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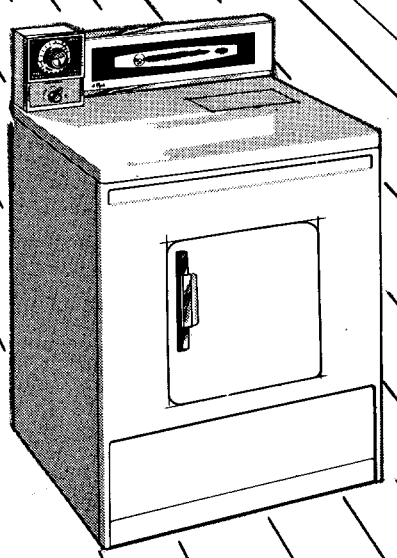
When you buy an AUTOMATIC DRYER



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WHEN YOU BUY AN AUTOMATIC DRYER

A clothes dryer has many advantages: It eliminates dependence on weather. It saves work in carrying clothes to the line, hanging them and taking them down. It saves time. A dryer may be operated to dry one load of clothes while another is being washed. When clothes are damp dried, they may be ironed immediately without necessity of sprinkling. It saves ironing time because there are so few wrinkles.

With a dryer there is no fading of color by the sun. It eliminates dirt and soot that may blow on clothes while hanging on the line. It eliminates exposure of the housewife to cold, damp weather.

Electric or Gas?

Electric dryers can operate on either 120-volt circuit or 240-volt circuit. A 120 volt dryer uses 1,650 watts, the full capacity of one line. Therefore, it must have a circuit all its own. Because of low wattage, this dryer takes more than twice as long to dry a load of clothes as models operating on higher wattage.

Most electric dryers require a 3-wire, 240-volt circuit. They use about 4,400-5,400 watts. Because of faster drying, women usually like 240-volt dryers better. A 240-volt dryer will have its own separate circuit.

A gas dryer will require a 120-volt electric convenience outlet to operate the drying cylinder, and for controlling the automatic ignition system, the timer and the light. A gas-heated dryer will be priced higher than a comparable electric dryer, but it usually costs less to use gas, depending on local rates for gas and electricity.

Vent-Type or Condenser-Type?

All manufacturers make one or more vented models. It is absolutely essential that a gas dryer be vented to the outdoors to dispose of the poisonous products of burning gas, as well as getting rid of the large amounts of moisture and lint. Be sure sufficient fresh air is available in your laundry area, especially in winter, to replace the considerable volume of that vented through the dryer.

The condenser-type dryer may condense the steam by cold water or air. The water-condenser type must be connected to a source of cold water and a drain, since 20 or more gallons of cold water are used per load, to condense the steam. Purchase price is higher and it costs more to operate this type of dryer because of the water used.

In the air-condenser type a series of tubes provides the cooling surface to change most of the steam to water before the air is reused. Water may run out through a drain or collect in a drip pan to be emptied. Lint must be cleaned off the sides of the tubes and trap after each use. Purchase price is higher than for the vent-type.

Controls for Drying Time

Manufacturers are constantly searching for ways to control overdrying. There are two problems. All fabrics contain a certain amount of natural moisture. Drying beyond this point results in deep-set wrinkles and may cause yellowing because there is no longer moisture present to absorb the heat. Then dryer loads are made up of a mixture of fabrics and textures whose drying time varies. Within a given time some articles may be overdried and others underdried.

Some dryers have a hand operated timed-control. You set the length of drying time according to the manufacturer's instructions and your own experience. Another type of control is a special electronic sensing device which stops the dryer when clothes have reached the desired degree of dryness. In a mixed load faster drying articles are kept damp by the slower drying ones.

A third type of control is designed to measure the moisture of the exhaust air. As the clothes dry, there is less moisture in the exhaust air and the temperature rises until the thermostat reaches the predetermined shut-off point.

Levels of Heat

Dryers have a variety of temperatures available, choices increasing with the more deluxe models. A model having more than one setting is desirable since only one setting may get too hot for some fabrics.

Safety Features

All operation should stop when the dryer is opened. It should not begin again until the door is closed and start switch is pressed. A gas dryer should have a safety device to prevent the escape of gas in case the pilot fails to work.

