

Upstate Appliance Rentals: Washer / Dryer Care Guide

When it comes to keeping your laundry appliances running smoothly, cleaning and maintenance is an important part of the process. Read on to learn how to properly clean and maintain your washer and dryer to make sure laundry day is a breeze.

Do Washers And Dryers Need Regular Cleaning And Maintenance?

Just like your other major appliances, washers and dryers require regular cleaning and maintenance. This can help reduce the wear and tear on your machines as well as help sustain the quality of performance. While some washer and dryer maintenance can be performed monthly, other tasks, such as cleaning the lint trap, should happen after every use.

If you run into issues with your washer or dryer that you cannot fix yourself, contact the Upstate Appliance Rentals repair service.

How To Maintain Your Washer And Dryer

Properly maintaining your washer and dryer is an important way to help them continue working hard. For washer and dryer maintenance, follow the tips below.

Supplies

- Affresh tablets or washing machine cleaner tablets
- Microfiber cloth
- Cleaning wipes
- Water and vinegar spray
- Drip pan
- Detergent
- Nylon brush

Tools

- Dryer cleaning brush
- Vacuum with hose (optional)
- Screwdriver

Washing Machine Maintenance Checklist

To take care of your washing machine, make sure you use it as recommended and perform preventive maintenance as needed. The following tasks may help you keep your washing machine in good working condition:

- Avoid overloading your washer
- Run a Clean Washer cycle periodically
- Inspect door seals
- Check hoses and connections
- Wipe down both the interior and exterior
- Check for leaks
- Keep your washer fresh

Avoid Overloading

When you overload your washing machine, it can keep your laundry from receiving a thorough cleaning. This is because the washer tub does not have enough space for your clothes to move around. Additionally, overloading your washer can unbalance your machine, placing extra wear and tear on it.

Run With A Cleaner

Another important preventive maintenance task is cleaning your washing machine. Remove all items in the washing machine, then add an Affresh washing machine cleaner tablet to the tub. Run a clean washer cycle or a normal cycle with a hot water setting to cleanse your washer. This cleaning is recommended every 30 days or every 30 wash cycles—whichever is sooner. Keep in mind that using vinegar to clean the inside of a washing machine is not recommended.

Inspect Door Seals

After every load, inspect your front-load washer's door seals for moisture and residue. Make sure to wipe them dry and clean these seals regularly to help ensure proper performance of your washing machine. You can also leave the door open between washes to help it dry out.

Inspect Hoses & Connections

Between initial installation issues, wear and tear or poor water quality, your washer's hoses and connections can deteriorate over time. Inspect these hoses and connections for bulging, cracking and fraying every five years to prevent damage to your washing machine.

Clean Appliance

With a machine cleaning wipe, clean the dispenser, agitator, interior and exterior of the appliance. To reach the dispenser, pull the drawer out until you feel resistance. If your agitator has a removable cap, remove it and clean the inside. For washing machines with a filter, clean it regularly to ensure proper drainage. Remember to use mild soaps or cleaners when attending to outside surfaces and to clean around the door.

Check For Leaks

Drip pans are useful for washer maintenance as they help avoid flooding your laundry room floor by catching leaks from your washing machine. If you have installed a drip pan underneath your appliance, inspect the pan each time you run a load to ensure that no water is escaping the washer.

Keep Fresh

To avoid soil and detergent buildup, intersperse a hot or warm water cycle in between your cold cycles. Make sure to leave the washer door open after washing to help dry the interior. As soon as cycles are finished, remove your load from the washing machine to help keep it clean.

Dryer Maintenance Checklist

Maintaining your dryer comes down to mechanical and preventative care measures. The tasks below may help you maintain your dryer and keep it working properly:

- Avoid overloading your dryer
- Clean out your lint trap
- Deep clean your lint screen
- Wipe down the dryer drum
- Clean your internal/external dryer ducts
- Keep your dryer fresh
- Open dryer door

Avoid Overloading

To make sure your dryer is both drying and functioning properly, avoid overloading clothes in your dryer. If there is not enough room to circulate air within the dryer drum, your dryer may malfunction or break down.

Clean Lint Trap

While it's important to roll the lint off the screen after every cycle, you can also deep clean the trap every 6 months or as needed. By thoroughly cleaning your dryer lint trap, you can provide better airflow to your appliance. Vacuum the interior, exterior and moisture sensor strips of your lint trap (if possible), or use a brush against the dryer vent to pull up any remaining lint.

Deep Clean Lint Screen

Every six months, you should clean the laundry detergent and fabric softener buildup on your lint screen. Wet a brush with hot water and liquid detergent, then scrub both sides of the lint screen. Rinse thoroughly, then dry with a towel. Failure to deep clean your lint screen can cause longer drying times and affect your appliance's performance.

Wipe Down Appliance

The drum of your dryer can acquire a filmy residue over time. Remove any internal debris, then wipe down the drum. If electric, use a soft cloth dipped in warm water and dish soap when wiping. If gas, use a liquid, nonflammable household cleaner. When finished, use a wet sponge or towel to remove excess cleaner; then tumble a load of towels to dry the drum.

Clean Internal Vents

Unplug your dryer, then with the help of another person, create about a foot of room between the back of the dryer and the wall behind it so you can clear debris from the internal vents. Unscrew the vent clamps that attach the vent to the back of the dryer, and clean the debris from the vent—either by using a dryer cleaning brush or a vacuum. Start your cleaning by removing large lint pieces by hand, then follow up with your brush or vacuum.

Clean External Vents

Locate your dryer's exterior vent outside your home and repeat the vent cleaning process: remove large pieces of lint by hand, then use a brush to dislodge any other debris while using a vacuum to remove it. Finish by reclamping the vent back to the dryer and turning your appliance back on.

Keep Fresh

To help ensure that there is no excess dust in the dryer after cleaning the vents, run the appliance on an empty cycle for 15 minutes.