



## Dryer Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

A clothes dryer is one of those appliances you might take for granted, right up until the moment it fluffs its last towel. If you're looking for a replacement, you'll be happy to know the latest dryers are energy-efficient powerhouses.

### Table of contents

1. Types of dryers
2. Questions to ask before buying a new dryer
3. Technology and new features on dryers
4. Dryer accessories for your laundry room
5. Dryer brands

## Types of dryers

There are two different types of dryer - full size clothes dryers and compact clothes dryers.

### 1. Full size clothes dryers

Most homes have a full-sized dryer. They're usually 27 inches wide and available in both electric or gas models. An electric dryer will require a 240-volt outlet to plug into, while a gas dryer will require a 120-volt outlet as well as a gas hookup.

### 2. Compact clothes dryers

A compact dryer is slightly smaller than a full size dryer. This type of dryer measures 23.6 inches wide. They are usually electric and can easily be stacked on top of a compact washing machine.

## Questions you should ask yourself before buying a new dryer

How do you choose the right dryer for your home? Here are a few questions you can answer so you can choose the best dryer for you.

### 1. Do you need an electric or gas dryer?

There are pros and cons for both gas and electric dryers. Gas dryers usually have a higher upfront cost than electric dryers, but electric dryers don't require a gas line in your laundry room.

If you break down the difference between a gas dryer and an electric dryer into real numbers, a gas dryer will average between 15 to 33 cents per load while an electric dryer will cost between 32 to 41 cents per load. If you do five loads of laundry per week in a gas dryer, it will cost you approximately \$1.65 for all five loads. Those five loads in an electric dryer will cost you around \$2.05.

### 2. What dryer capacity do you need?

Capacity is the name of the game when it comes to dryers, and although bigger is better when you do between five to 10 loads of laundry per week, you might not have the space in your laundry room to install a high capacity dryer.



Dryer capacities average from as small as 4.0 cu.ft. in a compact dryer up to a generous 7.9 cu. ft. You can even find dryers with a 9.5 cu. ft. capacity for large loads and less drying time. In order to properly dry your clothes, a dryer should have twice the capacity of your washing machine.

### **3. Can your laundry room fit a full sized dryer?**

You'll need to allow for approximately 6 inches of clearance behind your dryer for hookups and dryer vents, plus 1 inch between your dryer and your washing machine.

When you're measuring for dryer size, keep in mind the depth of your space. If you'd like to have a high capacity 6 cu. ft. dryer, it will be approximately 25" to 25" deep. 7 cu. ft. models will be as much as 32" deep. Those extra inches can make a lot of difference if you need to close a closet door in front of your laundry pair.

### **4. Which way does your dryer door swing?**

Space and personal preference will be the deciding factors for whether you choose a top-down door or side mount dryer. A top-down door will make a nice shelf you can use to fold laundry, while a side mount door can be easier to load and unload clothes. Most side mount doors are interchangeable so you can decide which way it will swing before you set up your dryer.

### **5. Should you stack your dryer on top of your washer?**

If you're constrained by space, you can still choose a high-capacity dryer. Just add on a stacking kit to create a stackable washer and dryer.

## **Technology and features on new dryers**

Even if your dryer still works, the latest dryers have new technology and features that will make you want to upgrade.

### **1. AI powered laundry machines**

If you choose a smart dryer from a manufacturer like LG or Samsung, your new dryer could have AI (artificial intelligence) on board. A dryer with AI can learn which cycles you use and what your preferences are, then suggest a dryer cycle for you.

### **2. Smart dryers**

Some dryers have Wi-Fi and are smart appliances. With a smart dryer, you can connect your dryer to your home's network and control your dryer from your phone. If you'd like to know when your cycle is finished, you can receive a notification on your phone. If you'd like to remotely start or stop your cycle, you can do that.

### **3. Heat pump dryers**

If you're interested in saving energy while drying your clothes, a heat pump dryer will take heat from the air in the room and use it to dry your clothes.

### **4. Ultra large capacity**



If you've always wanted a dryer that can handle a king sized comforter, you'll find some models of dryer have ultra large capacity that will easily handle a large blanket or huge load of towels.

#### **5. Turbo steam**

With a steam cycle you can refresh your outfits and relax the wrinkles away. To create steam a small amount of water will spray into the dryer drum while tumbling, and the drum will rotate to fluff, remove wrinkles, or refresh your clothes.

#### **6. Moisture sensors**

With moisture sensors in your dryer, your machine will measure how dry your clothes are and turn off the dryer off when it's done.

#### **7. Quick cycles**

The standard time for drying clothes is usually an hour, but with a dryer that has quick cycles your dry time will be cut in half. The latest dryers can dry your clothes in 1/2 hour.

#### **8. Auto-dry cycles**

With Auto-dry cycles, you'll never have to guess how long you need to dry. Your clothes will continue tumbling until they are dry.

#### **9. Wrinkle prevent**

Clothes that sit in the dryer drum after they have finished tumbling may wrinkle, and if you want to keep them fresh choose a dryer with Wrinkle Prevent. It tumbles your clothes periodically so they stay fresh until you can get to them.

#### **10. Drying racks**

When there is something you're worried about drying because you don't want it to tumble in the drum, the dryer rack will be your best friend. Choosing a model with a dryer rack means you can dry everything from shoes to delicate sweaters you'd like to lie flat.

#### **11. Sanitation cycle**

If you have allergies or you want to dry your bedding on high heat to kill bacteria and germs, choose a dryer with a Sanitation Cycle. It blasts through 99.9% of common household bacteria.

#### **12. End-of-cycle signal**

The latest dryer models have changed their tune and now play a catchy song at the end of the drying cycle.

## **Save energy with an Energy Star dryer**

Dryers can add to your electric bill, and if energy savings are on your mind, choose a model that's **ENERGY STAR-qualified**. You can find the perfect model for your by looking at its EnerGuide rating. The lower the



number, the less energy it uses.

## **Dryer accessories for your laundry room**

There are a few different dryer accessories you can choose for your laundry room. A laundry pedestal will prop your dryer up and give you drawer space. A stacking kit will allow you to place your dryer on top of your washing machine so it will fit in small spaces, and you'll need a variety of hoses and clamps to connect your dryer when its time to connect your new dryer.

## **Dryer brands**

Whether you're choosing your new dryer as part of a laundry pair or you are buying a replacement dryer, you'll find a model from your favourite appliance brands including Samsung, LG, Whirlpool, Bosch, GE, Electrolux, Insignia, and Maytag, among others.