

Washing machines

PURCHASING
REPORT

Snapshot

	50-lb. Capacity	100-lb. Capacity
Highest priced unit:	\$18,500	\$33,000
Average priced unit:	\$11,300	\$21,600
Lowest priced unit:	\$8,200	\$19,500

Pricing Trends

2007-2008: +3%

2008-2009: Flat

2010 projection: +1% to +3%

Typical delivery time: About 4 weeks for new build. Some standard stock units are readily available.

Typical delivery charges: Varies

Average life span of product: 15 years

Percent vendor installed: Varies widely

Standard warranty: 2 years

Extended warranty: Per distributor

Average maintenance cost per year:
Up to \$300

(Figures cited are averages of all respondents' answers. Actual pricing will vary due to volume, bundling and other factors of a purchase.)

Source: UniMac, Pellerin Milnor, Maytag



Photo: UniMac

FROM THE FRONT LINES:

"The inverter technology is a plus with the new washers. The smaller size—small enough to fit through a 36-inch doorway—is also a plus. You used to have to take out the door. The latest machines are also easy to install."

Jack Hayes, Director of Plant Operations, Our Island Home, Nantucket, MA

Buyer Notes

- There is a wide range of performance types and prices for washing machines. Be sure to do your research, compare and shop around.
- One important characteristic of the machine is its g-force, which determines the amount of water that the washer removes before drying. The higher the extraction speed, the less the drying time. This ultimately will help save on energy and labor costs.
- Washing machine controls provide more management information to further reduce operating costs.
- Besides advanced technology, newer machines are being made smaller to fit tighter spaces.

**For a list of vendors go to the:
EQUIPMENT section, pages 84-88**