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17 August 2021

Heat pump tumble dryers

The best heat pump tumble dryers can be real energy savers, but they generally cost more to buy than other tumble dryers. Read our full guide to see whether a heat pump dryer would be your perfect purchase.



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Heat pump tumble dryers are often a couple of hundred pounds more expensive than vented or condenser dryers, but prices are coming down, and they are the cheapest type of tumble dryer to run.

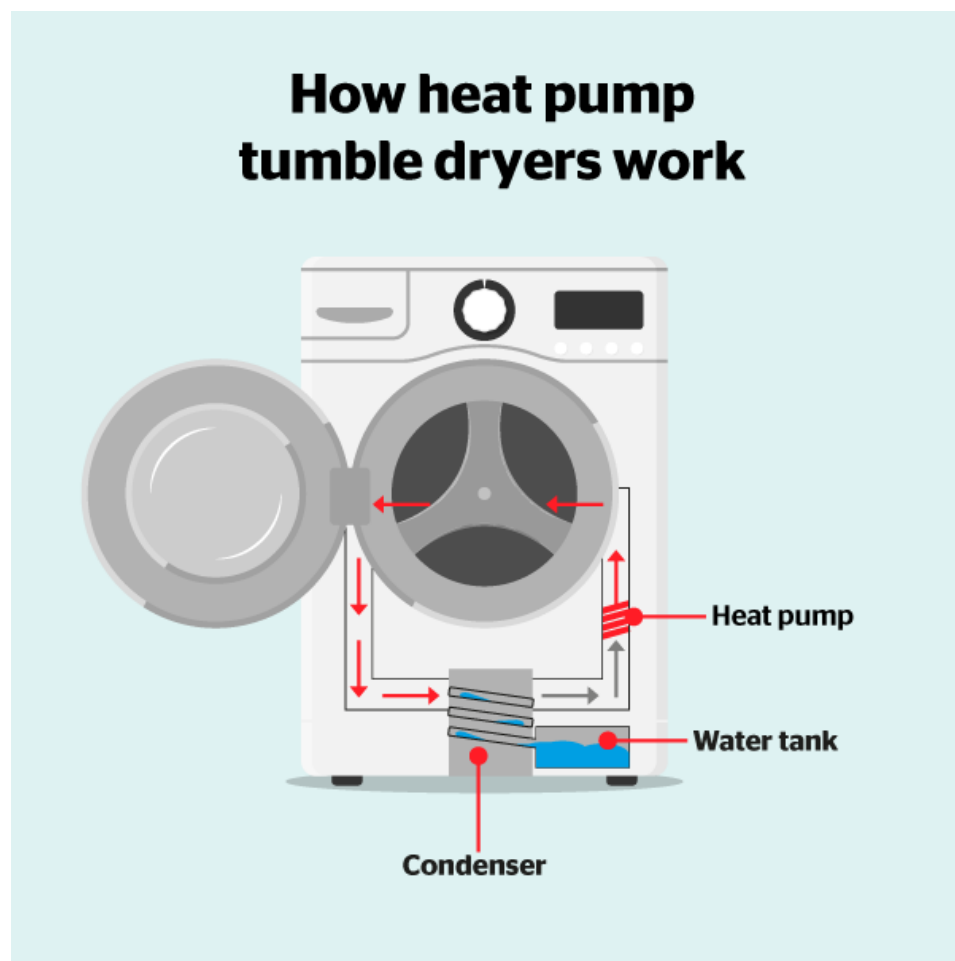
If you're considering a heat pump tumble dryer, read on for what else you need to know before you buy.

Or go straight to our shortlist of [Best Buy tumble dryers](/reviews/tumble-dryers/article/recommendations/best-buy-tumble-dryers) (</reviews/tumble-dryers/article/recommendations/best-buy-tumble-dryers>).

What is a heat pump tumble dryer?

Heat pump tumble dryers have a condenser that separates water from the warm air that passes over the wet clothes and puts it in a water tank. The remaining dry warm air is then pumped back through the drum, re-using it to help the clothes dry faster.

This makes them by far the most energy-efficient of all the tumble dryer types available.



