

Natural gas dryers



Natural gas provides a clean, efficient fuel for drying clothes economically. New gas dryers are designed for efficiency with features such as pilotless ignition and automatic shutoff so they use up to 30 percent less energy than older models.

Selecting your gas dryer

Many factors should enter into your gas dryer buying decision – size, controls, energy efficiency and price.

Dryers are available in a variety of drum sizes to handle loads from five to 20 pounds. The capacity is usually listed on the dryer hangtag, sticker or owner's manual.

Compact dryers are ideal for apartments and mobile homes. Some are only 21" wide and 36" high. They may be set on a rack above a compact washer, or be a part of a stackable washer/dryer unit.

Dryer controls

Controls regulate drying time and temperature; top-of-the-line models come with electronic controls, offering more options and efficiency.

Time controls

Although dryer designs may differ, there are three general types:

Timed drying: You set the amount of time on the dial. The dryer stops at the end of this time; some cycles include a four- to 10-minute cool-down period. Avoid over-drying by setting the timer for as short a drying period as possible. Drying results with a time-controlled dryer depend on your ability to judge drying time for various loads.

Automatic drying: Dryers typically offer two or three automatic drying cycles – regular, permanent press, and knit/delicate. There is also a “More to Less Dry” control that you can set to your desired degree of dryness. The load dries to that temperature and moisture level; a cool-down period may be included before the dryer stops. Automatic drying is more accurate than timed drying, but less accurate than electronic sensor drying.

Electronic sensor drying: More technologically sophisticated dryers use an electronic moisture-sensing device that “feels” the degree of moisture in the clothes. When the degree of dryness selected is reached, the dryer automatically shuts off. A cool-down period is generally included. Electronic sensor drying is the most efficient drying method.

Temperature controls

Each laundry load requires a different temperature depending on type of fabric and amount of moisture:

High or regular: Use for non-permanent press loads such as towels and heavy-duty fabrics. A short cool-down period at the end of the cycle reduces wrinkling.

Medium or permanent press: Best for permanent press loads or no-iron fabrics such as nylon, acrylic, polyester or blends. A longer cool-down period helps reduce wrinkles.

Low: Suitable for knits.

Extra low: A safe setting for delicate fabrics and those labeled “Tumble Dry.”

Air: Great for items that must be dried without heat, such as shower curtains, rain gear and items with elastic. Use for fluffing pillows and down garments or removing dust from drapes.

Dryer features

Dryers offer a variety of convenient features that save time and energy and increase safety.

Automatic cool-down: A timed interval at the end of the drying cycle when tumbling continues with the heat off to reduce wrinkling of heat-sensitive synthetic fabrics and no-iron finishes.

After-cycle tumble period: Provides 15 minutes to two hours of periodic tumbling to help prevent wrinkles.

Damp-dry: For cotton items to be ironed while damp, or to speed drying of natural fiber washable sweaters.

Tumble press: Releases wrinkles from garments that are clean and dry but slightly wrinkled.

End-of-cycle signal: Reminds you to remove items from dryer to prevent wrinkles.

Lint filter alarm: Tells you the lint filter urgently needs cleaning.

Stationary dry: For items to be dried on a removable rack without tumbling. Ideal for wool socks, stuffed toys, mittens, and tennis shoes.

Care of your gas dryer

These easy steps will help assure safe, problem-free, efficient operation of your dryer. Consult your owner's manual for specific details.

- Clean lint screen after each load; lint buildup reduces efficiency and could cause a fire.
- Clean exhaust duct work, vent and hinged hood cover (outside the house) periodically:
 - First, turn off or disconnect electrical power to dryer.
 - Disconnect duct from dryer.
 - Using appropriate tool,* clean the entire duct one section at a time.
 - Check turns in the duct and remove collected lint.
 - Be sure flapper at outside end of duct works freely (see below).

- Do not dry materials stained with cleaning solvents, wax or paint, foam rubber or rubber-coated items or glass fiber materials.
- Do not use the dryer top as a work surface. Most dryers have an enamel finish on the cabinet top and drum that's not as scratch-resistant as porcelain.

When using your dryer

To protect your clothes and other items, be sure to:

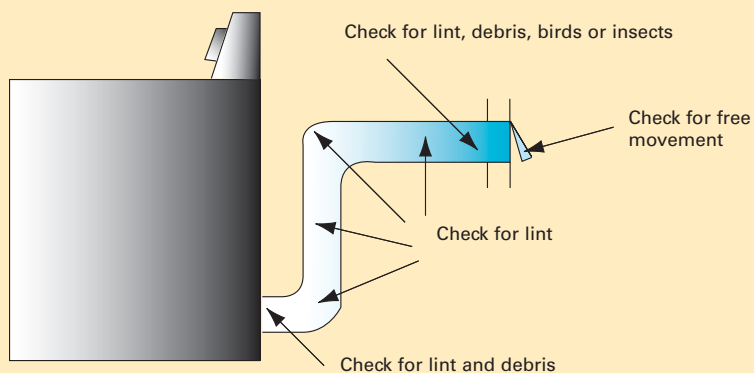
- Read garment and fabric care labels for proper settings. Sort clothes into loads of similar fabric, finish, weight and color.
- Separate “lint givers” from “lint receivers.” Dry dark colored items separately from lighter colored items.
- Avoid overloading. Items should tumble freely. Include only a few large pieces; fill in load with smaller pieces.
- Avoid overdrying; it wastes energy and causes shrinkage, static-cling and wrinkling. Seams and waistbands should have a hint of moisture when taken from the dryer.
- Remove clothes as soon as dryer stops to avoid wrinkling.
- Use the no-heat setting to plump pillows, renew pile of napped fabrics, freshen stored items, and remove lint or dust from household items such as drapes and spreads.

Energy use tips

- **Install dryer properly using rigid metal duct work in the size recommended by the manufacturer. In general, a short, straight duct is best.**
- **Vent dryer to the outside to carry moisture-laden air out of your home. Flexible venting is not recommended as it tends to obstruct air flow and collects lint in its grooves.**
- **Use the fast spin cycle of your washer to remove as much water as possible from laundry before putting in dryer.**
- **Don't open the dryer door unnecessarily.**

**A vacuum hose attachment, a pole with feather duster or rag attached, or a drain-cleaning wire with a dust rag tightly attached.*

Hinged hood



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