Lint Trap

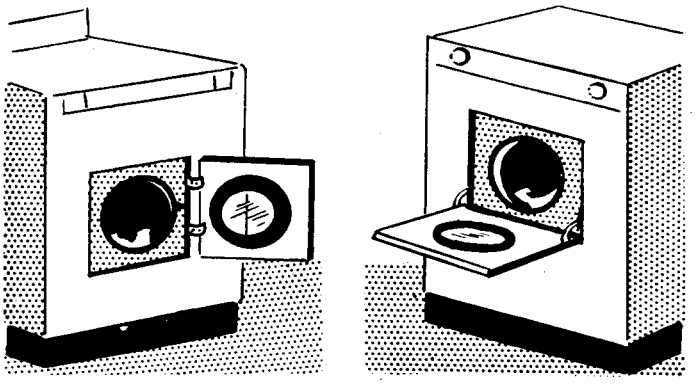
A most important feature of a dryer is the lint trap. Lint, present on all clothes when washed, blows away when they are line-dried. It must be collected and disposed of when clothes are dried in the dryer. The lint trap should be easy to reach, easy to empty and easy to replace. It should be cleaned out each time the dryer is used.

Special Features

Special cycles are available in many models, such as damp-dry settings for ease of ironing, no-heat air fluffing cycles for dusting articles such as draperies, or for drying plastics, or for fluffing pillows and comforters; special settings for providing heated air without tumble action for woolens and fabrics harmed by tumble drying; wash-wear cycles that provide a longer than five-minute cool period so that fabrics cool below their wrinkling temperature.

Other Available Features Are:

Sprinkler setting which automatically dampens clothes for ironing. Bell signal which gives warning at the end of the drying period – especially useful in preventing wrinkles in wash-and-wear items. Germicidal lamps and fragrant sprays – found in more costly models. Foot pedaled door opener – helpful when you approach with a load of wet clothes in your hands. Lights – some control panels are lighted, others not. Some models have interior lights, making it easier to see articles inside. Control panels may be simple or complex. If the model has the service referred to as "programming", pushing one button provides the proper timing and temperature automatically for the whole cycle.



Standard or Deluxe?

Standard models will do a good job on just about everything. As you go up the line you get more convenience, more choices and more style – and dryers become more complicated and therefore there is more likelihood of requiring service calls.

WASHER-DRYER COMBINATIONS

About half the major manufacturers of separate washers offer combination models. All use the tumble-type washing action. This is because clothes dryers are of the drum type. To combine a washer and dryer it is necessary to put both within the drum framework.

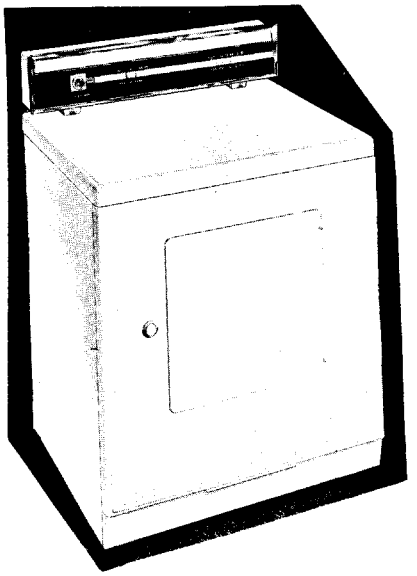
A combination saves space, its big advantage. A few manufacturers offer models that are no larger than separate washers or dryers, 25-27 inches.

Many of the same features and controls are on combinations as are shown on separate units. In the past drying has been slower due in part to slow water extraction speed. Two manufacturers have stepped up the spin speed to 525 and 560 r.p.m. It is not possible to wash and dry at the same time. However, the combination has the advantage that it requires no attention from the time the clothes are put in to be washed until the end of the drying period, when they may be removed, ready for ironing.

ON ALL LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

Keep the Need for Servicing at a Minimum:

- Buy a known brand, with a sound warranty from a reliable dealer who has facilities for installing and servicing. The more complicated automatics are apt to need more servicing than other types. Be sure to allow for this in your spending plan.
- Be sure equipment is properly installed.
- Look for underwriters seal of approval (UL) which means that the motor and electrical connections have been approved as safe.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and care.
- Keep important records – bill of sale, warranty, servicing contract, and name and phone number of your service man.



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