Although this could go a long way to save money on your bills over time, you may have to pay much more up front than if you were to buy another type of tumble dryer. Heat pump tumble dryers are generally much more expensive to buy than their [vented](https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/tumble-dryers/article/vented-tumble-dryers-a0BOL5D4JbMu) (<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/tumble-dryers/article/vented-tumble-dryers-a0BOL5D4JbMu>) and [condenser](https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/tumble-dryers/article/condenser-tumble-dryers-a6dUu0n0rnYE) (<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/tumble-dryers/article/condenser-tumble-dryers-a6dUu0n0rnYE>) counterparts.

Compare our [tumble dryer reviews](/reviews/tumble-dryers/heat-pump/type) (</reviews/tumble-dryers/heat-pump/type>) to see how various dryers have fared in our expert testing programme.

Pros and cons of heat pump tumble dryers



**Pros:**

Energy costs can be half or even less compared with other dryer types.

No vent or hose is needed to remove damp air.

Cons:

They can be expensive to buy, although prices are coming down.

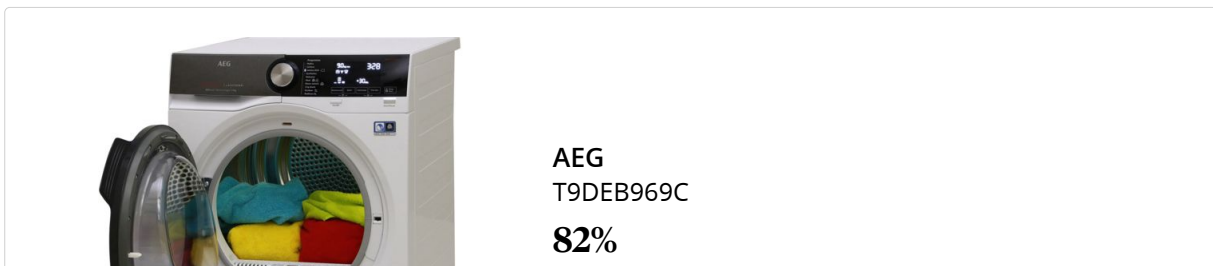
They can often take longer to dry clothes than other dryer types, though this is not the case with the best ones.

Like condenser tumble dryers, the water tank will need emptying from time to time unless you plumb it in.

Best heat pump tumble dryers

Our rigorous testing has revealed that these three heat pump tumble dryers are the best of the bunch when it comes to drying clothes.

Only logged-in Which? members can view our recommendations in the table below. If you're not yet a member, you can get instant access by [joining Which?](https://join.which.co.uk) (<https://join.which.co.uk>).





Beko
DHY9P56VW

80%
£549.00

This is an exceptionally good tumble dryer, and it's so energy efficient that we've awarded it our Eco Buy label. But it's not just about energy efficiency, as it also dries evenly, accurately, and without letting steam escape into your home. So, when it comes to energy-efficient drying this Best Buy Beko should be top of your wish list.

[Read full review \(/reviews/tumble-dryers/beko-dhy9p56vw/review\)](/reviews/tumble-dryers/beko-dhy9p56vw/review)



LG
FDV909W

79%
£899.00

View retailers
[\(/reviews/tumble-dryers/lg-fdv909w/compare-prices\)](/reviews/tumble-dryers/lg-fdv909w/compare-prices)

This impressive tumble dryer was superb at drying clothes thoroughly and evenly throughout the drum. That's why we've made the excellent LG FDV909W a Best Buy.



Vented tumble dryers are generally much cheaper to buy than heat pump dryers. The running costs are however much higher. The average amount the vented dryers we've tested will add to your yearly bills is £80, which is more than twice the cost of the heat pump dryers we've tested, which is £37. So over time you'll find yourself paying more through your bills for a vented dryer than if you'd paid a little more up front for a heat pump dryer.

Vented dryers are also trickier to install, as they have hoses that need a route outside to vent the damp air they produce. Heat pump dryers have no hoses or vents, as they deposit moisture into a water tank, which will need emptying every now and again unless you plumb it in.

Are heat pump dryers better than condenser dryers?



Based on all models we have reviews for as of January 2020.