

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

January 15, 2024

Dear ENERGY STAR® Clothes Washer and Clothes Dryer Stakeholders,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites the public to submit comments on the enclosed [Draft 1 Clothes Dryer Version 2.0 Specification](#), [Draft 1 Clothes Washers Version 9.0 Specification](#), and [Draft 1 Combination Laundry Products Version 1.0 Specification](#). The EPA is proposing new criteria for clothes washers and clothes dryers and a new product specification, combination laundry products. The Agency is announcing these proposals together as they involve changing how ENERGY STAR covers combination all-in-one washer-dryers and laundry centers. For a smooth transition, all three specifications will follow the same timeline. The EPA is working with the DOE on these ENERGY STAR revisions and will ensure they are informed by the DOE regulatory process. The EPA will hold a stakeholder webinar on February 5, 2025, at 1 p.m. ET to discuss the Draft 1 specifications in greater detail. Comments on the draft proposals may be submitted to the EPA no later than February 14, 2025.

Clothes Dryer Background

Since the [Version 1.0 specification](#) took effect in January 2015, the clothes dryer market has evolved significantly, with the market share of ENERGY STAR certified models rising in the past few years to 42%. These market developments present an opportunity for the ENERGY STAR program to deliver additional energy savings and improve the consumer value the label provides.

In March 2024, the EPA released a [Clothes Dryer Version 2.0 Discussion Guide](#) to solicit public comment to further inform an ENERGY STAR Version 2 clothes dryer specification and request input on developing a test procedure for commercial dryers. Generally, stakeholders were supportive of adding commercial dryers and the EPA plans to pursue this separately. For residential dryers, many stakeholders encouraged the EPA to set levels associated with heat pump performance, while one stakeholder cautioned against this approach. Feedback also included considerations for cycle times. Summaries and responses to the comments can be found in note boxes throughout the Draft 1 specification and in the [Version 2.0 Discussion Guide comment response matrix](#).

Overview of Draft 1 Clothes Dryer Proposal

The basis for this Draft 1 proposal is to increase stringency to provide better market differentiation for ENERGY STAR clothes dryers and capture even greater energy, greenhouse gas, and cost savings. In the discussion guide, the EPA explored addressing additional cycles and load sizes to ensure the energy savings are consistent with consumer usage; however, with the recent rapid market share growth of dryers featuring heat pump technology, there is the opportunity to significantly increase the levels without additional testing criteria. The EPA is open to exploring additional testing in the future if it helps ensure the ENERGY STAR label appropriately identifies energy-efficient products for consumers.

In this Draft 1, the EPA is proposing performance requirements that are as much as 73% more efficient than the current minimum standard for clothes dryers, depending on product class. Approximately 13% of current electric base models meet the proposed levels, though the EPA anticipates a jump in availability and sales of products meeting them in 2025. Based on a comparison of similar models with different efficiency performance, the EPA found that energy cost savings paid back the incremental cost in less than 5 years.

Key elements of the Draft 1 Clothes Dryer Proposal include:

- Revised definitions to align with the DOE definitions.
- Clarification of scope for combination all-in-one washer-dryers and laundry centers.
- Revised efficiency criteria for all product classes as tested according to 10 CFR 430, Subpart B, Appendix D2.
- Revised requirements for a model's ability connect with a network and share efficiency information.
- Updated Test Requirements section to align with recent ENERGY STAR appliance specification revisions.
- Added requirements regarding eco modes or settings.

Clothes Washer Background

Since the most recent [Version 8.0 specification](#) took effect in February 2018, the market share of ENERGY STAR certified models has risen to 59% for residential products. This widespread adoption presents an opportunity for the ENERGY STAR program to deliver additional energy and cost savings.

Overview of Draft 1 Clothes Washer Proposal

To adapt to the market and provide greater energy and cost savings, the EPA is proposing performance requirements that are as much as 45% more efficient for energy and 55% more efficient for water than the current federal minimum standard for clothes washers, depending on product class. Currently, approximately 20% of residential base models meet the proposed levels. Based on a comparison of similar models with different efficiency performance, the EPA found that energy cost savings paid back the incremental cost on residential models in less than 4 years for most product classes.

Key elements of the Draft 1 Clothes Washer Proposal include:

- Revised definitions to align with the DOE definitions.
- Clarification of scope for combination all-in-one washer-dryers and laundry centers.
- Revised efficiency criteria.
- Revised requirements for a model's ability connect with a network and share efficiency information.

Combination Laundry Products Background

Laundry Centers have been within scope of the washer specification since Version 6 and the dryer specification since Version 1. Combination all-in-one washer-dryers were added to the Version 8.1 washer specification and required the dryer meet the dryer specification criteria. The EPA received feedback from manufacturers, utilities and other interested stakeholders that the current approach is creating confusion about requirements and recognition for these products.

Overview of Draft 1 Combination Laundry Products Proposal

To reduce the administrative burden for the EPA in collecting and posting information, and reduce confusion about requirements, the Agency is proposing to move combination all-in-one washer-dryers and laundry centers to a separate, new Combined Laundry Products specification. Consistent with the current approach, combination laundry products will be required to meet the same efficiency levels as those proposed in the clothes washers and clothes dryers specifications to be certified as ENERGY STAR.

Key elements of the Draft 1 Combined Laundry Products Proposal include:

- A new specification for combination all-in-one washer-dryers and laundry centers.
- Alignment of definitions with the DOE definitions.
- Efficiency criteria consistent with the washer and dryer proposals.
- Reporting requirements for a model's ability connect with a network and share efficiency information.

Stakeholder Meeting:

The EPA will host a webinar on **February 5, 2025 from 1 – 3 PM Eastern Time** to discuss the Draft 1 document and address initial stakeholder comments and questions. Please register to attend the webinar [here](#).

Comment Submittal:

The public is encouraged to provide written comments for the EPA consideration to appliances@energystar.gov no later than **February 14, 2025**. As a reminder, all submitted comments will be posted to the [ENERGY STAR product development website for clothes dryers](#) and the [ENERGY STAR product development website for clothes washers](#) unless the submitter specifically requests their respective comments remain confidential. Comments for the combination laundry products will be posted on both the washer and dryer pages. Please contact me Steve Leybourn, EPA, at Leybourn.Stephen@epa.gov or 202-564-1191, or Payal Hukeri, ICF, at Payal.Hukeri@icf.com or (703) 236-5615 with questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,



Steve Leybourn, Product Manager ENERGY STAR Appliances
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Enclosures:

- [ENERGY STAR Version 2.0 Clothes Dryer Draft 1 Specification](#)
- [ENERGY STAR Version 9.0 Clothes Washer Draft 1 Specification](#)
- [ENERGY STAR Version 1.0 Combination Laundry Products Draft 1 Specification](#)
- [ENERGY STAR Version 2.0 Clothes Dryer Data & Analysis Package](#)
- [ENERGY STAR Version 9.0 Clothes Washer Data & Analysis Package](#)
- [ENERGY STAR Version 2.0 Clothes Dryer Discussion Guide Comment Response Matrix](#)