

Insider Info

Industrial Laundry Solutions
with Brennan Pollnow



The Keys to Sizing a Laundry

All industrial, commercial and on-premise laundries process different items, utilize different pieces of equipment, strive toward unique quality goals and operate at varying levels of efficiency. When it comes to purchasing new equipment or replacing old equipment, proper sizing is critical. Before you do anything, reach out to your equipment distributor and begin a dialogue. The best way to properly size a laundry, and its equipment, is through back-and-forth conversations on the type and number of items being laundered, the laundry's hours of operation, labor required, space available and ownership costs. By considering all the variables, you'll select the best equipment to suit your needs, now and into the future.

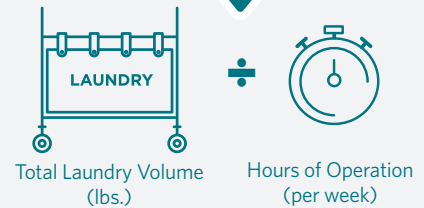
Step 1: Count Each Piece of Linen

Laundries have their own unique inventory of items with specific weights, profiles and dimensions. Determine the laundry's piece count in each category, such as king sheets, duvets, towels, etc. Then multiply the number of pieces by weight for total laundry volume.



Step 2: Determine Hourly Wash Capacity

Divide total laundry volume by hours per week of operation. CG West is able to calculate hourly wash capacity, time on task, utility and labor costs. This information flows into recommendations for washing/drying, ironing and folding equipment as well as production workflow.



Example:



Choose equipment capacities that meet the hourly production capacity demands.

Step 3: Evaluate Cost of Equipment Ownership

You've narrowed down your needs and know your equipment options. Now evaluate the cost to own those pieces of equipment in terms of labor and efficiency. Keep in mind the most expensive part of laundry room is its labor. So while you're planning, see how you might minimize labor in the laundry. You can do this in a number of ways, including:

- 1) Over equip the laundry's wash capacity to produce more in less time.
- 2) Increase the laundry's linen par; if you have a linen inventory buffer, you can run fewer hours per week and it costs you less over time.
- 3) Add automation. If you have the laundry volume to justify it, go with automation every time!



Step 4: Justify the Automation

Anytime you purchase new equipment, you need to justify it. The same holds true for automation. Consider these guidelines:

All-in-One Flatwork Finisher

When a laundry processes between 180 and 260 washing pounds per hour, it might be time for an all-in-one flatwork finisher that automatically irons, folds and stacks. An all-in-one eliminates almost all hands-on flatwork folding and stacking. An all-in-one machine has the capability to process (iron, fold and stack) up to 180+ sheets per hour with a single operator.



Towel Folder

Laundries processing 250-500+ laundry pounds per hour should consider adding a towel folder. Generally, a typical laundry operator can sort, fold and stack different-sized towels at a rate of 120 pieces per hour. By adding an automatic towel folder, a laundry can fold and stack at least 680 different-sized pieces per hour, with just one operator.



Notes: PPOH represented is based on individual machine production.



Brennan Pollnow, North American business manager for Girbau Industrial, assists commercial and industrial laundries with laundry room design and workflow, proper equipment mix and sizing, as well as automation and efficiency recommendations. He interfaces closely with CG West and their customers to ensure seamless communication, installation and startup. Please contact him with any questions at bpollnow@gnalaundry.com or call 800-256-1073.