

Step by Step Guide to:

Buying a Front-Loading Washing Machine

- 1** Decide what size of machine will meet your laundry needs. Tub capacities range from about 1.6 to 4.0 cubic feet; an average front-loading machine will handle about 16 pairs of jeans in one wash. If in doubt, remember it's more efficient to wash slightly smaller loads in a bigger machine than to wash multiple loads in a smaller machine.
- 2** Determine what features you want. On most front-loading washers, options include varied wash cycle times, pre-wash and soak features, different wash and rinse temperatures, and fabric settings such as regular, permanent press, delicate and hand wash. Generally speaking, the higher the price of the washer, the more features you get.
- 3** If your space is restricted, look for washers and dryers that are stackable. Because the door is in the front, consider getting a sturdy raised platform for your washer if you don't want to bend over when loading and unloading. If your washer will be located close to your living space, look for a machine with good sound insulation.
- 4** Once you've decided the size and features you want, look for the machine with the best energy saving ratings. Every machine has an EnerGuide label, which lists the kilowatt hours per year of electricity it will typically use and how it compares with similar-size machines. Manufacturer specification sheets should also indicate how much water each machine uses per average load. Look for machines with an ENERGY STAR® symbol, which indicates that the washer uses 35-50 per cent less water and at least 50 per cent less energy per load than other washers in its class.
- 5** Most retailers will deliver your new washer, usually for an extra fee. It's worth considering, as front-loading machines are generally significantly heavier than top loaders because of their larger motor. Whether you set up the machine yourself or have the delivery people do it, make sure the washer is level (most machines have adjustable feet), as the high-speed spin cycles of front loaders can easily move a machine that is not level.
- 6** Ask the retailer if it will remove and recycle your old washer.
- 7** A provincial rebate is available for ENERGY STAR models. Visit www.ClimateChangeCentral.com/my-rebates/clothes_washer.



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