

Batch washers or washing machines?

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Do we need a batch washer or high capacity washing machines? This is a common question asked by laundry proprietors on planning to open a new business or expand an existing one. It is thought that the choice between a batch washer and a high capacity washer extractor is solely determined by the production needed to be done in the laundry: batch washers are for large-scale production. But this is not entirely true. There are other factors that must be taken into account when making this decision.



If the answer is affirmative, then this is one reason more in favour of a batch washer facility.

The profitability of the batch washer is proportional to the degree of continuity of its use. This is to say that when high production is needed and similar processes or washing programs are used, the one should consider implementing a batch washer.

Automation as a function of the market

A second parameter to keep in mind is the automation options available to the batch washer, mainly in loading and unloading operations.

A batch washer facility normally requires fewer personnel than washing machine facilities. Therefore, depending on the market and whether labour costs are considerable or personnel management is problematic, an investment in automation and thus a batch washer system, becomes profitable in a very short period of time.

Water and energy savings

Another aspect to consider is the water and energy savings presented by the batch washer in respect to washing machines.

It has been calculated that a batch washer can save between 60 and 70% more water than a traditional washing machine.

Washing machines drain water during their processes, while the water flow in the batch washer is constant and a large part of it is recovered.

Consequently, heating needs are reduced. With less water to heat, less energy is consumed.

It is also worth noting some examples of laundry facilities that have invested in both a batch washer system and a washing machine line.

The washing machines act as backup in peak periods of production or when maintenance tasks are being carried out, etc.

It is true that the needs of production can determine the use of either batch washers or washing machines. In this way, one can consider installing a batch washer starting from 500-600 kg/h, but only when keeping other factors in mind, such as:

Production continuity

In addition to production volume, a fundamental element to take into consideration when deciding between a batch washer and a washing machine is the continuity of production. Will the facility be processing large production amounts of laundry with similar characteristics?

Furthermore, as an additional washing area, the washing machines can carry out special processes for small productions without interfering in the batch washer production.

In conclusion, there are some basic parameters which can guide us in our choice between a batch washer and washing machine, although each case is different, requiring a specific project. A good manufacturer of batch washer systems as well as washing machines, will study the needs of each client, and after a detailed cost analysis, will advise one option or the other. It is not enough to have the best machines, but the best project and the most appropriate one that provides the answer to the needs of each client.

