



Washing Machine Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

There's nothing better than a basket of freshly laundered clothes, and the right washing machine can make working your way through that pile of laundry quick, easy, and enjoyable.

Table of Contents

1. Types of washing machines
2. What to consider before choosing a new washing machine
3. The technology available on new washing machines
4. Features on washing machines
5. Accessories for your laundry room
6. Brands of washing machine

Types of washing machines

There are two different types of washing machines you can choose from – front loading and top loading.

1. Top loading laundry

A top loading washing machine has a top-mounted door you can open and close to load and unload clothes. The controls are either located on a top panel like you'd find on a stove or on the front of the washing machine.

You can find two different types of top-loading machines: those that are built with an agitator and those that are high-efficiency (HE) washing machines. If you choose one with an agitator, it will spin the clothes around to clean them. A HE top-loading washing machine doesn't have an agitator. It uses the motion of the drum to move your clothes around.

Benefits of a top-loading washing machine

One of the benefits of a top loading machine is that you don't have to bend over to load or unload clothes. If you choose a top loading HE model, your machine will also be better at cleaning your clothes, use less water, and use less energy than the traditional agitator models.

2. Front loading laundry

Front loading washing machines load and unload through a front door, and that makes it easy to access your clothes. Inside a front load machine is a horizontal drum that spins to gently clean your clothes. Most front loaders are also high efficiency and have convenient controls on the front of the machine to select your cycle. They wash larger loads using less energy, less water, and less detergent than a top loading washing machine.

Benefits of a front loading washing machine

A front loading washing machine can clean your clothes without having to use a drum full of



water. You can fit more clothes inside a front loader because they don't have an agitator inside. Front loading washing machines spin your clothes until they are almost dry, and because they do that your dryer doesn't have to work as hard or as long.

Questions you should ask yourself before choosing a new washing machine

There are a few questions you may want to ask yourself before you begin shopping for a new washing machine.

1. What capacity washing machine do I need?

The number one thing you should consider when choosing a new washing machine is capacity. The capacity of washing machines generally ranges from a compact 3 cu. ft. to a roomy 7 cu. ft. of internal space. You can also find portable washing machines with as little as 1.6 cu. ft. of space.

- **Larger capacity machines**

Larger capacity washing machines are great for families who wash large loads, but you'll need to have enough space in your laundry room to accommodate this type of machine. Instead of 27 inches, they can be as large as 29.5 inches wide and 30 inches deep.

- **Smaller capacity washing machines**

Smaller capacity 3 cu. ft. washing machines are perfect for the single person, but if you plan on adding to your family or even acquiring a roommate, you may want to choose a slighter larger capacity than you need right now.

2. What size is your laundry room?

Before you choose your washing machine, you'll want to consider the size of the space you have dedicated to laundry. Most washing machines are 27 inches. In order to properly connect a washing machine, you need to allow for a space of six inches behind the washing machine and one inch between the washer and the dryer.

The technology available on new washing machines

A new washing machine has the technology to save you time, water, and energy.

1. AI laundry machines

Some of the newest laundry pairs have AI (artificial intelligence) on board to make laundry easier than you thought possible. Laundry cycles are shorter and more efficient, and your washer can learn your laundry preferences and suggest cycles for your clothing so you don't have to scroll through the washer's menu.

2. Smart features on washers



The latest washers and dryers have smart features built-in to make laundry easier. Some models of washer have Wi-Fi and can connect to your local network. They pair with a compatible app to let you remotely start and stop your machine, download new cycles, or receive alerts when your cycle is complete.

3. Steam technology

Steam will penetrate your fabric to remove dirt and soil, and some models have a steam cycle to remove up to 95% of common allergens including dander and dust mites.

4. Turbo wash

You can get squeaky clean clothes in 30 minutes or less thanks to Turbo Wash. Available on some models of washer, turbo wash uses high-pressure nozzles to spray, clean, and rinse your clothes faster.

5. Cold wash

Cold wash technology uses enhanced washing motions so cold water washes just as thoroughly as warm.

6. Anti-vibration and quiet operation

A front loading washer will spin at top speeds to get your clothes clean, but you can find models of washer with anti-vibration systems and quiet operation technology built-in to minimize the noise and movement.

7. Add wash

Some models of washer have a small, extra door you can open mid-wash, letting you add in last-minute items you might have forgotten.

8. Sink washing machine

Some models of top load machine have a dedicated sink built-in. It's hidden under the lid and it gives you a spot to do a little pre-washing or hand washing.

Features on washing machines

1. Specialized wash cycles

The latest machines have specialized cycles to make the most of every load.

- Quick wash to reduce your washing time to 30 minutes or less
- Bedding cycle adds extra time and changes the water temperature during the wash cycle to thoroughly clean and sanitize your bedding
- Active wear setting launders your workout wear so it doesn't snag, and it will ensure you don't have any lingering gym odour



2. Laundry dispensers

Automatic Dispensers dispense detergent, bleach, and fabric softener at the proper time so you never have to worry that you forgot.

3. Temperature control

Automatic temperature control lets you decide your water temperature before you run your cycle, or you can simply let the machine cycle decide what the best temperature is.

4. Extra rinse, extra spin

An extra rinse cycle and extra spin is great if you have really dirty clothes, and an extra rinse is also a must-have if you have sensitivity to detergent and want to make sure it has been removed.

5. Stainless steel tubs

Not only do they look great, but stainless steel washing tubs can also handle speedy spins and will help remove the most amount of moisture from your clothes.

6. Water levels

If you have a top loading machine, there are options to choose your water level. That way you can decide how much water is added per load, and you'll never use more water than you have to.

7. ENERGY STAR washing machines

If you choose an ENERGY STAR washing machine you can save money and resources while doing your laundry. It will use anywhere from 35 to 50% less water, they have larger capacity so you do less loads, and they can spin more efficiently so they remove the most amount of water possible.

Accessories for your laundry room

You can make the most of your new washing machine by using a few different accessories.

- **Stackable kits**

Some washers are stackable, and you can use a stacking kit when you're tight on space. You can stack a full-size washer and dryer if you've got your pair in a room with limited floor space.

- **Pedestals for your washing machines**

If you opt for a front loader but you don't want to bend down to remove your loads, you can add a pedestal to raise it off the ground. There are different types of pedestals, and you can



find some that will also have drawers to store your detergent and other items.

Brands of washing machines

You can find a new model of washer from all your favourite brands including LG, Samsung, Whirlpool, Bosch, GE, Electrolux, and Maytag.