

# Machines Make Work Easier

Imagine life without today's irons, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, washing machines or toasters. How would we keep our clothes clean and flat, keep vegetables fresh, pick up dirt from carpet and toast our bread?

A machine is something that uses energy to do work usually done by people. Today's machines make work around the home easy. But in the past, doing chores was not quite so easy.

So, how have machines around the home changed over the years?



# Irons

Irons are machines that use heat to get the wrinkles out of clothes and other materials.

Early irons were flat pieces of iron with metal handles. The iron was held over a fire until it was hot, then it was run across the top of clothes. These irons were heavy, not very safe and could easily burn clothing.

Later, people used **charcoal** or **spirits**, such as oil or petrol, to heat their irons.



Heating up an iron could be dangerous work.

