

NFPA 1851 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GEAR LAUNDERING

NFPA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GEAR WASHER-EXTRACTORS

- NFPA recommends fire departments clean dirty gear as soon as possible after exposure to fire, body fluids or hazardous materials in order to preserve the protective qualities of gear. According to NFPA, soiled gear reflects less radiant heat and is more likely to ignite and conduct electricity. [A.7.1.1]

Continental ExpressWash Washers make it easy for departments to clean gear after exposure.

- NFPA recommends fire departments clean dirty gear with a front loading washing machine. Top-loading washers may reduce the service life of protective garments due to damage caused by mechanical agitation. [A.7.7.7(1)]

Continental ExpressWash Washers are front loading washers.

- NFPA advises against cleaning gear in home or public laundries to prevent contaminating others. [7.1.7]

Continental ExpressWash Washers enable fire departments to wash at fire station.

- NFPA recommends maximum water temperatures of 105 degrees Fahrenheit and maximum G-force of 100 G's. [7.3.7(4)]

Continental ExpressWash Washers are highly programmable. Water temperatures can be programmed by degree and G-force speeds are programmable to 100 G's for turnout gear. Higher G-force speeds (up to 387 Gs) can be used for non-protective gear items like mop-heads and bedding to achieve maximum efficiency in the dryer.

NFPA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GEAR DRYERS

- NFPA recommends a "no heat" option to be used when drying. Heat can cause damage to the protective garments including excessive shrinkage and can cause premature failure of protective garments. [7.4.3]

Continental ExpressDry Gear Dryers do not use heat to dry gear. The fan operates using ambient air—aligning with NFPA and gear manufacturer recommendations. This makes the dryer more energy efficient than cabinet-style dryers, which require heated air.

- NFPA recommends fire departments avoid using a mechanical style tumble dryer since the dryer's mechanical action can degrade protective ensembles. [A.7.4.2]

Continental ExpressDry Gear Dryers do not use mechanical action to dry gear.

- According to NFPA, storage of wet or moist ensembles promotes growth of mildew and bacteria, which can lead to health concerns and weaken gear. [A.9.1.2]

Continental ExpressDry Gear Dryers use a large volume of air, at high pressure, to thoroughly dry hard-to-reach areas of turnout gear, wet suits, gloves, boots, face masks and more. This ensures gear is completely dry before storing—eliminating mildew and bacteria growth.

- NFPA recommends forced ventilation air drying with proper air circulation. [A.7.4.2]

Continental ExpressDry Gear Dryers dry from the inside out using forced unheated air for proper drying and ventilation to all areas of the garment.



* Numbers within brackets reference chapter sections within NFPA® 1851 2014 Edition.