

TORRINGTON — The COVID-19 pandemic has meant being extra vigilant at the city's four laundromats: sanitizing washers and dryers between uses, wiping off surfaces regularly and encouraging customers to wear masks.

Laundry Magic, located in the Ocean State Job Lot shopping plaza off Main Street, has gone a step further.

Owner Jim Pedrick recently invested \$50,000 to install an ozone-injection system, called San-O-Wash, which will sanitize customers' wash loads and leave the machines free of most bacteria, viruses and germs.

Ozone, which consists of three oxygen atoms, acts as an oxidizer in the water to break down chemical bonds. It is 3,000 times more powerful than bleach, according to American Laundry News.

"I want my customers to know their laundry and our washers are sanitized. They do not have to be concerned with who used the machines before them," said Pedrick, who lives in Marlborough and also owns



Laundry Magic in Torrington has invested in a new washing machine system that injects ozone to sanitize loads of wash and prevent infection. (Jim Shannon Republican-American)



Laundry Magic in Torrington explains its San-O-Wash system. (Jim Shannon Republican-American)

laundromats in New Britain and Putnam as well as apartment buildings. "2020 has become a challenging year with the emergence of the novel coronavirus, and sanitization is more important than ever."

Open every day of the year except Christmas, Laundry Magic has 36 washers, which range in capacity from 15- to 125-pound loads, and 42 dryers. The laundromat averages 272 customers per week and nearly twice as many loads of laundry.

## "We felt it was very important with the coronavirus to have a more sanitary laundry," Pedrick said.



After talking with Daniels Equipment Co., the New Hampshire-based company that services his machines, Pedrick decided in June to go ahead with the ozone-injection system, which uses electricity to dissolve ozone into the cold water fed to the washers.

The San-O-Wash machine, which hangs on the wall in the rear of the store and is hooked into the plumbing for every machine, was installed three weeks ago.



Melanie Lay, manager of Laundry Magic in Torrington, shows off the new washing machine system that injects ozone to sanitize loads of wash & prevent infection. (Jim Shannon Republican-American)

"They said that many hospitals and other institutions use it," said Melanie Lay, who has been manager of the laundromat since 2009, two years before Pedrick acquired it. The business was previously known as Frazier's.

She noted that Laundry Magic provides laundry services to Western Massachusetts Hospital in Westfield, Mass., Fernwood Rest Home in Litchfield and, in a normal summer, many of the youth camps in the Northwest Corner.

Customers can drop off their clothes to be cleaned, and the laundromat also recently launched a pickup and delivery service for people who are wary of going out because of the pandemic.

The San-O-Wash system also keeps colors brighter longer and helps to remove odors, Lay said. "That's good for people who have allergies," she added.

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