

POSITIVE NEWS

Spring 2000



No.23

from around the world

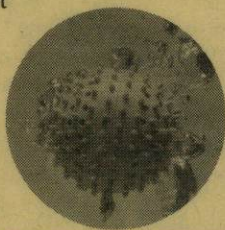
POSITIVE CONSUMER

IN A SPIN

Laundry balls are a tempting buy - they replace the need for chemical detergent and fabric softener, they eliminate the necessity for a rinse cycle so saving water and energy and they are hypo-allergenic and anti-bacterial. Not only that but, depending on which brand you go for, they reduce the average cost of a wash from 30p to around 3p. Of course, there's always the possibility they don't work as well as is claimed, and this is the main reason why many green consumers haven't tried them as yet. But after several weeks of testing two brands, Positive Consumer's advice is to "go for the balls".

Test one: The Aquaball

The first test using the Aquaball was a tough one: curry stains on a sweatshirt and grass stains on jeans. The Aquaball washed the clothes at least as well as eco-friendly washing powder, but for complete removal of stains, manufacturers do suggest the assistance of a stain-remover on the grubbier areas as a guarantee of a good wash. One word of warning though, the Aquaball couldn't cope with a 60 degree hot wash for whites - the heat of the water seemed to unstick the seal and the end result was hundreds of small pebbles spilling out of the machine.



Test two: Eco-Balls

Whilst twice as expensive as the Aquaballs, they could stand up to a hot wash, and gave consistently good results. However, Eco-Balls also need a helping hand when it comes to heavy stains. Each Eco-Ball is supposed to last for around 250 washes, but the pebbles inside the Eco-Balls trialed for Positive Consumer have reduced in size very quickly - at this rate will not last for 250 washes. Both types of laundry balls release ionised oxygen that increases the pH level of the water in the wash and activates the water's molecules. These molecules then penetrate deep into the fibres of the clothing lifting dirt away without damaging the fabric, and have natural fabric-softening qualities (place a laundry ball in a glass of water and feel how soft the water goes).

AQUABALLS

COST £14.95 (+£3.00 P+P) FOR A PACK OF TWO, each ball designed to give up to 60 washes. Price per wash is 11p compared to 30-40p for chemical detergents.

Available from: 21st Century Health Ltd., 3 Water Gardens, Stanmore, Middx., HA7 3QE.
Tel: 0181 420 6474. Fax: 0181 954 0797.

ECO-BALLS

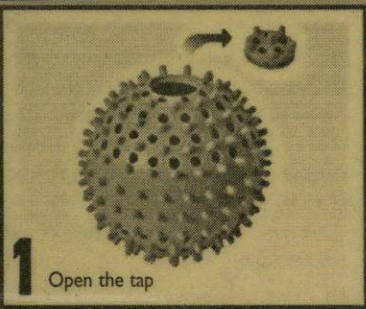
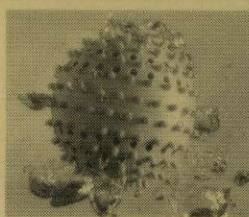
COST £27.75 (+ £1.50 P+P) FOR A PACK OF THREE, with each ball lasting up to 250 washes. Price per wash is 3p compared to 30-40p for chemical detergents. Money-back guarantee if not satisfied.

Available from: Eco-Ball, Birchwood House, Briar Lane, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 5AD.
Tel: 0181 777 3121/Fax: 0181 777 3393.

AQUABALLS PASS THE TEST

In the last issue of Positive Consumer the AquaBalls tested were part of an old batch. They have since been redeveloped and no longer tend to split in hot washes. New tests of the AquaBall by Positive Consumer can confirm that they are excellent value for money - washing away the blood, sweat and tears of everyday life, leaving clothes really soft and vaguely scented. PC has been using laundry balls of several descriptions for three months now with great results. Recommended value for money buy.

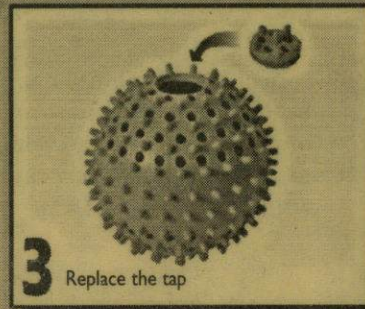
AquaBalls are available at £14.95 for a pack of two from 21st Century Health Ltd., 3 Water Gardens, Stanmore, Middx., HA7 3QE.
Tel: 0181 420 6474/Fax: 0181 954 0797.



1 Open the tap



2 Add in new pellets



3 Replace the tap

New Life for Old Balls

Aquaballs - the tried and tested laundry balls which give cleaning results similar to most eco-detergents - are now reusable. Having cleaned

your clothes in the washing machine using the Aquaballs for up to 60 washes, you can now open the ball up and add new pellets - the ionic crystals and salts that produce the active cleaning power. This means less packaging, less waste and better value for

money. Two reusable Aquaballs, two extra bags of pellets and a stain remover are now available for £14.95.

Contact: 21st Century Health, 3 Water Gardens, Stanmore, Middx., HA7 3QE. Tel: 0181 420 6474/Fax: 0181 954 0797.