

## Washers and Dryers

Place your washer and dryer in a well-insulated closet to lessen noise. Make sure your machines' doors don't open into high-traffic areas. Check that your floor is strong enough to support them - a large washer filled with water weighs more than 300 lb. Top-loading washers are more popular and have larger capacity than front-loaders. However, front loaders use less water and energy.

A full-sized side-by-side washer and dryer require 48 to 56 in. of wall space. Each machine tops out at 34 to 36 in., with rear controls that reach about 8 in. higher.

To save floor space, choose a portable or built-in stackable washer and dryer. Many models are small enough to fit inside a closet. Stacked, the machines are 24 to 28 in. wide and 72 in. tall. Because dryers don't need replacement as often as washing machines, attached units aren't always the best idea. Look for separate machines that fit into heavy-duty racks, one above the other.

**Safety:** Choose machines that automatically lock the door or lid while operating. All units stop spinning if opened.