

**when  
you  
buy**

# WASHING MACHINES

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## WHEN YOU BUY WASHERS

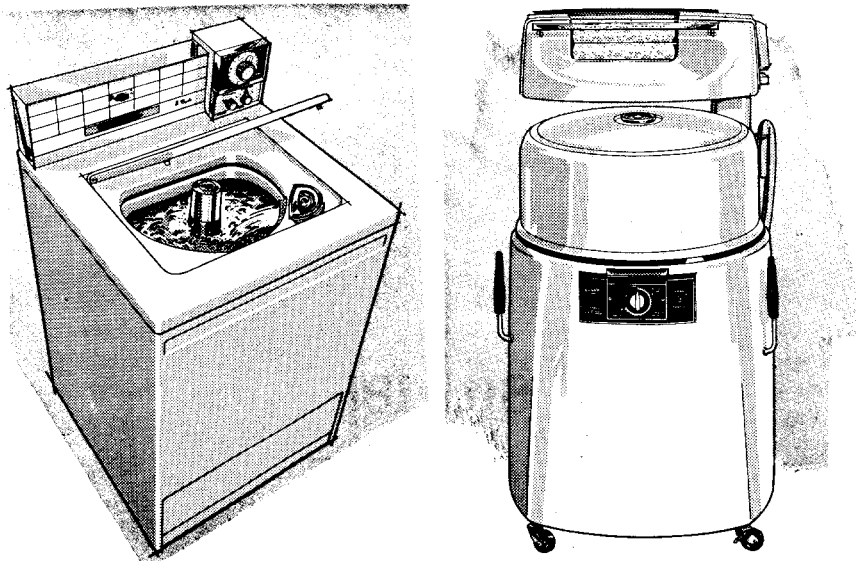
Before buying a washing machine study the various types and models available and select the one that meets your needs best. Satisfactory washing requires good management with even the best machine.

### TYPES -

**Conventional** machines come equipped with a wringer or spinner. The wringer is an advantage if you have set tubs. Then it can swing around to wring clothes in and out of the set tubs. Otherwise the spinner is an advantage because you can rinse your clothes in the washer. An electric pump that empties your washing machine is a time and labor saver. It is especially desirable if your laundry does not have a floor drain. With a floor drain the gravity type is satisfactory. A conventional washer can be bought for less and often helps to meet the problem of a limited water supply.

**Semiautomatic** washers need attention to set the controls after the washer has started. They provide the filling, washing, rinsing and water extraction without your having to remove the wash load. You have a choice of front loading with tumbler action or top loading with center post agitator. The difference in price between the semi-automatic and the economy model with fully-automatic controls may be so little as to make the fully-automatic the better choice.

**Fully-automatic** washers require only one setting of controls at the beginning. Then no further attention is needed. With the wide range of automatic features all kinds of laundry can be done, from delicate lingerie to work clothes.



### **Which Model Meets Your Needs Best?**

Manufacturers' fully-automatic models may be classified as economy washers, the middle-of-the-line models and the deluxe. Economy washers provide for washing and spinning at one speed and a choice of hot or warm water for washing and only warm water for rinsing. These washers are well suited for washing cotton and linen fabrics, but are not well adapted to launder wash-and-wear cottons and synthetics.

Middle-of-the-line machines offer two or more cycles for a variety of fabrics. They usually offer three wash water temperatures — hot, warm and cold — two rinse water temperatures — warm and cold — with normal and gentle agitation and extraction speeds.

The deluxe washers offer selection of the entire washing "program" with the push of a button as well as automatic dispensers for dispensing bleach and fabric softeners at the correct time. Economy models offer fewer choices, deluxe models offer many combinations of washing and rinsing time, speed and water temperature coordinated with the type of fabric and soil.

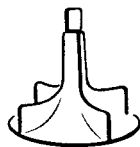
Which of these three models do you need for the kind of clothes you usually have in your washer loads? Do you normally wash mostly cottons and a few synthetics. If so, you need a washer for heavy duty, but not necessarily one that offers special cycles. An economy model may be the answer. If your family wears fabrics of man-made fibers or wash-and wear mostly, then a washer with more choices of cycles, temperatures and speeds will meet your needs better.

### **Top Opening vs. Front Opening**

You may select a washer that is top opening and washes by agitation or one that loads from the front and washes by tumbling. With top opening machines high-sudsing detergents, which get clothes cleaner, can be used. The revolving action of tumblers creates more suds than agitator action does. So it is advisable to use low-sudsing detergents in tumblers to avoid complications.

