



Hints For The Home

Size Only Matters If Laundry Gets Clean

(NAPSA)—Is bigger always better? Maybe not, when you are talking about washing machines.

Just how many clothes can effectively be washed and rinsed in a single load is covered by new U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) guidelines—and the answer may surprise you.

“Due to new Department of Energy regulations regarding clothes washer capacity, consumers may hear a lot of conflicting information about whether size really matters when it comes to laundry,” said J.B. Hoyt, director of regulatory affairs for Whirlpool Corporation. “The common belief is that bigger is better, but that is only true if your clothes still get clean.”

As part of the guidelines, manufacturers including Whirlpool, Maytag and Amana will voluntarily report new capacity measurements based on DOE test procedures in order to provide accurate measurement of all clothes washers across all brands.

For those in the market for new laundry appliances, Hoyt shares the dirt on capacity, cleaning and, most importantly, what to look for when shopping for a new washer.

- When making a new purchase, ask about capacity as it relates to cleaning versus just how



When buying a new washing machine, consumers should ask about washer capacity and how it relates to cleaning.

much the machine will hold. What is the largest maximum capacity that will get your clothes clean?

- No matter how big the machine is, do not overload. Clothes will get cleaner when given room to move freely.

- Thanks to high-efficiency washing machines, you don't have to stuff everything into one load just to save energy and water. Today's high-efficiency washing machines use only enough energy and water to properly clean your clothes, which means you can do small loads when you have time, rather than waiting for the basket to fill up.