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## Federal regulators plan to ban your 'politically incorrect' washing machine

Get ready to pay \$800 more for your next machine, warn Libertarians

WASHINGTON, DC — Federal bureaucrats are about to make your current washing machine illegal — and force you to pay up to \$800 more for new “environmentally friendly” models that don’t work as well, the Libertarian Party warned today.

**“Washington, DC bureaucrats are dumping an extra-dirty load of regulations on Americans, rinsing the money out of our wallets, and hanging consumers out to dry,”** said the party’s national director, Steve Dasbach.

“With these new regulations, the same helpful bureaucrats who clogged your toilet are now going after your washing machine — and the result will be dirtier clothes, more aggravation, and more expensive appliances.”

Over the past month, new federally mandated washing machines have started to arrive in stores around the country, thanks to the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA) of 1987, as amended in 1992.

The legislation — which gave the Department of Energy the power to mandate energy and water standards for household appliances — will force manufacturers to cut energy use in washing machines by 22% by 2004. To meet the new standards, manufacturers must start selling more energy-efficient front-loading machines, instead of the more popular top-loading washing machines.

However, the change will come at a high price for consumers: The front-loaders cost about \$200 more than the older machines, while top-loaders that meet the new standards cost \$1,100 — compared to only \$300 for the old-style models.

The front-loaders also don’t wash as well, can’t be opened during the wash cycle, and take longer, say experts. Because of those problems, 90% of washing machines currently sold in the USA are top-loaders.

The new washing machine mandate follows in the footsteps of “The Great Toilet Debacle,” where federal regulators banned the traditional 3.5-gallon toilet tank in favor of 1.6-gallon models — that clogged so frequently that they sparked thousands of complaints and a thriving black market in the older models.

**But that doesn’t matter to Washington, DC bureaucrats, who are convinced they know what’s right for you, said Dasbach.**

“Federal bureaucrats have decided that your current washing machine is politically incorrect — so they want to force you to replace it with one that is more expensive and less effective,” he said. “Americans are being taken to the cleaners on this one.”