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According to our recent surveys, electric dryers account for 73 percent of the machines owned by CR members. Nonetheless, our decades of research and testing show that gas dryers perform just as well. Our comprehensive ratings cover both types of full-sized dryers, as well as compacts. If your dryer is on its last tumble, the models below are among the best electric, gas, and compact dryers from our tests. For helpful information as you shop, see our clothes dryer buying guide, which also lists the brands we test. Need a washer, too? Check out our picks of the best matching washer/dryer sets and the best washing machines. When we test dryers in our Cleaning Lab, we install each one in a climatology chamber on a special platform balance. Here, we maintain the same temperature, humidity and venting conditions for each model and use the balance to help us precisely determine when the wet load is back to its dry starting weight. We look at all the features each machine offers, plus drum capacity, total footprint, ease of use — and, of course, performance. Based on industry-standard AHAM (Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers) protocols, we attach temperature strips to the fabrics in the load to help us find the dryers that dry fabrics quickly without excessive fabric-damaging heat. We evaluate cycles from timed dry and normal to delicate and casual to see how well they dry clothes, bedding, towels and more.Drying time isn't the only thing we evaluate. We also assess how well the machines remove wrinkles using fabric-grading standards we've adopted from the textile industry. We also note any tangling or twisting of clothing that is observed. Then we confirm that specialty cycles like steam and refresh work as expected.While we know not everyone reads the owner's manual for the new appliances they purchase, we always recommend that they do. We review manuals for accuracy, clarity and the manufacturer's contact information. When we evaluate ease of use, we analyze each model's controls for clarity and intuitiveness, and we check how easy the door is to open and close and how easy the interior of the drum is to access. GE GTD58BSVWSMaytag MED4500Speed Queen DR7Electrolux ELFE7637ATLG DLEX4000Wi-Fi app compatibility (unless you purchase the SmartHQ Connect Module)nonoyesEnergy Star certification nonoyesyesyesStackable with matching washernonoyesyesTypes of drying cyclestwelvetwelventeenelventwelveNumber of temperature settingsfourfourfourfiveWarrantyone year limited (labor and parts)one year limited (labor and parts)seven years (labor and parts)one year limited (labor and parts)three years (drum)Wirecutter has been evaluating dryers since 2013. For this guide:We combed through hundreds of owner reviews and spoke with numerous owners of dryers.We used the AI tool FindOurView to identify issues and themes in thousands of owner reviews.We spoke with product managers and designers at various appliance brands, including Electrolux, GE Appliances, LG, and Samsung.We visited the GE Appliances headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky, and toured the facility.In 2023, we tested 12 dryers. We also hosted a group of paid testers with diverse backgrounds, builds, heights, and mobility levels to discuss, use, and evaluate large appliances at our office in Long Island City, New York.Our picks are for people who need a new full-size vented dryer.Vented dryers all have similar, simple designs, basically consisting of a heating element, a fan, and a motor. Drying times and drying accuracy (that is, whether fabric is over- or under-dried) are pretty consistent from model to model. Multiple experts, in fact, have told us that a good washer is harder to find than a good dryer.If you're also shopping for a new washer, you can opt for the matching dryer. In addition to being aesthetically pleasing, matching washers and dryers from the same brand are often designed to stack, maximizing space in your laundry room. You may also benefit from a good deal on the pair and save on delivery and installation fees.But if you just need to replace a dryer, or if you want to mix and match a washer and dryer from different brands for budget, availability, or sizing reasons, that's fine too.Most dryers measure 27 to 29 inches wide, between 38 and 44 inches tall, and around 30 inches deep. The machine also needs at least an additional 6 inches of clearance behind it for the vent hose. And don't forget that you need somewhere to vent the dryer, preferably through a wall cutout or a window.If you need a compact, ventless condenser or heat-pump dryer, check out our guide to compact washers and dryers. Note that ventless dryers, which take longer to dry clothing than traditional dryers, typically perform best when paired with their matching washer. Matching their capacity can speed up the drying process, and the washing machine usually spins at a faster speed to wick away as much moisture as possible, which makes up for the dryer's slower performance.Most clothes dryers in the US run on electric power, from a 220-volt outlet. Almost every model also has a counterpart that uses natural gas instead. Gas dryers typically cost \$100 more than electric dryers but work a little quicker.In our most recent round of testing, in 2023, we tested 12 dryers in our testing facility in Long Island City, New York.We dried a 12-pound mixed load of laundry (that we used to test washers) in each dryer on its normal sensor-dry setting, along with several loads of sheets and a king-size comforter. None of the full-size dryers had issues with tangling or bunching, which bodes well for both medium and large loads.We compared the weight of the load before washing against the weight of the load after drying, and we checked all items at the end of a cycle for dampness. Although underdrying is inconvenient, a small amount of moisture is better for fabric care, as overdrying can wear out fibers due to abrasion from extended tumbling and additional exposure to high