

Washing Machine Burning Smell: Quick Guide

What each smell means and what to do first, from Max Appliance Repair Barrie

If you smell burning, do this first

- 1 Stop the cycle immediately**
Do not wait for the load to finish.
- 2 Unplug the washer or switch off its breaker**
If you cannot reach the plug safely, use the breaker.
- 3 Let the machine cool before you investigate**
Never run another load to test a machine that smells hot.

Match the smell to the cause

- 1 Burning rubber**
Usually a slipping or worn drive belt, or a jam stalling the drum.
- 2 Hot or melting plastic / electrical**
Wiring, a connector, or the control board. The most urgent. Leave the panel closed.
- 3 Hot metallic**
The drive motor or a blocked drain pump straining under load.

Before you call (safe checks only)

- 1 Empty pockets and use a mesh bag**
Keeps coins and underwires out of the pump and tub.
- 2 Clear the drain pump filter**
On front-load washers, with the machine off and unplugged.
- 3 Call a technician if the smell is plastic, electrical, or returns**
Do not keep using a washer that smells like burning.

Appliance trouble in Barrie and Simcoe County? We can help.

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