

The Electric Washing Machine

1907.

What was it like before the invention?

Before the invention, people had to wash their clothes by themselves making it where they have to spend time on it. Though there was a washing machine already, it was too slow.

How did Alva Fisher get inspired to make the invention?

He wanted it to be where people could wash their clothes in a faster, more effective way and save them time. And that's when he made it in Chicago!

What was the cost of the invention?

The price was 25-50 dollars. I know, “Really? That cheap?” And no. Prices were different back then. For example, you could get a burger and a drink for a nickel. The invention was expensive back then due to prices, so it was not cheap.

How did people rate the invention?

People who had it, highly enjoyed not having to use their time to wash their clothes. It saved them a bunch of time and the rating shot up.

Did the invention inspire anyone to make new ones?

Just by knowing, I'm sure you know the answer is yes. Alva's invention inspired people to make upgraded or completely new categories of electric washing machines! And the dryer was a huge inspiration because it totally adds on, and helps washing clothes!

How did the invention affect us now?

If we never had the invention, we would probably be washing clothes now, or someone else would have come up with a different type of “electric washing machine”.

How did the invention work?

It worked by having water in a cylinder tub, then once the clothes are in, it spins clockwise for a bit, then counter-clockwise to allow it to wash better.

How long was the electric washing machine popular?

It was popular for around 50 years. Since other people made new versions, it became a common use in life. But it's still important!