

The reasons to choose natural gas have always gone beyond performance. Natural gas assures you of convenience and comfort that's affordable and reliable. It's preferred by homeowners who want to help save energy, reduce emissions, and protect the environment. Contact the Southwest Gas Energy Specialists at **1-800-654-2765** to see if you have a natural gas connection for your dryer; for a list of dealers in your area; for energy saving tips, and special offers on high-efficiency natural gas appliances, or visit us at [www.swgasliving.com](http://www.swgasliving.com).

This pamphlet provides information about natural gas clothes dryers. It is not intended to replace the manufacturer's use and care manual, which is the primary source of information for maintenance, cleaning, and safety of your clothes dryer.

# DRYERS





## The Basics

Today, natural gas dryer manufacturers are using new technologies to improve performance and reduce costs. Many models have a moisture sensor option; this feature is designed to measure the amount of moisture build-up inside the dryer. When your clothes are dry, the moisture sensor automatically shuts off the dryer to save energy and reduce wear and tear on your clothing.

Because today's natural gas dryers are very efficient, and most dryers use similar amounts of energy, they are not required to display the EnergyGuide label or have an ENERGY STAR® rating. However, if you are upgrading to a new natural gas dryer, you may want to consider a new high-efficiency or ENERGY STAR washer. Today's washers use less water and they are designed to remove more moisture from your laundry, helping to reduce drying time and energy use.

Unlike electric dryers, natural gas dryers provide instant heat. That means your laundry will be done faster. This same "instant heat" feature works in reverse when the dryer shuts off. The remaining heat dissipates quickly, reducing the amount of wrinkling. That's an important feature if you can't fold your clothes right away.



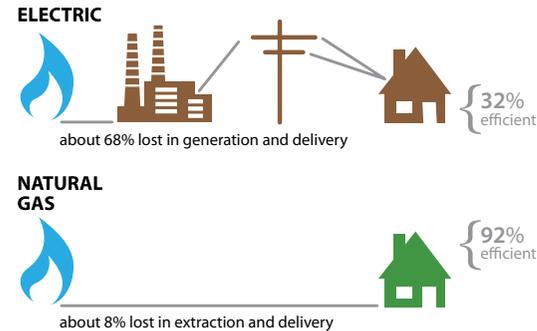
## Energy and Money Saving Tips

- Look for a clothes dryer with a moisture sensor feature that automatically shuts off the machine when your clothes are dry. It saves energy and reduces wear and tear on clothes caused by over-drying.
- Read garment and fabric care labels for proper settings. Save on drying time by drying similar fabrics together.
- Clean the lint filter after each use. A clogged lint trap will reduce air-flow and dryer performance, driving up your energy usage. It's also recommended to clean your dryer's outside venting (duct work) on a regular basis to keep it free from lint and debris.
- Drying full but not oversized loads is more energy efficient than drying smaller loads or overloading the machine. Air needs to circulate through the laundry freely.
- If your washing machine has spin options, select a high spin speed or extended spin option to reduce the amount of remaining moisture, thus starting the drying process before you put your clothes in the dryer.
- Do not open the dryer door unnecessarily.
- The no-heat cycle can be used to plump pillows, freshen stored items, and remove lint or dust from drapes and spreads.
- Remember, the features you select on your dryer and the way you use it can have the most impact on your energy usage.



## Direct Use of Natural Gas

Did you know that natural gas is three times more efficient than using electricity to power appliances? With natural gas, about 92 percent of the energy is delivered directly to your home. Conversely, the electricity in your home is about 32 percent efficient because more than 68 percent of the source energy is lost in generating and delivering the electricity from the power plant to your home. And, natural gas has always been environmentally friendly. It is the cleanest-burning fossil fuel, producing up to 40 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than electric generation. As such, it plays a central role in emerging initiatives to help protect our environment. When you consider efficiency, convenience, and the environmental benefits, the natural choice for your laundry is a natural gas dryer.





## Purchasing Tips

Every appliance comes with two costs: the initial purchase cost and the cost of operating and maintaining the dryer. A gas dryer may cost a little more to purchase than an electric dryer, but they are generally less expensive to operate, which means you'll be paid back in energy savings. As with other home appliances, it is always important to evaluate the long-term economics of purchasing a new, more efficient natural gas dryer. Other factors to consider when buying a new dryer include: size, capacity, features, controls, and energy source.

### Size

Besides selecting the dryer capacity that best fits your family's needs, you should be sure the size of dryer you select fits the space in your laundry room. Stacking compact washers and dryers can fit in to small spaces. Also, consider which way you'd like the door to open.

### Capacity

Select a dryer that offers the best capacity for your needs. There are three different drum sizes including compact, regular/large, and extra large. Regular or large gas dryers can handle average family loads, and usually have a drum volume of 5.5–7 cubic feet. Extra large gas dryers are designed to handle very large loads and bulky household items such as comforters. Their drum volume is up to 8 cubic feet.



### Features & Controls

We've talked about the moisture sensor, but other features you might enjoy include touchpad controls, digital displays, microcomputer-based temperature settings for sensitive fabrics, steaming features, extended tumble, speed-dry, lint filter warning light, drum light, quiet operation, and a dryer rack for no-tumble drying.

### Energy Type and Costs

There are two main ways to create the heat needed to efficiently dry clothes – using gas or electricity. Electric dryers use heating coils to supply heat. Most electric dryers require a 240-volt electrical outlet (power required to heat the coils) which is twice the strength of ordinary household current, and costs more to operate. Natural gas dryers use a gas burner to supply heat and conventional household current (120-volt) for other components. Some electric companies may charge you a “peak-time” or “time-of-use” rate to use electricity. With Southwest Gas, there are no peak-time or time-of-use rates.

### Warranty and Service Packages

When shopping for a dryer, compare service packages and warranties of various models. Also, be sure the models you are considering are design-certified by a nationally recognized laboratory that tests to national standards.



### Venting

Natural gas dryers are required to be vented to the outdoors. The technician who installs your natural gas dryer should use the shortest, straightest section of smooth metal ducting possible because it traps the least amount of lint and lets the air flow freely, improving efficiency and drying time. Flexible venting is not recommended. (Please check the manufacturer's guide or your local city or county building department for proper venting requirements.)