



Buying Industrial Laundry Equipment - Operating Efficiency a Critical Factor

Laundries are seriously affected by water, labour, energy and chemical cost increases. Therefore operating costs of laundries have now become a critical aspect of the equipment purchasing decision.

Contrary to popular belief, the most expensive elements of an on-premises laundry is labour and operating costs, not the equipment. To help decide on the number and size of washers and dryers, one should design a laundry that operates on one 8-hour shift per day. To calculate the laundry/hour requirement, divide the total laundry per day by an 8-hour shift to determine an hourly production rate. So, if your laundry volume is 1000kg per day (dry mass) to be processed in 8 hours that would require equipment capable of processing 125kg per hour. (Note that if you intend to run two shifts per day the hourly laundry processing requirement would be 63kg per hour). Excess capacity means excess capital expenditure, under capacity means expensive overtime. Poor equipment choice means high operating costs with every load - for 20 + years!

Becoming more common are High-Speed washer-extractors, which save both time and money. High-speed extraction removes moisture quickly from linens by achieving a higher centrifugal force. The clothes washed in them will dry in less time due to lower water retention. Other features of a modern washer extractor are crucial for efficiency. Efficiency means lower water consumption per load, less chemical usage, faster heating, lower energy cost, higher production capacity, longer linen life span, less maintenance and longer equipment lifespan. All SEVE washer extractors are high speed machines.

Inverter drives have become common in many types of equipment but are still not used on many washer extractors. Called by various names such as "soft starts", "convertor drives", "variable speed drives" they all do the same job. Inverter drives control motors. On a washer extractor they smooth out the power factor of the motor which reduces power consumption, reduces stress on the motor and all mechanical components of the machine thereby extending service life and allow for variable extraction speeds. All SEVE washer extractors are fitted with inverter drives as standard.

Correct design of the washing cylinder (drum) of a washing machine is crucial for achieving maximum cleanliness and efficiency. They must have a high aspect ratio. i. e. The drums must be tall and shallow, not short and deep. A taller drum = greater circumference which, combined with high extraction speed, results in a higher G-force and therefore less residual water in the linen to make drying quicker. Dryers are the biggest users of energy in a laundry so savings here result in major operating cost savings. All SEVE washers have drums with a high or very high aspect ratio.

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Programmability has become another highly desired labour-saving device. The ability to program washers as to exact requirements helps to achieve maximum efficiency, maximize cleanliness, minimize labour and extend fabric life. All SEVE machines are operated by programmable computers.

The fabric to be washed must be taken into account before selecting equipment. For example, incontinence pads may be difficult to extract because they tend to block the drain holes at high speeds. Towels, cotton sheets and table linen, on the other hand, are perfect for high-speed extraction. Some poly cotton linen tends to crease when extracted quickly, and personal clothing may be too delicate for this process. Washers with variable extraction speeds may be the best choice. All SEVE washers have variable speed extraction.

The types of linens being washed determine selection of dryer size. If all linens being washed are also dried, each dryer should have 1.5 to 2 times the washer capacity. The ability to program a dryer as opposed to drying based on time alone, is important. If the dryer stops automatically when the clothes are dry, it eliminates over-drying and lengthens the life of the fabric. Over-drying can result in spontaneous combustion. To maximise the life of the dryer, prevent corrosion of the drum and therefore staining of linen the drum should be made of stainless steel. The drum should also have a reversing action which prevents large / long items from tangling and ensures thorough, even drying. SEVE "A" model dryers are fully computer controlled and all SEVE dryers have reversing stainless steel drums.

Ironing is a labour and energy intensive process. If a SEVE high speed extraction washer is used in conjunction with a SEVE ironer the ironing can be taken straight from the washer to the ironer skipping the tumble dryer because all SEVE ironers dry and iron in one operation. In addition, SEVE ironers have large diameter drums which allows for better quality ironing and higher production. All SEVE ironers are computer controlled and all are fitted with inverter drives with variable speed and temperature controls. The SEVE C model ironers are unique in design and have many advantages over alternative brands. For details refer to the brochure and the special brochure "Ironer Efficiency" which explains the massive cost savings.

For more information about SEVE machines refer to the relevant brochure/s or contact us for assistance.