

MAJOR APPLIANCES

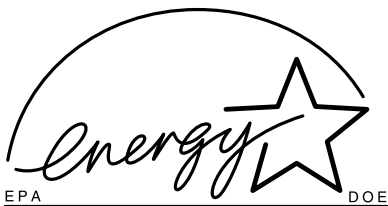
Have Two Price Tags

Every appliance has two price tags. The first is the price you pay when you purchase the appliance. The second is the cost of operating the appliance over its lifetime. You might be surprised if you consider how much it costs to operate an appliance compared to what seemed to be a good deal when you purchased it.

When you shop for a new appliance, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. Appliances with this label usually exceed minimum federal standards by

a substantial amount. ENERGY STAR® rated products are always among the most efficient available today.

Also look for the EnergyGuide label displayed on most major appliances. The bright yellow and black EnergyGuide labels do NOT tell you which appliance is the most energy efficient, but they will tell you how much it will cost to operate the appliance so you can make your own comparisons.



■ CLOTHES WASHERS & DRYERS

CLOTHES WASHERS

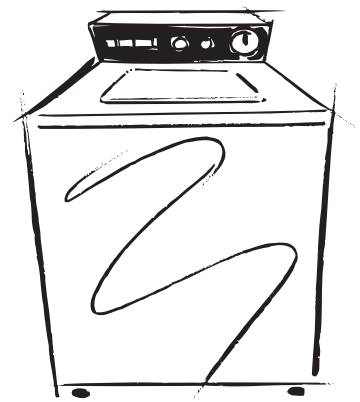
About 80 to 85 percent of energy used for washing clothes is for heating the water. You can reduce the amount of energy used for washing clothes in two ways: use less water, and use cooler water. Unless you are dealing with oily stains, the warm or cold water setting on your machine will generally do a good job of cleaning your clothes. Clothes washers have a significant impact on sewer costs.

Look at the EnergyGuide label placed on all new clothes washers. Also look for an ENERGY STAR® label on the clothes washer you are considering. The machine may cost more to purchase but uses about a third of

the energy and less water than typical machines. You will also save more on clothes drying, because most remove more water from your clothes during the spin cycle.

ENERGY STAR® clothes washers come in a range of capacities from about 1.6 cubic feet up to 2.9 cubic feet. A typical large-capacity washer found in most households, is about 2.7 cubic feet.

Because washers are most efficient when they are fully loaded, you should choose a size that most closely matches your laundry needs. For a family that does a lot of laundry, one of the larger models probably makes the most sense. For individuals or



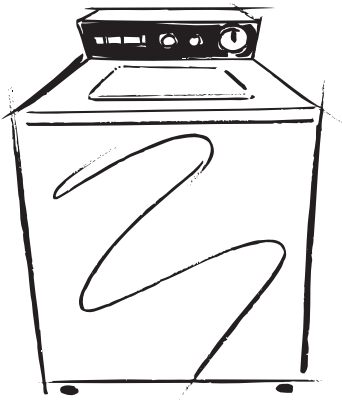
couples who do less laundry, a small model will be the most economical.

Some ENERGY STAR® models can be stacked or mounted under a countertop. This is a useful feature if you have a limited amount of space. Check with the manufacturer to see which models are available in this configuration.

Front-loading machines, or horizontal-axis, usually cost more to purchase, but energy savings and water savings are significant. One study noted a usage of 38 percent less water and 58 percent less energy used by front loaders versus top loaders.

CONSUMER TIPS

- ❖ Choose a washing machine that has several options for adjusting the water level. A small load should have the option of using a smaller amount of water.
- ❖ Choose a model with a "mini-basket," a small tub that fits over the agitator to wash very small loads.
- ❖ Look for presoaking options. Both presoaking options and "suds saver" features conserve energy, although the latter option is rare.
- ❖ Choose a washing machine with faster spin speeds. Higher spin speeds can result in better water extraction and reduce drying times.
- ❖ Locate the washing machine close to the hot water tank if possible to reduce the heat loss in long-run pipes. Insulate exposed pipes.
- ❖ Keep your hot water heater thermostat setting at 120 °F. Each 10-degree reduction in water temperature will cut the cost of washing clothes by up to 13 percent.
- ❖ Run only full washers, but do not overload.
- ❖ Wash most clothes in warm or cold water; rinse in cold.
- ❖ Switching your temperature setting from hot to warm can cut the load's energy use in half.
- ❖ Use the correct amount of detergent. Over-sudsing requires two washings to remove suds. It also causes more wear and tear on your clothes.
- ❖ Do not over-wash clothes. Delicate clothes don't need as long a wash cycle as dirty work clothes.



CLOTHES DRYERS

The clothes dryer uses a lot of electricity, costing about \$85 to operate annually. A typical clothes dryer will cost about \$1,100 to operate over its lifetime.

When shopping for a new clothes dryer, look for one with a moisture

sensor that automatically shuts off the machine when your clothes are dry. This will save energy and wear and tear on your clothes caused by over-drying. Gas dryers are normally less expensive to operate than electric dryers.

CONSUMER TIPS

- ❖ Look for a dryer with a moisture sensor that automatically shuts off the machine when the clothes are dry. It saves energy and wear and tear on the clothes.
- ❖ The best dryers have a moisture sensor in the drum to sense dryness. Others sense the temperature of the exhaust air. Compared with timed-drying, you can save about 10 percent with a temperature-sensing control and 15 percent with a moisture-sensing control.
- ❖ Select a dryer with a cool-down cycle, sometimes known as a permanent-press cycle. At the end of the cycle, cool air is blown through the clothes to complete the drying rather than heated air blowing through the entire drying cycle.
- ❖ Gas dryers are less expensive to operate than electric dryers. The cost of drying a typical load of laundry in an electric dryer is 30-40 cents compared to 15-20 cents in a gas dryer.
- ❖ Dry towels and heavier cottons in a separate load from lighter-weight clothes.
- ❖ Clean the lint filter in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation.
- ❖ Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material, not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.
- ❖ Look for the ENERGY STAR® and EnergyGuide labels.
- ❖ Locate the dryer in a heated space. Putting a dryer in a cold or damp basement will make the dryer work harder and less efficiently. Vent your dryer properly. The exhaust system of the dryer should be a short smooth metal duct that is vented straight to the outside. Flexible vinyl duct tends to restrict airflow and increase drying time.
- ❖ Check the outside dryer exhaust vent periodically. If it doesn't close tightly, replace it with one that does close tightly to keep the outside air from leaking inside.
- ❖ Dry two or more loads in a row, taking advantage of the dryer's retained heat.





Sources:

U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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