

The inside guide to

Commercial Washing Machines

For Care Home Managers

The ultimate guide to choosing and using the right laundry equipment in your care home.



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Miele



GIABAU
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Different options left you in a spin?

The world of commercial washing machines is full of different makes and models in all sorts of shapes and sizes, so knowing which machine to go for can be a minefield.

Take our range for instance. It's been carefully selected to contain equipment that spans the entire spectrum, from compact 5.5kg models for smaller facilities, right through to heavy duty 32kg top-loading appliances to deal with mass laundering.

We know how busy you are, so it's important that your laundry appliances:

- ✓ Meet your daily requirements
- ✓ Perform to the right standards
- ✓ Don't let you down

Take a look at the advice on the next few pages, it's designed to help you effortlessly tick these three boxes, and more.



Why 'making do' just won't do

The average commercial washing machine can last for around 14 years if it's been regularly maintained and looked after.

This means that most businesses don't have to worry about replacing their washing appliances for well over a decade.

But that's only if you have a washing machine that's fit for purpose in the first place. With commercial laundry technology evolving at a rapid pace these days, it's highly probable that if you've had your machine for more than ten years, then it may not be as effective as some of the latest equipment that's on the market.

Like all electrical equipment, washing machines are designed to continuously deliver **bigger and better results**, be **more energy efficient** and **comply with the latest industry rules and regulations**.



What does 'fit for purpose' mean?

While it may be tempting to simply choose the cheapest commercial washing machine or go with what everybody else is buying, it's highly likely that this approach will cost you in time and money in the long-run.

Why? Because you'll end up with a laundry system that isn't built around your care home's operations and won't perform as efficiently or effectively as it should.

Ideally, your commercial washing machines need to be fit for purpose, which mean they:

- ✓ Can easily cope with your laundry loads
- ✓ Clean your laundry, first time around
- ✓ Help maintain infection control – by featuring a disinfection cycle that washes at the right temperature (usually 65°C for 10 minutes or 71°C for three minutes). These temperatures are guaranteed to kill any bacteria that's lurking
- ✓ Are economical – from both a cost, size and energy efficiency perspective
- ✓ Contain the right programmes for your requirements – for instance, you could benefit from faster or more specific wash cycles, or higher temperatures
- ✓ Are the right size – drum-wise and also to fit within your laundry room without causing any obstructions
- ✓ Meet the relevant industry standards – including:
 - WRAS Water Waste Regulations
 - Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)
 - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (2002)
 - Controls assurance standard for infection control, Department of Health (2002)
 - CFPP0104 choice framework for local Policy and Procedures 01-04 decontamination of linen for health and social care

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Are your current machines fit for purpose?

Contact us today for advice on how you can make sure your equipment 100% meets your needs.

You can reach us on
info@jtmservice.co.uk
 or 0800 652 5692

Why bigger isn't always better...

If your home produces smaller batches of laundry, then you may want to choose a commercial washing machine that has a smaller drum size and is more compact, such as a 5 to 6.5kg capacity model, like these:

- [Miele PW 6055 Little Giant Vario](#)
- [Miele PW 5062 Little Giant](#)
- [Miele PW 6065 Little Giant Vario](#)
- [Miele MOPSTAR 60](#)

But if your home frequently deals with mountains of laundry, then we recommend that you choose a machine that's designed to withstand the stresses and strains of heavy usage.



If this sounds like you, then you may want to consider investing in a heavy duty 32kg top-loading machine that's designed to cope with mass laundering, like these 21kg+ models:

- [Miele PW 6241](#)
- [Miele PW 6243](#)
- [Miele PW 6321](#)
- [Miele PW 6323](#)

Need a hand with finding the right machine based on your home's laundry loads?

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 for impartial advice.

"Don't expect a small capacity machine to do the job of a large capacity machine. It won't provide you with optimum cleaning results and you'll most likely end up with a broken machine at some point down the line."



