

## Major Appliance Buying Guide

The purchase of a major appliance is a big expenditure. Selection of the best appliance to meet your needs is important. The questions below are to help you think through your purchase decision:

- What do you need? Major appliances come in many sizes and with varying features. Think about your lifestyle, what features you will use and what size is best for your immediate and future needs. As the features increase, so does the cost of the appliance. Think about the features and ask yourself if you will use them. Are they important to your use of the appliance?
- Consider the care required in maintaining this appliance. Look for an appliance with smooth construction, few cracks and seams where soil can accumulate, and materials that do not require special cleaning products.
- Will the appliance fit in the space you currently have or will you need to remodel to make space for a larger appliance?
- Will there be installation costs? Some major appliances may require special electrical outlets, gas connections or water lines. These additional costs should be considered along with the purchase price of the appliance.
- Consider the operating costs and maintenance costs. Most major appliances come with an energy label that provides an estimate of the cost to operate that particular appliance. It may be desirable to pay more for an appliance that will cost less to operate, thus saving money over the lifetime use of the appliance.
- Where will you obtain help when the appliance needs to be repaired? The availability of this should be considered when purchasing the appliance.
- Read the guarantee that comes with the appliance. Be sure that you understand what is and what is not included in the guarantee and who pays for it. What is the time period for the guarantee? Does it include labor and parts or just parts?
- Appliances come with several ‘seals of approval’. Important ones to look for that give assurance for safety are the UL (Underwriters’ Laboratory) seal for electrical and fire safety; and the AGA blue star emblem (American Gas Association) for safety and performance standards on gas appliances.

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