

The Calgary Sun

WIRING UP ENERGY SAVINGS

Sunday, May 21, 2006
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There is something about the words "European styling" that sounds appealing even when talking about laundry.

Europeans have long reaped the benefits of gentle cleaning and energy efficiency offered by front-load washing machines.

"Many Canadians may not be aware that this 'European style' of washing clothes offers some of the highest energy-efficient ratings available for clothes washers," says Mark Antonuk, with ATCO EnergySense.

When comparing front-load machines, look for the EnerGuide label. The lower the number, the more energy efficient it is.

You will notice all front-load washing machines also carry the ENERGY STARr symbol. This symbol accompanies the EnerGuide label only on appliance models that achieve premium levels of energy efficiency, based on specific criteria endorsed by Natural Resources Canada.

To give you an idea of the difference in energy efficiency, consider that front load clothes washers have EnerGuide labels ranging between 184 kWh to 351 kWh.

In comparison, some conventional top-load washing machine models reach as high as 1011 kWh.

One advantage of the front-load machine is its gentle cleaning method.

Another key benefit is the reduction in water and energy use. A conventional washing machine will use about 152 litres of water per load for the cleaning and rinsing process. Front-load washers use about one-third as much water and also require about 65% less energy to heat the water during the cleaning and rinsing process.

Front-load washing machines generally cost about \$300 to \$600 more than the conventional top-load machines but offer a payback through reduced energy and water use.

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