temperatures.Here's a summary of what we evaluated:Convenience and ease of use: We've found that most people prefer shorter cycle times, less noise and vibration, and minimal maintenance, so in our tests we favored models with those attributes. As for capacity, standard front-loaders and top-loaders are all big enough for most people's laundry needs. We noted how easy the control panels were to read and operate, as well as the number and types of cycles available. We also paid close attention to the door and lid design.Fabric care: A good dryer should be able to dry clothes while minimizing wear or damage to fabric. We also take into account temperature control, which impacts fabric care.Reliability and longevity: After talking to many dryer owners, interviewing a variety of industry experts (including retailers, repair technicians, and brand representatives), and analyzing data online, we've concluded that you're lucky if a dryer lasts for 10 years with no major repairs. We looked for models from brands that have strong dependability track records.Energy efficiency: Three of the five dryers we recommend are Energy Star-certified.Wi-Fi connectivity: We paired an iPhone 13 with every machine that offers a connected app and evaluated the app's usability and functionality. With some Wi-Fi-enabled machines, you can get diagnostics, cycle preferences, information on energy usage, and integration with a voice-controlled assistant and other smart-home devices. And some people may find it easier to use an app on their phone or tablet to operate their washer and dryer. (Lucy Greco, a blind accessibility expert at University of California Berkeley, describes some of the shortcomings of an LG washing machine in two of her videos, plus how she worked with LG to make the connected models more accessible.)You can read about our full testing protocol for details. Photo: GE AppliancesIf you're looking for a basic dryer with impressive drying powers and an assortment of cycles, the GE GTD58BSVWS electric dryer is a solid choice and a great value.The GE GTD58GBSVWS is the gas-powered version.It produces consistently dry clothing. The GTD58EBSVWS had no problem drying multiple loads in our tests.It has intuitive controls and customizable settings. The controls, consisting of a simple dial and buttons and clearly marked cycles and temperature settings, are easy to use and read. With multiple cycle options, dampness sensors, and time and temperature settings, the GTD58EBSVWS can handle a variety of drying needs. A memory setting allows you to save your favorite cycles.It tackles heavy loads effectively. With a capacity of 7.4 cubic feet, the GTD58EBSVWS had no problem drying large loads of laundry, including a king-size comforter, in our tests.It comes with a standard warranty. GE Appliances backs the GTD58EBSVWS with a one-year limited warranty for labor and parts.But it isn't Energy Star-certified or Wi-Fi-enabled. If you want Wi-Fi support, GE Appliances sells the optional SmartHQ Connect Module, which you can add to the machine for use with GE's SmartHQ app.You can pair the GTD58EBSVWS with any washer, but we recommend the matching GE GTW565BSVWS top-loading washer in our guide to matching washers and dryers. Photo: WhirlpoolCorporationIf you're looking for a classic electric dryer with simple controls and straightforward settings, the Maytag MED4500 may be for you.It has fewer bells and whistles than pricier dryers, but it effectively tackles large loads. We've recommended versions of this Maytag dryer for years, and we think it will hold up for the long haul.The Maytag MGD4500 is the gas-powered version.It gets the job done. The MED4500 has fewer frills than other, pricier options, but in our tests it had no problem fully drying loads, including a king-size comforter and other large loads, every time.Its controls are simple and easy to use. You can control the machine's temperature and load settings easily with its clearly marked dials. If you dislike fiddling with multiple buttons and cycle settings, you'll appreciate this Maytag model's simplicity.It lacks some useful features. Among the omissions are a time-remaining display and sensor-dry functionality. It doesn't have a speed-dry option, either.It's a bit slower than our other picks and is not Energy Star-certified. The MED4500 took about 15 minutes longer than the super-speedy LG DLEX4000 to dry a full load on Normal.It comes with a standard limited warranty. The one-year limited warranty (PDF) covers labor and parts.The Maytag MVW4505MW is this machine's matching top-loading washer. Photo: Speed QueenThis electric dryer is effective and reliable, and it offers extras you won't find in other machines, such as a longer warranty and a cycle that can reduce lingering pet hair. However, those bonuses come with a steeper price tag.Speed Queen is a time-tested brand that excels at making durable, heavy-duty machines that you can expect to last for decades. If you want a well-made dryer with a longer warranty and extra features, and you're willing to spend about twice the price of a typical dryer, the Speed Queen DR7 is an excellent choice.Its durability and longevity are hard to beat. Speed Queen's machines are exceptionally durable, made to last for 25 years (10,400 wash cycles), according to the company—something that we witnessed with we visited the Speed Queen factory and saw its durability testing.Speed Queen, a sub-brand of Alliance Laundry Systems, is primarily a commercial brand, sold to laundromats, apartment buildings, hotels, and the like, but it also produces machines for home use with the same high-quality components.It's an excellent dryer, and it's easy to use. The DR7 impressed us in our drying tests and was overall a delight to use, and it lived up to its legendary track record.With a capacity of 7 cubic feet, the DR7 had no problem drying large loads of laundry, including a king-size comforter, in our tests.It has special settings and is especially suitable for pet owners. 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