



# The Basics

## Electric Dryer

When evaluating household energy use, the dryer might not be the first appliance that comes to mind. But, the average American family washes approximately 300 loads of laundry every year and the energy use quickly adds up. Electric dryers are safer, cost less to purchase, and are simpler to install than gas dryers.



### Why should I choose an Electric Dryer

- **Lower Upfront Cost.** Electric dryers are less expensive to purchase. The average purchase price of an electric dryer model is between \$50-100 less than a gas dryer with similar features.
- **Lower Installation Costs.** Gas dryers require a gas line installed in the laundry space, which requires a licensed plumber to install. Comparatively, most homes are pre-wired for an electric dryer, and can be installed by the homeowner instead.
- **Safety.** Any gas appliance in the home has a risk of a dangerous gas leak, as well as releasing carbon monoxide fumes into the home if not properly installed and ventilated. Electric dryers are safer, and do not require professional installation.



### When is the best time to install?

- **During a Remodel.** If you are considering remodeling your home, and the laundry space does not have a 220-volt outlet, consider installing one and switching from gas to electric.
- **Anytime.** If you have a 220-volt outlet available, installing an electric dryer is as simple as plugging it in!



### What should I do next?

- **Check your outlet.** An electric dryer requires a dedicated 220-volt circuit to plug into the laundry space. Most homes have this outlet pre-installed, but make sure to check the outlet before purchasing the appliance.
- **Work with an Electrician.** If your laundry space does not have a 220-volt outlet, work with a licensed electrician to install the proper outlet.
- **Visit the Appliances Assistant.** Here, you can compare options and efficiency scoring, read customer reviews, and find local service professionals.