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A dryer for Clean, Bright Laundry

Cooperative Extension, South Dakota State University

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a dryer for clean, bright laundry

Everyday is a good laundry day when you have a dryer. Wind, dust, rain, or cold make no difference. Tests show the dryer saves the average homemaker 20 eight-hour working days and 40 miles of walking a year.

Fewer changes of clothing is needed when they are washed, dried, and back in use in a couple of hours. This is a real advantage for a family with young children. Children are more likely to outgrow their clothing than to wear them out.

The health and energy of the homemaker is protected. A dryer saves lifting, carrying, stretching, and dashing from a steamy room to the cold outdoors to hang up or take down clothes.

Clothes are not exposed to outdoor soil from insects, birds, soot, smoke, dust, tree pollen, pets, and children.

Clothes wear as well, if not better, when dried in a dryer. Corduroys, chenille, rugs, bedspreads, Terry towels, are softer and fluffier than line-dried. Colored clothes fade less.

Knit and loosely woven fabrics tend to shrink in the dryer. You might buy a size larger and wash before wearing or remove the article from the dryer while still damp and stretch and block to shape.

TYPES OF DRYERS

In performance, the two kinds of dryers, gas and electric, do not differ appreciably.

Most dryers blow the moist air and lint out through a vent, catching the lint in a trap. This hot moist air may go back into the room or preferably outdoors through a vent. Excessive moisture in the room can damage woodwork, walls and furniture. Check the venting arrangement carefully. Does it require expensive installation?

The condenser-type dryer does not need a vent but does need a cold water connection and drain. This type condenses the moist air (inside dryer) into a pan or out through a drain. Up to 30 gallons of water can be used to dry one load of clothes. Is your water supply and sewage disposal system adequate? How much will it add to the cost of your water?

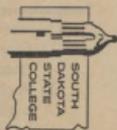
Electric Dryers

Electric dryers may be used on a 120 volt circuit but it takes up to 2 hours or longer to dry a load of clothes. A dryer on a 240 volt circuit takes less than half that time to dry the load. The operating costs are about the same. The wattage used by the electric dryer is 4300—6000 for the 240 volt, 3-wire circuit; and 1100—1750 for the 120 volt, 2-wire circuit.

By Isabel McGibney, Extension Home Management Specialist

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Cooperative Extension Service



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Is there a safety switch to shut off the dryer motor and heater if door is opened?

Is there a safety thermostat to shut off the heat in case of overheating?

Are the controls out of the way of children?

Is the lint trap conveniently located where the lint can be removed without stooping?

Is there a means of grounding the motor? Does the machine bear the Underwriter's Laboratories label?

Is the fuse easily accessible without removing screwed panels?

Gas Dryers

Gas dryers usually cost a little more than electric but are less expensive to operate. Wattage for a gas dryer is around 400.

Will there be installation charge such as running a gas line into the house?

Is the lint trap conveniently located?

Does it bear the American Gas Association label to show that it meets certain safety specifications and performance tests?

Does the gas flow cut off automatically if anything goes wrong with the gas or electric ignition system? How does the lighter mechanism work, manually or automatically? A pilot light which must be lighted by hand is not convenient.

TYPES OF CONTROLS

The three types of controls may be used singly or in combination.

Time Control

The majority of dryers use a timed drying cycle. The operator sets the time control according to the length of time she wants the load of clothes to dry. The disadvantage of this type is that it depends on the judgment of the operator. Most loads will dry in 35 to 45 minutes. The amount of water left in the clothes

by the washer determines the drying time needed. Care must be taken in setting the controls so as not to over-dry.

Temperature Control

There are two types of temperature control:

- (1) One setting of the temperature dial. This operates at a fixed heat, usually about 140°F.
- (2) A choice of three settings—low, medium, and high. Low is usually from 120° to 140°F. Medium is about 165° to 170°F. High is between 175° and 210°F. The advantage of this control is that it provides ideal drying weather for any fabric or load. If the fabric being dried needs a low temperature, the temperature never goes higher than where you set it. A load that will not be harmed by higher temperatures can be dried faster at the higher setting.

Multiple drying cycles are found in some types of dryers. They offer a choice of several drying methods, including:

- Air circulation with no heat, used for nylons and garments with plastic buttons.
- No tumbling action, for fringed items, foam-rubber pillows, sweaters, and socks.
- No heat and no tumbling, to dry lamp shades and wet shoes.

Humidity Control

This kind of control provides a dial setting arranged to control the amount of moisture left in clothes. The control indicator may be numbered or may be marked "Dry" and "Damp-Dry."

This system depends on the principle that heat builds up in a dryer as the clothes get dryer and dryer. Thus a thermostat shut-off at the predetermined heat level stops the dryer.

This type, too, depends on the judgment of the operator to set the controls correctly.

CARE AND USE

Read the instruction book.

Clean the lint screen at the end of each laundry day. Failure to keep the lint trap clean reduces the dryer's efficiency and constitutes a fire hazard.

Clean the inside of the drum with a vacuum cleaner about once a month. Remove the lint trap, then direct the blower of the cleaner over the inside of the drum to blow the lint down into the space below. Use the suction tool to remove lint through the lint catcher and screen. If not cleaned periodically, lint may become a fire hazard.

Leave the dryer door open a while after use to let moisture escape.

Use a heavier-than-usual starch solution if starched clothes are to be dryer-dried.

Have a full load in the dryer when drying starched clothes. Otherwise the starch will be beaten out of the clothes.

Clean the interior of the drum after drying a load of heavily starched clothes. Wipe it thoroughly with a soapy damp cloth, or tumble a load of clean wet rags to remove starch from the drum. If tinted clothes or those of non-fast colors are dried in the dryer, clean the drum afterwards.

Sort clothes for the dryer according to the length of time they take to dry and according to types of fabric. Sort them right for the washer and the load can be taken from the washer and tossed into the dryer.

Take clothes out of dryer as soon as dryer stops. Otherwise, wrinkles and creases will "set" and be hard to iron out. Some dryers have a signal light or a sound warning.

Use buffers (6 or 7 turkish towels) when drying woolens and delicate fabrics.

Eliminate sprinkling time for ironing by removing articles while still moist. Iron at once, or store in plastic bag.

Remove corduroys, terry cloth, and chenille garments from the dryer while they are still moist. Shake briskly and fold or hang to store.

Have your dryer on its own outlet, used by no other appliance.

Buy your dryer from a dealer who will supply you with prompt, efficient service.

DRYER "DON'TS"

Don't dry things in the dryer which have been cleaned with inflammable dry cleaning fluid.

Don't dry non-fast colors with other articles.

Don't load starched clothes with unstarched ones. Unstarched ones take on starch.

Don't dry clothes to "bone-dry." Overdrying may damage the fibers, make fabrics limp and less absorbent and more difficult to iron.

Don't dry knitted woolens in the dryer. Be careful about plastic buttons.

Don't overload the dryer. That slows the drying process and puts a strain on the motor.

Don't underload the dryer. There should always be at least a half load of clothes in the dryer to prevent yellowing or scorching. Most dryers are made to carry a dry weight load of 8 to 9 pounds.

Acknowledgements:

"Washing Machines and Dryers"—Publication 367-B
Agriculture Extension Service
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
"Buying Household Equipment Series—Clothes Dryers"

Agriculture Extension Service
Kansas State College, Manhattan

Other pamphlets in this series are:

F.S. 62—Clean, Bright Laundry
F.S. 82—A Washer for Clean, Bright Laundry