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member that the check list you have just read pertains to a washer which doesn't make a sound when you turn it on. If it does make a sound, it is time to go to plan B.

Clothes Washer — Makes a sound but doesn't fill with water.

A. Your washer is designed to fill with water before it begins to agitate. On the back of the washer is the water fill valve which your 2 hoses connect to. This water valve has two electrical coils which act as a magnet and lift a plunger to let water in according to the setting you placed it on. It is a common part to fail, and easy enough for any consumer to replace themselves. Set the water temperature for cold wash and turn it on. Do the same thing on the hot wash setting. If you had nothing come out during one of these settings, your water valve is usually defective. Before you purchase a water valve, please look inside the valve where you removed the hoses. The screens could be plugged not letting any water through the valve. They can be removed with a pair of eyebrow tweezers and cleaned and replaced.

B. Make sure the water level control buttons are pressed in firmly.

C. Did someone shut off the water faucets to the washer.

Clothes washer — Overfills

A. If your washer happens to overflow and your lucky enough to see this happen, tap the water level control knob with your knuckle, and if it stops filling, you may have to replace the part called a pressure switch. Not so hard to do once you get a little direction.

B. If the washer continues to fill after you have shut it off, and you now must shut off the water at the faucets, you will need to replace the water valve. This is a very common problem which occurs to many consumers. Are you one of those folks who leaves the house for work after throwing a load of clothes into the washer. I have met many hundreds of people who have done this for years and will never do it again. When you come home and find 3 feet of water in your basement or laundry room or your ceiling and floor completely destroyed, you won't do it again.

Footnote — Stop, Look, and Listen can not only save you a service call but could also save you thousands of dollars in water damage.

Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor, will answer your questions about maintaining and repairing large appliances. Gagnon is president of Carmack Appliance in Garden City and does a weekly radio program on WJR-AM. He author of "First Aid from the Appliance Doctor," available at area bookstores.

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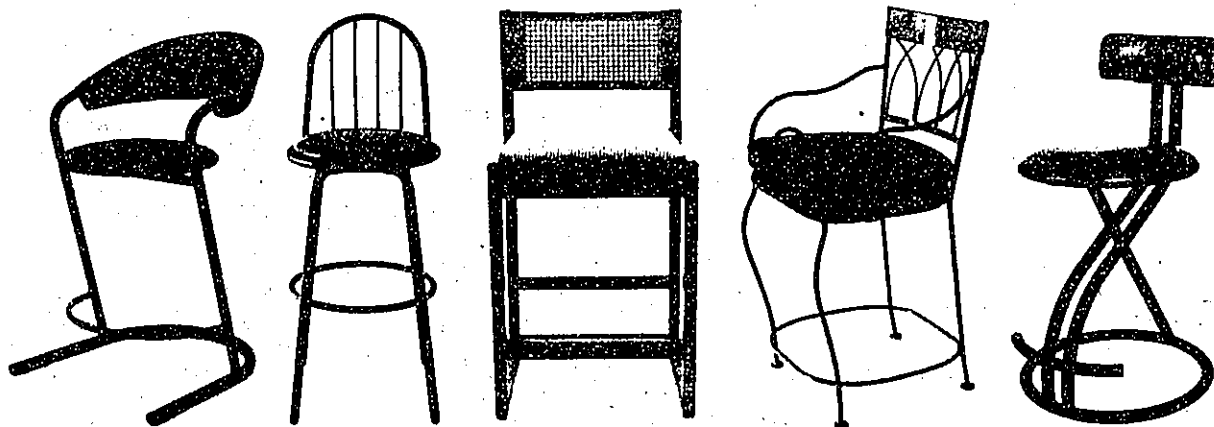
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