Keeping germs at bay

With visitors coming and going and elderly people being particularly susceptible to picking up germs, effectively managing infection is an on-going battle. Especially when there's an outbreak of ill-health or cold and flu season strikes.

Staying on top of cleanliness levels, using the right cleaning products and following the correct processes to avoid cross-contamination all go a long way to manage the risk of infection. But there are other equally-important measures that need to be factored in too.

Having a robust laundry handling and processing system can help manage germ levels and minimise the spread of risk. Here's how it can be achieved:

1. Create a dedicated space for your laundry



Ideally, you should have just one room where your laundry is handled and cleaned.

This designated area needs to be well ventilated. There should also be access to an outside wall to enable tumble dryers to take in air from outside and allow air to freely circulate around the room.

2. Use the right materials



All of the surfaces within your laundry room, floors included, should be easy to wipe clean and made from impermeable materials that won't absorb fluids from soiled linen.

This will help keep the risk of cross-contamination occurring to an absolute minimum.

3. Keep your laundry room clean



In order to make sure your laundry room is germ-free, you need to clean it regularly. This involves thoroughly cleaning the floor and all surfaces every single day.

Top tip: You may also want to consider using a sterile air purifier, which can help keep air clean and destroy airborne bacteria and viruses, such as MRSA, SARS and C.difficile.

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The dos and don'ts of laundry handling and processing

As mentioned on the last page, laundry processes play a fundamental role in helping reduce the spread of germs and infection within care homes.

All laundry staff should be trained on how to use appliances correctly and know the best ways to go about reducing cross-contamination. They should also carry out the appropriate infection control procedures, like the dos and don'ts listed below:

Handling soiled linen

-  **DO** – always take care when handling infected or soiled linen and transporting it from the bedroom to the laundry room.
-  **DON'T** – remove bed sheets or blankets or touch any other laundry without wearing disposable aprons and gloves.

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-  **DO** – place linen on the correct trolley, according to the infection control procedures in place.
-  **DON'T** – leave dirty linen lying around in public areas. Take it directly to the laundry room and make sure trolleys and bags remain sealed.
-  **DO** – change soiled uniforms immediately and treat them in the same way as soiled or contaminated linen.
-  **DON'T** – take dirty uniforms home as domestic machines cannot guarantee the removal of bacteria and could cause contamination in the home.

Washing soiled linen

-  **DO** – use a disinfection cycle to clean laundry. This means it will be washed at the right temperature to kill any bacteria that may be present.
-  **DON'T** – treat all of your laundry in the same way. Some fabrics aren't suitable for hot disinfection cycles. In these cases, specialist non- biological detergents can be used that have been scientifically proven to destroy the H1N1 flu virus, MRSA and C. difficile spores from 30°C.
-  **DO** – wash dirty linen before infected or soiled linen.
-  **DON'T** – overload machine(s) with laundry. This will only prevent items from circulating and being washed properly.
-  **DO** – dispose of aprons or gloves in the appropriate soiled waste bin to prevent cross-contamination.

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About JTM

We're a family-run business that's been established for more than 30 years. We pride ourselves on being the go-to company for service without compromise and providing professional and impartial advice, so you get the package that's right for you.

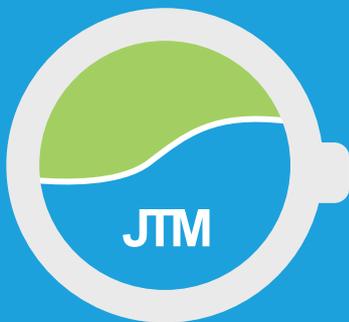
Whether you need a single washing machine or a complete, fully maintained, multi-appliance package, our approach is always the same – open, honest and reliable. To provide you with year-round care, we also offer a breakdown repair service plus, reporting and analysis, to make sure your machines perform efficiently and effectively at all times.



John Middleton
Managing Director

Contact us

We hope you've found this guide useful. For more details or to discuss your commercial washing machine requirements with us, contact us on info@jtmservice.co.uk or **0800 652 5692** for impartial advice.



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