

# Fact Sheet

## Front Loader vs Top Loader For Non-Residential Laundries

### Advantages of front loader washing machines:

#### Uses less water

On a standard program setting, a front loader uses 70 litres less water.

#### Increases the life of clothes

A front loader has no mechanical moving parts within the wash barrel, which reduces the wear and tear on clothes.

#### Reduced drying time

The spin action removes more water from your clothes, reducing drying time.

#### Uses less detergent

Removes more dirt and grime from clothes while using less detergent.

#### No more fluff

Front loaders don't create lint and eliminates fabric pilling so no more fluff on your clothes.

#### Requires less space

Where space is at a premium, a dryer can be stacked on a front loader.

#### Better wash quality

Wash action of front loaders result in better wash quality (mechanical action compared to agitation).

Proven Savings	Water Usage Litres/Load <sup>#</sup>	Savings Per Load	Hot Water Energy \$/Load	Reduction In Dryer Time
Top loader (> 10 years old)	140	nil	\$0.48	nil
Top loader (new)	90	36%	\$0.31	5 mins
Front loader (new)	67	52%	\$0.23	15 mins

<sup>#</sup> Usage is based on common cycle settings in an 8.5 kg machine

### Industry groups using top loaders

Laundrettes  
Caravan parks  
Boarding houses  
Apartment buildings

Universities  
Motels & Hotels  
Restaurants  
Aged care

Retirement villages  
Backpacker accommodation  
Hostels  
Health retreats & Spas

Drycleaners  
Food manufacturers  
Veterinary hospitals  
Hairdressers

## Domestic machines are not commercial washers

Domestic washing machines should not be used outside a residential environment. Domestic machines are generally not suitable for commercial situations as they are not durable enough and the limited programming cycles are unable to achieve required disinfection.

Commercial washing machines are designed and built for heavy usage over an extended period of time and require programmable cycles specific to the business. In businesses where a laundry is provided for customers with coin or card payment systems installed, a load size is typically between 6kg to 16kg. Where large amounts of laundry are produced as a result of the main business activity - for example an aged care facility or commercial laundry - a load size is typically between 10 kg to 150 kg.

### Considerations

A High Efficiency (HE) detergent must be used, as regular detergent will produce too many suds. Excess suds in a front loader will interfere with the washing process.

When replacing equipment it is important to ensure that connection locations for water supply and drainage have not changed. Review the location of water supply and drainage connections.

Consider the capacity of machines required by clientele to ensure a correct mix is available.

## Common misconceptions and frequently asked questions

**Do front loaders take longer to complete a wash program?**

No

When the reduced drying time is considered, the entire laundry process is actually about 10 minutes shorter. Washing in a front loader only takes 5 minutes longer depending on the cycle selected.

**Will I flood my laundry by opening the door of my front loader during a cycle?**

No

All front load washers lock the door at the start of the cycle and will not open mid cycle.

**Will users in public access facilities use a front loader?**

Yes

People are concerned about wasting water and are becoming more and more aware of the benefits of using a front load washer.

**Is a front loader more expensive than a top loader?**

No

While initial capital investment is higher for a front loader, running costs are less, meaning that over the life of the machine, a front loader is a better business investment.

**Is a front loader suitable for people who cannot bend?**

Yes

A front loader can be installed on a stand, making it easier to load and unload clothes.