

# Hints For The Home



## New Appliances Save Space And Provide Reliable Performance

(NAPSA)—To many consumers these days, purchasing a washer and dryer more closely resembles buying a car than an appliance to wash clothes. While the process can seem a little daunting, taking advantage of the features that fit your laundry style translates to better-looking, longer-lasting clothes, energy-efficient performance and, most importantly, less time in the laundry room. Consider the following before setting out for the store:

### Understand your options.

One of the biggest mistakes consumers make is not measuring their laundry space and doorways before heading out to shop. Until recently, the best-selling stackable front-loading laundry pair came in only one height. But now, leading brands of laundry, space and organization offer options that suit every laundry room configuration.

“We recently introduced the Maytag Epic z™ front-loading laundry pair, a space-saving, versatile option, and Laundry 1-2-3™, an organizational system for laundry. Consumers no longer have to compromise performance or style for size,” said Blane Buckingham, director of laundry products for Maytag brand.

**Know your own expectations.** Consider the features you will actually use. If you are an empty nester or young professional, capacity might not be at the top of your list. Time, however, might be very important. For those concerned with energy and water use, look for appliances that are ENERGY STAR-rated to ensure the highest in efficiency. Another thing to look for is drying time and how it relates to washing time. The same washing and dry-



**When buying a washer and dryer, look for features that fit your needs.**

ing time means that two loads are finishing simultaneously.

**Where does durability come from?** Finding out what’s “under the hood” of your appliances can translate to long-term satisfaction. When talking about laundry appliances, the stainless steel washtub reigns supreme. Stainless steel can withstand even the most demanding household loads and provides the smoothest surface, so it’s gentler on fabrics.

Other elements to look for are sturdy hinges and knobs, and a solid steel base-frame. And always ask about important components such as pumps, motors and dryer rollers so you can compare and buy the most durable appliances on the market.

Today’s laundry market is crowded with choices. Avoid feeling overwhelmed or purchasing an appliance that doesn’t meet your needs. Think about what you like about your current laundry pair and what you would change. Take that, and your measurements, with you when you shop.