

SECRETS TO A GOOD LIFE

# Starting a New Cycle

A young couple turned a dilapidated spot into a neighborhood hub



**A**S BENJAMIN FRANKLIN said, “Nothing is certain except death and taxes,” but we could also add laundry to that list. No one knows this better than Erin and Jonathan Carpenter, the owners of Reynolds Laundromat in Charleston, South Carolina.

After tying the knot in 2020, they wanted a change of scenery from their hometown of Boone, North Carolina, and decided to rent an RV to travel around the country. “We weren’t sure what we were going to do with our lives yet and wanted to see something bigger,” recalls Erin.

While on the road for four months, they experienced some lifestyle changes, including how they washed clothes. “We used Laundromats all the time. They were a huge part of our journey since we had no washing machine,” says Erin, who notes that they spent countless hours in different facilities—which varied dramatically. “Whoever owns the place decides how they want to take care of you.”

With a newfound appreciation for these essential establishments, the Carpenters settled in Charleston and bought the run-down Reynolds Laundromat just north of downtown. The pair strapped in for a serious renovation, and after months of work, they opened for business in March 2023 with restored machines, a small library, comfortable seating, and a kids’ area.

Beyond creating a clean, safe space for their customers, Erin and Jonathan were excited to immerse themselves in the community. That’s why they regularly host free laundry days, providing food, music, and hygiene products to anyone who needs them. “People have reached out to be sponsors for our free laundry days almost every single month,” she says. Whether it’s through supplying detergent or canned goods, local residents and businesses have helped the Carpenters turn Reynolds into a true gathering place. “We didn’t expect what it would be like to be part of a community in this way. Now I feel like I’m friends with all the people who come in,” says Erin.

GREAT GEAR

## Laundry-Day Essentials

Three picks for fresh, clean clothes



**Meliora Cleaning Products**  
Soap Stick, \$5; [meliorameansbetter.com](https://meliorameansbetter.com)



**Branch Basics Wool Dryer Balls**, \$19/pack of three; [branchbasics.com](https://branchbasics.com)



**Blueland Laundry Starter Set**, from \$20; [blueland.com](https://blueland.com)

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: COURTESY JORDI TIFFANY; COURTESY MELIORA CLEANING PRODUCTS; COURTESY BRANCH BASICS; COURTESY BLUELAND

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1. In a chronic dry eye patient usage study, participants from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, answered questions about their satisfaction with iVIZIA lubricant drops. 203 chronic dry eye patients, 28-80 years old, switched from their dry eye artificial tears to iVIZIA for this month-long study. \* To limit blurriness when using contact lenses, remove contacts, apply drops, then insert contacts.

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