

THE NEW TUMBLE DRYER LABEL

From May 2013 there will be a new EU energy label for tumble dryers. This will reflect the significant reduction in their energy-use since the original label was introduced in the mid-1990s. Gas tumble dryers will now also carry energy labels.

Three new labels

In fact, there are three new tumble dryer labels, two for electric and one for gas appliances. All have the familiar seven classification bands, from dark green to red. However, A+, A++ and A+++ have been added to the original A to G classification scheme, so that A+++ (dark green) is now best and D (red) is now the worst classification in terms of energy efficiency.

All three labels also have a figure for estimated annual energy consumption, load capacity, cycle time and a noise measurement.

Electric

- i) **Vented dryers:** draw in air which is heated and passed through a rotating drum full of damp washing leaving warm water vapour to be vented, usually to the outside of the building.
- ii) **Condenser dryers:** use heated air but include a mechanism for removing the moisture from the air within the dryer and in some cases re-using some of the heat. The condensed water vapour is either collected in a water bottle or pumped into a drain.

The electric dryers - vented and condenser - feature an icon or pictogram of an appliance with a cable and a (two pin) plug.

The condenser has an additional pictogram showing the energy rating for the efficiency class of this condensation process which shows the relevant letter in a larger, bolder font size.

Gas

- iii) The **gas-powered** dryer is now eligible for energy labelling and the label carries a pictogram of an appliance and a flame.

Types of dryers



Gas



Electric vented



Electric condenser

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Your guide to tumble dryer symbols...

<p>236 kWh/annum</p>	<p>Weighted annual energy consumption in kWhs based on a combination of full and partial loads being used 160 times in a year.</p>	<p>65 dB</p>	<p>Noise emissions in decibels</p>
<p>155 min/cycle*</p>	<p>Cycle time for a full cotton load in minutes</p>	<p>A B C D E F G</p>	<p>Condensation efficiency class</p>
<p>7 kg</p>	<p>Rated capacity, in Kg, for the full load standard cotton programme.</p>		

EU energy label for an electric condenser dryer

The image shows a detailed EU energy label for an electric condenser dryer. The label includes the following elements:

- Header:** European Union flag, 'ENERG' logo, and multilingual text: 'енергия · ενεργεια · energia · ενέργεια · ENERGIE'.
- Manufacturer and Model:** Fields for identifying the brand and specific model.
- Energy Efficiency Scale:** A vertical bar with color-coded levels from A+++ (green) to D (red). A black arrow points to the 'A+' class.
- Annual Energy Consumption:** A box displaying '236 kWh/annum'.
- Performance Icons:** Four icons at the bottom represent:
 - Energy consumption (236 kWh/annum)
 - Cycle time (155 min/cycle*)
 - Rated capacity (7 kg)
 - Noise emissions (65 dB)
- Condensation Efficiency Class:** A box at the bottom left showing 'A B C D E F G'.
- Footnote:** Multilingual text explaining the cycle time: '* циклун - cyklus - portion - sykklus · програмаун - ciclo - tokielki · ohjelma - ciklus - ciklus - cikls · ciklu - cyclus - cykl - ciclu program - tørkomgang'.

Callouts on the right side of the label explain:

- Brand name and model:** Points to the manufacturer and model fields.
- Additional energy classes: A+, A++, A+++:** Points to the energy efficiency scale.
- Annual energy consumption:** Points to the '236 kWh/annum' box.
- Symbols highlight selected performance features and characteristics:** Points to the four performance icons at the bottom.

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The label timetable...

The new labelling regulation came into force at the end of May 2012 and will become mandatory from 29 May 2013, with a later date of 29 September 2013 for when the energy class of these appliances must be cited in retailer displays and all communication material where energy related, price or technical information is disclosed.

Points to consider...

- **Going for gas?** These have to be connected by a Gas Safe Registered installer, though the costs of this may be offset by gas dryers' lower running costs.
- **Heat pump technology** These are a type of condenser dryer which uses a heat pump system instead of a separate heater to heat the air, and a heat exchanger to condense the water vapour. Because the heat recovered from the heat exchanger is reused to heat the air before it is passed back through the clothes, less energy is needed for heating, making them significantly more energy efficient than traditional vented or condenser dryers.

Manufacturers

- Must provide dealers with a new EU energy label with each product, free of charge
- Make available a product fiche (a list of information) with any literature that accompanies the product

- Are responsible for the accuracy of the information provided.

Dealers

- Must attach in a clearly visible way, the supplied label on the outside of the front or top of the products displayed in the shops
- Make the product fiche available.
- In the case of online sales or other form of distance selling, where the customer cannot see the product displayed, customers must be provided with the mandatory information (the information specified on the label and in the fiche) before purchase.

Saving Energy

- Savings in energy-use can be achieved by replacing an old inefficient tumble dryer with a new high performing model. In a real-life pilot study an A++ tumble dryer saved 39% energy when it replaced a 5-10 year old model*. Remember when using dryers to programme the load on the most appropriate cycle and don't overload - allow space for fabrics to move around.

**Efficient Household Appliances Study*, October 2012. University of Surrey
<http://www.t2c.org.uk/saving-energy/new-university-of-surrey-study>