

ABC USED APPLIANCES & REPAIR SERVICE

The Smart Tampa Buyer's Guide to Used Washer & Dryer Sets

What to inspect, which brands hold up, fair Tampa prices,
and how to avoid an expensive mistake.

8704 N. Nebraska Ave, Tampa, FL 33604

(813) 900-7823 | tampausedappliances.com

Tampa's Local Used Appliance Store Since 2008

Why This Guide Exists

Buying a used washer and dryer set can save you hundreds of dollars — or cost you just as much in repairs if you buy the wrong one. This guide is written specifically for Tampa-area shoppers who want to make a smart, informed decision before spending their money.

Whether you're furnishing a first apartment in Seminole Heights, replacing a dead unit in a South Tampa home, or outfitting a rental property in Brandon or Riverview, this guide covers what you actually need to know — before you hand over any cash.

Step 1: Know What Size and Type You Need

Before you look at a single listing or walk into a store, answer these three questions:

1. Side-by-side or stackable?

Measure your laundry space. Standard side-by-side sets need about 54–60 inches of width plus a few inches on each side for airflow. Stackable sets work well in closets and apartments.

2. Electric or gas dryer?

This is critical. Your home either has a 240V electric outlet or a gas line in the laundry area — and you cannot use the wrong type. Check before you shop. Most Tampa homes use electric dryers, but some older homes and certain neighborhoods have gas hookups.

3. What capacity do you need?

A family of four doing 7–10 loads per week needs a full-size washer (4.0–5.5 cu. ft.). A single person or couple doing 2–3 loads per week can get by with a compact or standard-size unit.

Step 2: Used vs. Refurbished vs. "As-Is"

These three terms are not the same thing, and sellers don't always use them accurately:

- **Used (as-is):** Sold in whatever condition it's in. May or may not work properly. Typical of private sales.
- **Refurbished:** Cleaned, inspected, and repaired to working order, usually with some kind of warranty. This is what reputable local appliance stores sell.
- **Certified / Tested:** Run through full cycles by a technician and verified to function as expected. The safest option when buying used.

At ABC Used Appliances in Tampa, every unit we sell has been cleaned, inspected, and tested before it hits the sales floor. That's not something you can say about Craigslist.

Step 3: The 7-Point Used Washer Checklist

If you're buying from a private seller, run through this checklist before handing over money:

- **Run a full wash cycle** — not just spin. Listen for loud grinding or rattling during the spin cycle, which signals bearing wear.
- **Check the drum interior** for rust spots, cracks, or residue that won't wipe off.
- **Inspect the door seal (front-loaders)** — the rubber gasket should be pliable and clean, not cracked or moldy.
- **Look at the hose connections.** Old or cracked hoses are a water leak waiting to happen.
- **Run the hot water** and confirm temperature controls actually respond.
- **Check for error codes.** Ask if any codes have appeared recently.
- **Spin and listen** for excess vibration, which can mean worn suspension rods or drum bearings.

Step 4: The 5-Point Used Dryer Checklist

- **Run it for 10 minutes** and feel for heat. Strong, consistent heat should build within 3–5 minutes. Weak or no heat usually means a failed heating element.
- **Check the drum belt.** Open the door and spin the drum by hand — it should rotate smoothly.
- **Inspect the lint trap.** A clogged trap is a fire hazard and tells you about maintenance habits.
- **Check the exhaust vent connection** on the back for condition and compatibility with your home.
- **Look at the moisture sensor strips** inside the drum — if heavily coated, a wipe with rubbing alcohol usually fixes it.

Step 5: Best Used Brands for Tampa Buyers

Based on years of experience handling, repairing, and reselling appliances in the Tampa area, these brands tend to hold up best over time:

Best Used Washers

- **Whirlpool** — widely available, cheap parts, reliable top-loaders
- **Maytag** — built tough, especially commercial-style top-load models
- **Speed Queen** — the gold standard for longevity; if you find one, buy it
- **LG** — good front-loaders if the gasket is clean; check control board error history
- **GE** — dependable and straightforward, especially older top-load models

Best Used Dryers

- **Whirlpool / Maytag** — simple, reliable, easy to repair
- **GE** — solid heating elements, commonly available
- **Kenmore** — often made by Whirlpool or Frigidaire; decent reliability
- **Samsung** — good machines but more complex electronics; inspect carefully

Step 6: What's a Fair Price in Tampa?

Here's a realistic breakdown of what to expect for a used washer & dryer **set** in the Tampa Bay area:

| Condition | Where You'll Find It | Price Range (Set) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| As-is, unverified | Facebook Marketplace / Craigslist | \$75 – \$300 |
| Good used, private seller | Facebook Marketplace | \$200 – \$500 |
| Tested, store-sold, no warranty | Some used appliance shops | \$300 – \$600 |
| Tested + warranty + delivery | ABC Used Appliances | \$350 – \$700 |
| New (big box retail) | Home Depot / Best Buy | \$900 – \$2,500+ |

The sweet spot for most Tampa buyers is a store-sold used set with a warranty — you're paying a bit more than a private sale but far less than new, with protection if something goes wrong.

Step 7: Delivery, Installation & What to Ask

Delivery

Used washer and dryer sets are heavy — typically 150–200 lbs each. Unless you have a truck and a strong helper, arrange delivery. ABC Used Appliances offers delivery to Tampa and surrounding areas.

Installation

Most dryer installations involve attaching a vent duct and plugging in the power cord (or connecting the gas line). Washer installations involve connecting hot and cold water hoses and the drain hose. Both are manageable DIY jobs if you're comfortable — or we're happy to help.

Questions to Ask Any Seller

- How old is the unit?
- Why are you selling it?
- Has it needed any repairs? What was done?
- Can I see it run a full cycle?
- What's your return or warranty policy?

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How long does a used washer and dryer typically last?

A: A well-maintained washer or dryer can last 10–15 years. If you're buying a set that's 5–8 years old from a reputable brand, you can reasonably expect 5–8 more years of reliable use with basic maintenance.

Q: Is it worth buying a used washer and dryer?

A: Yes — if you buy from a tested source with a warranty. A used set from a reputable Tampa appliance store can give you the same function as a new set at 40–65% less cost.

Q: What warranty do I get on used appliances at ABC Used Appliances?

A: All appliances we sell come with a 30-day warranty. If something stops working within 30 days of purchase, we'll fix it.

Q: Do you offer delivery for used washer and dryer sets in Tampa?

A: Yes. We offer delivery to Tampa and surrounding areas. Call us at (813) 900-7823 for details and pricing.

Q: What's the difference between a washer/dryer combo and a matched set?

A: A washer/dryer combo is a single machine that both washes and dries in one drum — usually smaller capacity and longer drying times. A matched set is two separate machines designed to work together. Most Tampa households prefer the two-machine set for faster laundry and larger capacity.

Q: Can I trade in my old washer or dryer?

A: Contact us and we can discuss options. We also offer free appliance removal in many cases.

Ready to See What We Have In Stock?

Our inventory changes weekly — every used washer and dryer set we sell has been cleaned, inspected, tested, and backed by our 30-day warranty.

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Mon–Fri 9am–6pm | Sat 9am–5pm

Browse our used washers: tampausedappliances.com/used-appliances/washers/

Browse our used dryers: tampausedappliances.com/used-appliances/dryers/

Visit our homepage: tampausedappliances.com

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