

The Buyer's Guide

Commercial laundry equipment
for independent schools



WASHCO[®]
LEADERS IN LAUNDRY

IN SAFE HANDS

What capacity machine should I buy?

Where do I start?

If you're thinking about reviewing your laundry it can be daunting. Our recommendation is to break it down into three different areas to help get you started: **people, process and equipment.**

People

We'd always start by spending time talking to your laundry staff. They will know where any challenges might be and the niggles that impact efficiency. It's also helpful to understand their processes and if there's an opportunity for changes or training to improve how the laundry works.

Process

When looking at the process, make sure you review it end-to-end. Don't just focus on what happens once the items reach the laundry.

Important questions to consider are:

- What is being washed?
- How is the laundry separated?
- How often are items sent to the laundry?
- What turnaround time is expected/needed?
- What are the infection control requirements?
- Is ozone needed?
- What needs finishing?

Equipment

Look at the capacity of your laundry. Is it still at the right level for your school and are the machines the right size for your location? It might be that the capacity is correct, but it's split between too few machines, leading to operational inefficiencies.

How much space do you have?

Is this an opportunity to change the layout and iron out some of the issues caused by the current floor plan?

Would it help you to have better visibility of the machines?

If the answer's yes, you might want to consider machines which have IoT connectivity, providing you with all the visibility you could need. This includes infection control tracking for both thermal disinfection and ozone.

We know that it can be daunting which is why we're on hand to help you through the process. We understand every school is different and will work with you to find the solution which works for you.





What **services** do I need in place?

The below is a guide on the services required within your laundry however it is highly dependent on your site and the machines which are chosen. Therefore, typically, reputable suppliers will only install machines once they have carried out a site survey.

Washing machine service requirements



Water

Extremely variable based on the capacity of the machine you select. Ideally, a cold and hot water feed with good water pressure within 1m of the rear of the machine.



Drainage

Requirements are dependent on whether you have a drain pump or gravity drain machine, however, the drainage must always fall away from the machine.



Power

Most machines within a school environment require a dedicated hard wired power supply, ie, a three-phase power source.

Dryer service requirements



Power / Heating Source

Dryers can be heated by gas or electricity and that will affect the services they require.



Exhaust ducting

Any vented dryer must exhaust via ducting. With a gas-heated dryer, the design and make-up of this ducting are governed by Gas Safe regulations which must be adhered to. There must also be a source of make-up air, eg, a grill in an external wall.



Water/Drainage

Modern heat pump dryers require both a cold water source and drainage (model dependent).

What are my **maintenance and repair** options?

A key component to consider when you buy your equipment is maintenance and repair. **We have the following options available:**



Call out/ ad-hoc

This model means you only pay for service or repairs when needed. It could save you money, depending on the reliability of your machines, but you'll have to manage servicing your equipment at the right time. It can be more difficult to manage cash flow as you don't know what your monthly costs will be.



Service contract

A service contract can be for repair only or repair and service/maintenance. Doublecheck when you buy a new machine what the warranty includes. This is to ensure that you've got the cover you need. For example, warranties often don't cover you for servicing such as gas checks.



Fully inclusive rental

An inclusive rental or leasing model is where your monthly cost combines the rental or lease of the equipment and maintenance and repair. Because you pay on a monthly basis this can make budgeting easier. Contracts typically last for 6 to 8 years. Rental contracts often offer free replacement machines, if broken-down machines cannot be fixed.



Key questions to ask:

- Does the cost cover preventative maintenance/service visits?
- How often do you carry out preventative maintenance and what do you do at those visits?
- Does the cost cover parts and labour?
- What are the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) around the breakdown?
- What qualifications do your engineers have, eg, are they Gas Safe qualified, are they DBS checked?
- What is your health and safety record like?
- Do you have all the correct risk assessments in place?
- What van stock do your engineers hold?
- Which brands of spares do you carry and what is your stockholding?



Service checklist

Washing Machines:

- ✓ Inspect and clean water inlet filters
- ✓ Inspect and clean drain pump
- ✓ Drum alignment check
- ✓ Check for bearing or motor noise
- ✓ Foot brackets secure/tight
- ✓ Fill hoses visibly sound/no leaks
- ✓ Inspect and clean door seal/glass, check for signs of wear, perishing or leak
- ✓ Door locking operational
- ✓ Cycle and start buttons operational
- ✓ Inspect and adjust drive belts
- ✓ Inspect all electrical components
- ✓ Note condition of machine
- ✓ Test insulation resistance
- ✓ Test earth continuity
- ✓ Test earth loop impedance
- ✓ Inspect MCB/fuse/RCBO/RCD
- ✓ Replace any defective parts

Dryers:

- ✓ Drum condition and displacement check
- ✓ Check for bearing or motor noise
- ✓ Check rollers
- ✓ Inspect and load test heaters
- ✓ Inspect main drive motor
- ✓ Inspect fan motor
- ✓ Inspect front and rear seals
- ✓ Inspect and clean vent hose and vent outlet
- ✓ Door switch and lint screen access panel switches operational
- ✓ Clean lint filter
- ✓ Vacuum out lint from cabinet and filters
- ✓ Cycle and start buttons operational
- ✓ Inspect all electrical components
- ✓ Note condition of machine
- ✓ Test insulation resistance
- ✓ Test earth continuity
- ✓ Test earth loop impedance
- ✓ Inspect MCB/fuse/RCBO/RCD (if accessible)

We will also check machine services:

- ✓ Electrical connections
- ✓ Make-up air vent (where relevant)
- ✓ Clean accessible ducting (where relevant)



Range guide



6 – 11 kg

- ✓ Ideal for boarding houses and incidental loads
- ✓ Includes the ever-popular Miele Little Giants
- ✓ Perfect for small spaces where your equipment needs to work hard



11 kg – 28 kg

- ✓ Robust and reliable, utilising the latest technology with a user-friendly, touchscreen interface
- ✓ Includes the Primus FX washing machine range and DX dryer range
- ✓ DX range includes energy-saving features such as residual moisture





Smart laundry equipment

- ✓ WASHCONNECT, fully visible, connected machines
- ✓ Available up to 60 kg
- ✓ 360 visibility of your laundry including infection control management and resource planning



Rotary ironers

- ✓ Ideal for flatwork, available from 1.4m upwards
- ✓ The latest range from Grandimpianti, 20% smaller than previous models with no compromise on productivity
- ✓ Designed to deliver great results and more flexibility

What can the advantages of renting be?

- ✓ No upfront cost
- ✓ Your monthly cost includes equipment, service and repair
- ✓ Ensures your equipment is up-to-date and meets with current legislation/guidelines
- ✓ Predictable monthly expenses making budgeting easier
- ✓ You may be able to rent equipment which offers more value than your capital budget would allow
- ✓ Spreads costs over a longer period
- ✓ The business can usually deduct the full cost of rentals from taxable income
- ✓ The rental company carries the risk if it breaks down and will replace it with a new machine if it can't be repaired
- ✓ If you need to update or replace the equipment, you can make a small adjustment to your regular payment

Count on us

WASHCO are specialists in commercial laundry equipment, advising and repairing across the UK.

We're a national company providing local service thanks to our regional hubs. We provide solutions for a range of commercial laundry needs, with collaboration and relationships woven into the WASHCO fabric.



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Resources for you

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