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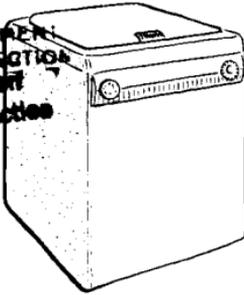
OREGON STATE COLLEGE

# SELECTING AN

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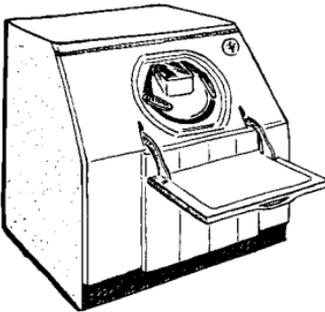


## Automatic

# WASHING MACHINE



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## The Automatic Washing Machine

The automatic washer is truly a time and labor saver. All you do is put in the clothes, set the controls, and add a water softener, if needed, and soap. The machine does the work. It washes your clothes in water that is the right temperature, rinses them, and spins them damp-dry. The machine cleans itself and turns off when the washing cycle is completed.

However, we cannot expect the impossible from any washing machine. The automatic washer does the same job that is done in the conventional type machine. We still need to give special attention to heavily soiled or stained spots before the garments are ready to be washed.

Some advantages of the automatic washing machine are:

It saves time and effort.

It takes up less space since tubs are not necessary.

Washing may be done in any room where water pipes and drain are available.

It is automatically controlled, but may be set for varying water temperatures and washing times.

It is hygienically clean since fresh water is used with each wash.

The operating cost is relatively the same as for the conventional type machine.

It takes the guesswork out of laundry since the washing cycle is controlled.

## The Washing Action

There are three types of washing action found in automatic washers. The agitator swishes the clothes through the water. The revolving basket gives a tumble motion to the clothes. The plunger is the third and newest type of washing action, and is similar to the agitator in appearance.

The effectiveness of the washing action depends largely on the way the machine is used—the amount of clothes put in, temperature of the water, amount and kind of soap and water softener. However, the tumble motion is slightly less effective for heavily soiled clothes.

## Removing the Water

Clothes are spun damp-dry when the basket containing them revolves at a high speed. There is now a great variation in the number of revolutions per minute (RPM) and the greater the speed the dryer the clothes become.

## Should YOU Choose an Automatic?

When answering this question, consider some of the points listed below:

**Cost**—A lower priced automatic washer costs about the same as the most expensive conventional type machine. At the same time, some automatic machines cost two to three times as much as some conventional washers. Be sure to ask whether there is an extra charge for installing the washer.

**Family Needs**—The automatic washer is a great time and labor saver. Do you need to lighten your house-keeping chores? Is your family wash big enough to make the investment in this machine worth while?

**Washday Habits**—Is the family willing to change its washing habits? Use of the automatic machine often means that washday comes several times a week rather than once a week.

**Water System**—Sufficient water pressure and hot and cold running water are necessary as well as an adequate draining system.

**Amount of Water**—From 20 to 40 gallons of water are used for one washing cycle without soak period. The smaller amount is about the same as that used for other machines when fresh water is used for each load. About half of the water used is hot water.

**Hard Water**—Automatic machines may become clogged with soap curd in a hard water area. Water softeners and special detergents will help avoid clogging.

**Amount of Soap**—This will vary according to the hardness of the water and whether a water softener is used. However, the amount of soap used is relatively the same for the automatic and conventional type machines.

**Bolting Down**—Some machines require a special foundation and must be bolted down. Others are designed so that bolting is unnecessary. The foundation must take the weight and motion of the machine.

**Electric Wiring**—Special outlets are required for some machines.

**Drainage**—An adequate drainage system is necessary. A special height is required for the drain in some machines.

## Are You a Wise Buyer?

If so, you will choose the machine which will best suit your family needs. You will think about—

- ▶ The size machine that suits your family.
- ▶ The space into which it must fit.
- ▶ The job it must do.
- ▶ The cost of buying and operating.
- ▶ The length of time it must serve you.
- ▶ The special features which will best suit you.

The chart on the reverse side of this page will help you compare the machines in your local store.

However, here are some points which you may wish to consider when buying any electrical equipment for your home.

- ▶ It is wise to purchase an established make. In this way you may take advantage of the research and experience of the manufacturer.
- ▶ It is well to deal through a local dealer who has a reputation for quick, dependable service and who will stand behind the manufacturer's guarantee. A guarantee is only as good as the service you receive from the machine, and the dealer is the manufacturer's local representative.
- ▶ When you deal through a mail order house, inquire as to local services for repair. Arrangements with local concerns may have been made, but if local repair is not available, consider the purchase of another machine.
- ▶ It is wise to wait until a new machine has been on the market 6 to 8 months before purchasing. Many manufacturers are now making automatic washing machines for the first time, and the early buyers bear the expense and inconvenience of any mechanical failure which develops.

- ▶ Do you know this seal?

It is the seal of the Underwriter's Laboratories and means that the electrical wiring has been tested and found safe for use.



## "SHOPPING AROUND"

The wise buyer "shops around" before making a purchase.

*This chart will help you compare the different automatic washing machines you find in your local stores.*

<b>Make of machine:</b>				
<b>Price:</b>				
<b>Guarantee:</b>				
<b>Size:</b>				
Width				
Depth				
Height				
Will it fit your laundry area?				
<b>Capacity:</b>				
How many pounds of clothes can be washed at a time?				
<b>Washing action:</b>				
Agitator type				
Tumble type or revolving basket				
Plunger type				
<b>Washing cycle:</b>				
Is there a soak period?				
Can you choose length of wash period?				
How many rinse periods are provided?				
How long is complete washing cycle?				
How much water is used?				
Can temperature of water be regulated?				
What is speed for spin-drying? (RPM)				
<b>Can wash cycle be controlled to suit your washing problems?</b>				
<b>Conveniences:</b>				
Is opening easy to use?				
Is machine cleaned automatically?				
Is special care or oiling required?				
Is repair available locally?				
<b>Construction and materials:</b>				
Is it sturdily built, well braced?				
Will cabinet finish take special care?				
Is inside finish rust-proof?				
<b>Installation:</b>				
Is special electrical wiring required?				
Is a special foundation required?				
Must machine be bolted down?				
Is there a required height for the drain?				
Is there a special installation charge?				
<b>Is it approved by the Underwriters Laboratories?</b>				