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# The Spark

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## Environment 37



### Wash day news

Cass Bonner takes ionic balls for a spin

No, these aren't the kind of thing the bionic man keeps down the front of his trousers, but you could be forgiven for thinking they're pure science fiction.

These ionic balls are for your laundry. They're reusable, capable of doing 60 washes, which means each wash costs about 11p, as compared to 30-40p for detergents and softeners. The environmental benefits are obvious - eliminating harsh chemicals, washing at any temperature, and no need for rinsing, so it cuts down on the washing cycle. They are also hypo-allergenic. The process also causes less wear and tear on fabrics.

So how do they work? 'Now concentrate,' as the Friends woman says on that shampoo ad,

'here comes the science bit'. The balls contain ionic crystals which are charged and produce ionised oxygen, which activates the water's natural ability to penetrate fibres and lift away dirt.

The Spark verdict? Well, I've been using the ionic ball for a couple of weeks now and can vouch that it works. It is necessary however to use stain remover on some stains beforehand. The washing does come out clean and smelling nice thanks to the lemon/ jasmine fragrance of the balls.

If the balls cost £13.95 a set. For a pair of ionic balls all of your own, contact Chasan Agencies at 3 Water Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 3QE. 0181 420 6474 Fax 0181 954 0797. To order phone 0800 026 0220.