

Scheduling a Tour

Live Tours of the Museum

Washing Machine Museum

The washing machine museum is a private one dedicated to the preservation of historical domestic laundry machines and associated material. Because of safety and other issues, the museum is open only for guided tours. The minimum fee is \$150 which admits 10 or fewer people. For more details about the tours please contact Lee at tour@oldewash.com.

To Get There

The museum is located at the south west corner of the intersection of County Roads 31 and 74; three miles west of Eaton or four miles east of Severance on Road 74, which connects the two towns. From I25 take exit 265 and go 11.5 miles east to County Road 31. From Fort Collins, go 16 miles east from College Avenue on Harmony Road (CR 74 in Weld County). From Highway 85 and the only stop light in Eaton go 3.2 miles west to Road 31. From 10th St. and 59th Ave. in Greeley go 7 miles north. The Museum holds the Guinness World's Record for most antique washing machines.



Lee Maxwell's



The Museum Displays

1408+ Antique washing machines, some manufactured as early as 1840; Most of the machines are from the USA, but there are also some from Austria, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, and Great Britain

Myriad laundry tools including, dolly sticks, stomps, washing bats, washer skates, washboards, irons and mangles

Other vintage household appliances including: ranges, dishwashers, dry cleaners, clothes dryers, refrigerators, butter churns, and vacuum cleaners

Sixty Six different Maytag models manufactured from 1909 to 1983

Library of maintenance and operator manuals

Data base of 23,000 US patents related to washing machines (1805 to 1975)

Extensive files of vintage advertising concerning washing machines

Workshop with many old tools for repairing and restoring washing machines

A barn full of machines not yet revived

The web site www.oldewash.com with pictures and data related to 1000 of the machines in the museum

Did You Know

During the 1920s there were over 1000 companies producing washing machines.

Only two companies, Lovell (Anchor Brand) and American (Horseshoe Brand) produced over 90% of the wringers used on hand operated washers made in the USA.

A drawing of a washing machine was shown in Gentleman's Magazine (London, UK) in 1752.

Home Queen wringer washers are being produced today in Saudi Arabia and sold by Lehman's Hardware store in Kidron, OH.

The automatic washing machine was introduced by Bendix in 1937.

The electric washer was first mass produced by the Nineteen Hundred Corporation in 1906. In 1950 the firm changed its name to Whirlpool.

Maytag introduced the on-board gasoline engine powered washer in 1914.

Brands of washing machines have included,

Hamilton Beach, Western Electric, Delco Light, Black and Decker, Savage Arms, Winchester, Hart Paar, Stalin, Locomotive, Airplane, Cadillac, Torpedo, and Maxwell.

All Maytag wringer washers with metal tubs, produced between 1920 and 1983, used a black hose which could simply be laid below the bottom of the tub to drain the water.

In the 1950s Westinghouse produced a dryer that plays "How Dry I Am" when the door is opened to remove the garments.

The full sized hand operated James washing machine is still being manufactured in Topeka, Indiana. It is sold primarily to Amish folks.

The most common date found on an antique washer is May 15, 1915. That date appears on the safety release on Lovell wringers used on many different electric washing machines.

Maytag never put an off-on switch on any of their electric wringer washers produced between 1911 and 1983. The motor started when you plugged the electrical cord into the socket.