Dryers

Photo: Pellerin Milnor

Snapshot

	75-lb. Capacity	125-lb. Capacity
Highest priced unit:	$5,400	$8,362
Average priced unit:	$4,250	$9,375
Lowest priced unit:	$3,400	$8,512

Pricing Trends
2008-2009: +4%
2009-2010: +4%
2010-2011: +5%

Typical delivery time: Immediately if in stock; 3-6 weeks for new machines.

Typical delivery charges: Varies dramatically depending on distance.

Average life span of product: 10 to 20 years

Percent vendor installed: Varies

Standard warranty: 3 years

Extended warranty: Depends on dealer

Average maintenance cost per year: Under $100 or 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: American Dryer, Continental Girbau, Pellerin Milnor, Maytag, Laundrylux

FROM THE FRONT LINES:
"Ease of operation is important. Listen to your staff and see what their needs are, and be sure to choose one that gives you the highest comfort level, durability and safety."
Michael Tartaglia, Administrator, Greenwich Woods Health Care Center, Greenwich, CT

Buyer Notes

- A dryer that has a gradual cool-down feature is important because it can decrease thermal shock to the material and prevent creasing.

- Dryers that have fire-supression systems contribute to worker safety. Sometimes flammable chemicals, such as cleaning products, that aren't eliminated during the wash cycle can become problematic in dryers. Machines that feature alarms and warning systems can help.

- Long-term care facilities should focus on energy-efficient machines, one dealer said. In the long run, this will help them achieve savings on both labor and energy costs.

- Some dryers come equipped with a sprinkling system that alerts laundry workers when lint traps are full, one operator said. If the lint trap is full, the machine will not run. This feature keeps dryers from overheating and can help prevent fires, the operator added.