

Washing machines

Snapshot

	50-lb. Capacity	100-lb. Capacity
Highest priced unit:	\$14,235	\$28,080
Average priced unit:	\$10,282	\$21,996
Lowest priced unit:	\$7,481	\$18,070

Pricing Trends

2010-2011: +4%

2011-2012: +4%

2012-2013: +4%

Typical delivery time: Some immediately; roughly 4 weeks for others.

Typical delivery charges: Varies, based on freight

Average life span of product: 10 to 20 years

Percent vendor installed: Varies broadly

Standard warranty: 3 to 5 years

Extended warranty: Depends on dealer. Options exist for parts.

Average maintenance cost per year: About \$260

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

Source: Continental Girbau, Dexter, Electrolux, Maytag, Laundrylux, Pellerin Milnor



Photo: Electrolux

FROM THE FRONT LINES:

“When we look for a new washer, the first thing we consider is technology in terms of saving water, energy and labor. Then we look at ease of use and simple controls. Next, we look at reliability; that also includes availability of parts. Overnight shipping to avoid downtime also is a factor.”

Chuck Zimmerman, Procurement Director, Ecumen, Shoreview, MN

Buyer Notes

- While operators are still concerned with conserving energy, they increasingly are looking to save on labor costs and extending linen life, one dealer said.
- Long-term care owners and operators can upgrade older, slower washers with new high-speed, front-loading washers with minimal interruption in services, according to one manufacturer.
- As a rule of thumb, average maintenance costs are approximately 3% of the total cost of processing linens, which could include both washers and dryers.
- Some high-speed washers might need to be bolted to the floor, and some washers need flooring at least 12 inches thick.

For a list of vendors go to the: EQUIPMENT section, pages 82-83