Front Loader Washing Machines

What is different about a front loading washing machine?

The main difference between top loading and front loading washing machines is how the clothes are placed and washed. A top loading washing machine has a lid on top and in the centre of the tub is a device called an agitator. The agitator’s job is to swirl the clothes through the soapy water. A front loading washing machine has a door on the side of the machine and has no central agitator, instead using gravity and side-mounted paddles to agitate the clothes.

Once the front door of the front loading washing machine is closed, it remains locked mechanically until the washing cycle is completed. You cannot open the machine during the cycle.

A front loading washing machine is gentler on clothes and generally quieter to operate. Instead of the agitator grabbing clothes and thrashing them, the paddles of a front loading washing machine gently pick up the clothes and allow them to drop into the soapy water. The dirt is still removed by an agitating action, but gravity does most of the work. Gentler agitation can extend the lifespan of your clothes significantly.

Another advantage of a front loading washing machine is its water and detergent usage. A top loading machine must use enough water to cover the highest level of the clothes. A front loading washing machine only uses enough water to cover the lower third of the tub. It also uses less energy.

Why must I use special washing detergent?

Detergents designed for front loading washing machines use a lower sudsing formula, and are meant to release different cleansing agents at different water temperatures. If you do not have the correct detergent, use only a half scoop of top loading detergent to avoid oversudsing.