Clothes can be added or removed at any stage of the washing cycle, but in either washer this may put the load out of balance. Look for a control that will stop the cycle when the load is off balance.

Agitators vary from one make to another. Some move to and fro, one moves up and down, another moves in a circle and one rocks around creating high speed waves to move the clothes. The purpose of all agitators is to move garments within a load to the washing zone so that there will be uniformity of soil removal.



All agitator-type washing action creates some tangling of such articles as apron strings. Tangling can be lessened by following the manufacturer's directions for loading.

### **Washer Capacity**

When manufacturers make claim for capacity, say a 12-pound or a 14-pound load, you must remember that a machine's capacity varies with the type of fabric washed. A machine should be loosely filled. Some garments weigh more than others. Terry towels and bathmats absorb and retain more water than light-weight smooth-surface fabrics, such as synthetics. Size of pieces makes a difference in water circulation. Better washing results when the load is mixed with large and small items. Good washing can be obtained only when articles have a chance to turn over, circulate in the wash water, and rub against each other.

### **Special Soak Cycle**

Special soak cycles are offered by more manufacturers in more models for such things as diapers and heavily soiled work and play clothes. However, you can achieve the same results with a machine that doesn't have the soak cycle. Just set the timer to fill, let it agitate for several minutes, stop it and allow garments to soak for ten minutes, then advance the timer to spin.

### **Water Fill System**

Each washer is designed to use a certain amount of water. If you have low water pressure, below 20 pounds per square inch, or if the pressure of your water supply is likely to run low at times, you will want to select a washer with a meter (or positive) fill system to make sure the correct amount of water enters the tub. With a time-fill system a timer determines the amount of water entering the tub by controlling the length of time the water runs. Under this system the clothes might be washed and rinsed in too little water when the pressure is low. This type is found more often in economy models.

With a meter (or positive) fill system the amount of water is regulated by a device that permits the water to run until it reaches a certain level. Washing action will not begin until the correct amount of water is in the tub. This is important. Meter (or positive) fill does not depend on either a timer or water pressure.

### **Water Consumption**

Do you have an adequate supply of hot, soft water? Automatics require between 20 and 40 gallons of hot water for one complete cycle. Deluxe models are apt to use more water than economy models. Wash and wear cycles tend to use more water than regular cycles. If you wash several loads in succession, you'll need a fast-recovery type water heater or space your loads far enough apart to make sure water is really hot.

### **Dispensers**

Not all manufacturers offer this device. If it is on a washer be sure it is easy to use and easy to clean. Some of them dispense detergent, others dispense bleach and still others dispense water conditioner and/or fabric softener. A dispenser saves you a trip to the washer to add a product at the proper time.

### **Suds Saving Devices**

Some washers have suds savers. The disadvantages are that the water is no longer clean nor hot. In using a suds saver you will need to add more detergent to insure adequate cleaning and to prevent soil from the first load depositing on the second load.

### **Filters to Catch Lint**

Lint is a problem and most manufacturers provide some means of removing lint. If all the water does not pass through the filter then some lint will not be removed and therefore will not be as effective as you would wish.

### **Three Types of Rinses**

A machine that does a good job of rinsing is important since adequate rinsing is a must to satisfactory laundering. At least one deep or overflow rinse is desirable, preferably more.

A spray rinse is effective in flushing off surface soil and suds.

For a deep rinse the tub is filled and clothes are agitated through the cold or warm water.

For an overflow rinse water fills the tub and overflows at the same time as more water keeps coming in. Soil and suds float over the top along with the water.

#### **Water Extraction**

The amount of water extracted is greater as the spin speed increases. The spin speed for the tumblers ranges from 180-500 revolutions per minute and for the top loading automatics from 440-850 r.p.m. As spin speed increases clothes tend to become more wrinkled. For this reason some manufacturers of agitator models have incorporated an additional spin speed control of 350 r.p.m.

#### **Safety**

A washing machine should be as safe, electrically and mechanically, as it is possible to make it. It should be grounded electrically by using the 3-prong power-cord plug on the washer with a 3-slot receptacle. It should be free of electrical leakage that might cause the operator to get a shock when touching the washer. The tub should not spin for more than a few seconds after the washer is shut off. It should stop if the door is opened during the spinning process.

#### **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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