 60456 [EN60456: 2011]);
- The washing performance exceeds 0.99 (according to IEC 60456 [EN60456: 2011]);
- Residues of cat allergen Fel d 1 are on the textile $<$ 0.15 ng / cm²;
- Pollen is removed to at least 97.5%.