



History of Washing Machines

Before the invention of the washing machine, laundry was also done in communal or public washhouses. Laundering by hand involves soaking, beating, scrubbing, and rinsing dirty textiles. The Industrial Revolution completely transformed laundry technology.

97%

In UK, 97 percent of households own a washing

5 years

The average washing machine's lifespan is over 5 years.

2.1 million

washing machines are more than 10 years old (in UK)

21 million

washing machines per year are sold in Europe

2.6 million

washing machines per year are sold in the UK

1752

A drawing of an early washing machine appeared in the January 1752 issue of The Gentlemen's Magazine, a British publication.

1862

In 1862, a patented "compound rotary washing machine, with rollers for wringing or mangling" by Richard Lansdale of Pendleton, Manchester, was shown at the 1862 London Exhibition.

Jacob Christian Schäffer's washing machine design was published 1767 in Germany.

1767

1937

Bendix Corporation introduced the first domestic automatic washing machine in 1937, having applied for a patent in the same year.

1947

General Electric introduced its first top loading automatic model in 1947.

1990

In the early 1990s, upmarket machines incorporated microcontrollers for the timing process.

1791

The first English patent under the category of Washing and Wringing Machines was issued in 1791.

1782

Henry Sidgier issued a British patent for a rotating drum washer.

1998

The New Zealand based company Fisher & Paykel introduced its SmartDrive washing machine. This washing machine uses a computer controlled system to determine factors such as load size and automatically adjusts the wash cycle to match.

2008

In 2008, the University of Leeds created a concept washing machine that uses only 300 ml of water and 20 kg of re-usable plastic beads to carry out a full wash.

2000

In 2000, the British inventor James Dyson launched the CR01 ContraRotator, a type of washing machine with two cylinders rotating in opposite directions.