

White Paper on DIY Shirt Laundry (2018)

Q: I've got a washing machine and a dryer at home. Why would I still need a cleaner?

If you wash underwears, blankets, pillows, and pillow cases, even some small items like handkerchiefs and have the time to wait on cycles and iron, you probably don't need a Cleaner. Convenience and a better quality of life is the service that a Professional Cleaner provides its customer base.

Fact is if you paid yourself minimum wage to do the household laundry, you'd probably realize that you are better off going to the Cleaners. On shirts alone, just the labour and power cost would set you back anywhere from \$4.76 - \$5.96 per shirt to launder and press on the premise that a regular washer will wash 10 shirts at a time efficiently.

	No of Mins (Shortest Time)	No of Mins (Longest Time)
Washing Loading Time	1	1
Drying Loading Time	1	1
Ironing Time per shirt		
20 - 25 mins	<u>200</u>	<u>250</u>
	202	252
Direct Labor Cost (\$0.23/min)		
for 10 shirts	\$46.46	\$57.96
DC Average Cost per Shirt	\$4.64	\$5.79
Power Cost:		
*Washing Cost per Load	\$0.32	\$0.85
*Drying Cost per Load	\$0.46	\$0.50
*Ironing Cost for 10 shirts	\$0.22	\$0.33
Direct Labor Cost Plus		
Power Cost (10 Shirts)	\$47.64	\$59.64
Average Cost per Shirt	\$4.76	\$5.96

Assumptions:

- You paid yourself or a household member minimum wage (\$14/hr) to do laundry for 10 shirts ironed and ready to go.
- Ironing cost was derived using the online energy calculator for an iron appliance per year that assumes a \$0.12/kWh (US). North American average cost of power is slightly higher \$0.1263/kWh.
- Cost for Detergent and other Cleaning Chemicals deemed negligible and were not imputed.
- Only direct Labor and Power Cost were taken into account.

- Average Washer/Dryer comfortable capacity to clean effectively is 10 shirts per load.

And the time for 10 DIY shirt laundering will average anywhere between 4 hours and 34 mins to 5 hours and 40 mins. That’s an epic movie that you could have watched on the weekend or quality time spent in the park with the kids!

	Mins (Shortest) At 20 mins/shirt	Mins (Longest) At 25 mins/shirt
Ironing Time		
for 10 shirts in Minutes	202	252
Washing Time in Minutes	32	38
Drying Time in Minutes	<u>40</u>	<u>50</u>
TOTAL Minutes	274	340
Hours spent to do 10 shirts	4.566666667	5.67
	4hrs and 34mins	5hrs and 40mins

Assumptions:

- Average time to iron 1 shirt by hand is between 20-25 mins. of equivalent quality to what an expert presser can do in 3-5 mins. using commercial pressing equipment. Most professional housewives can do a fairly decent job between 5-8 mins. depending on the type of fabric the shirt is made of. Cotton shirts are pretty straight forward. Linen shirts are an entirely different story—they take longer!
- Average time to wash was assumed to be between 32-38 mins.
- Average time to dry using a household dryer was assumed to be between 40-50 mins.

Sources:

Power Cost of Wash per Load: <http://michaelbluejay.com/electricity/laundry.html>

Power Cost of Dryer per Load: <http://michaelbluejay.com/electricity/laundry.html>

Power Cost of Ironing for 10 shirts: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/estimating-appliance-and-home-electronic-energy-use>