



## **1st Class Linen Services is First in UK to Install Super Efficient Girbau ST-1300 Dryer**

1<sup>st</sup> Class Linen Services is the first laundry in the UK to install Girbau's revolutionary new ST-1300 high speed, energy efficient industrial dryer. As part of its investment in the latest laundry equipment, 1<sup>st</sup> Class has also installed four new high-speed Girbau 6 Series washers: two 110kg capacity machines, one 57kg and one 23kg.



With an established reputation for supplying the finest laundry and linen hire services to the hotel and hospitality trades in London and Essex, 1<sup>st</sup> Class Linen Services prides itself on an ability to treat its customers as individuals, each with their own unique requirements. The hand finished touch and family-run company culture has helped it to retain a high proportion of its customers from year to year. Fundamental to the success of the business is using laundry equipment that can reliably and cost-effectively deliver the quality results its customers require.

"I have used Girbau washers for many years and have consistently rated them for efficiency, reliability and ease of programming," says Brett Barber, Sales and Service Director at 1<sup>st</sup> Class Linen Services. "The first washers I purchased were when I set up a laundrette business with a £3,000 loan from the Prince's Trust. In time the business grew to become the 100% commercial customer base we have today, but Girbau machines have always served us well."

The INTELI control system of Girbau's 6-Series washers offers up to 99 different programs, 20 of which are pre-programmed while 79 are modifiable phase-to-phase for exceptional versatility. It is

the perfect tool for maximising energy efficiency and controlling the consumption of water and chemicals, while still being highly intuitive for users.

The introduction of Girbau's revolutionary new ST-1300 dryer offered 1<sup>st</sup> Class the opportunity to substantially reduce drying costs too.

"I hadn't actually been aware that the Girbau ST-1300 dryer was an option for our business, but when Girbau demonstrated its features and benefits, it became a simple decision to purchase," Brett Barber adds. "Drying is one of the largest costs for a laundry like us, so the energy saving benefits this new technology offers are a real plus."

Other important considerations in choosing the new Girbau dryer were its compact size for such a high capacity machine and its outright speed of operation. Together these factors enabled 1<sup>st</sup> Class to increase capacity and productivity within their Canvey Island premises, speed up drying times and increase operational flexibility.

30% more energy efficient than even the most efficient batch-washing and OPL dryers available today, the gas-fired 50kg-capacity ST-1300 completes a drying cycle in 15 minutes for a full load of towelling. This means 1<sup>st</sup> Class Linen Hire can dry 200kg every hour, matching the capacity and far exceeding the energy efficiency of running three conventional 77kg capacity OPL dryers, while also reducing the laundry space required.

The ST-1300 was supplied complete with Girbau's vacuum loading system that allows manual loading to be completed in as little as 30 seconds. Potentially the same dryer can also be used to dry batch washer cakes, or set up for dual operational use, although this is not a requirement at 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

Energy efficiency is outstanding with gas energy consumption for a completed drying cycle as little as 21.15 kWh for a full 50kg load. The ST-1300 dryer's patented new axial flow technology makes it both faster-drying and more energy efficient by design. The dryer's solid drum also ensures fabric wear is reduced and linen life prolonged compared to conventional perforated drum designs.

Staff at the laundry have taken to the new dryer, which is very quick and easy to load and unload. With Girbau's SPIROTILT system, the dryer's drum is tilted at an angle of 2.5° and has inclined blades. At the end of each drying cycle the drum rotation changes to anti-clockwise and the design naturally aids unloading and reduces tangling. The speed can also be adjusted for different textiles to enable faster unloading of towels and slower unloading of large sheets. Users have also found the dryer very easy to program and control via the built in colour touch control panel.

Quality is an essential aspect of the 1<sup>st</sup> Class service, where customers are looking for high quality and a fresh finish. Used predominantly by the laundry for towels, the ST-1300 dryer features Girbau's highly effective infrared detectors that monitor the actual temperature of textiles during the drying cycle preventing the possibility of heat damage and ensuring maximum safety, efficiency and quality at all times.