

Planetary Wellbeing

Cut Pollution & Toxicity

- Cleaning & Laundry
- Green Carwash
- Low-Toxin Manufacturing
- Natural Garden & Lawn Care
- Organic & Sustainable Agriculture
- Pest Control
- Plant-Based Eating
- Zero Emissions
- Zero Toxin Parenting

Ensure Animal Wellness

Guard Water Resources

Ocean Awareness

Protect Biodiversity

Reduce Resource Consumption

Save Energy & Climate

Mani Madness



[Shop all mani madness](#)



 SHOP GLAMOUR SHOTS

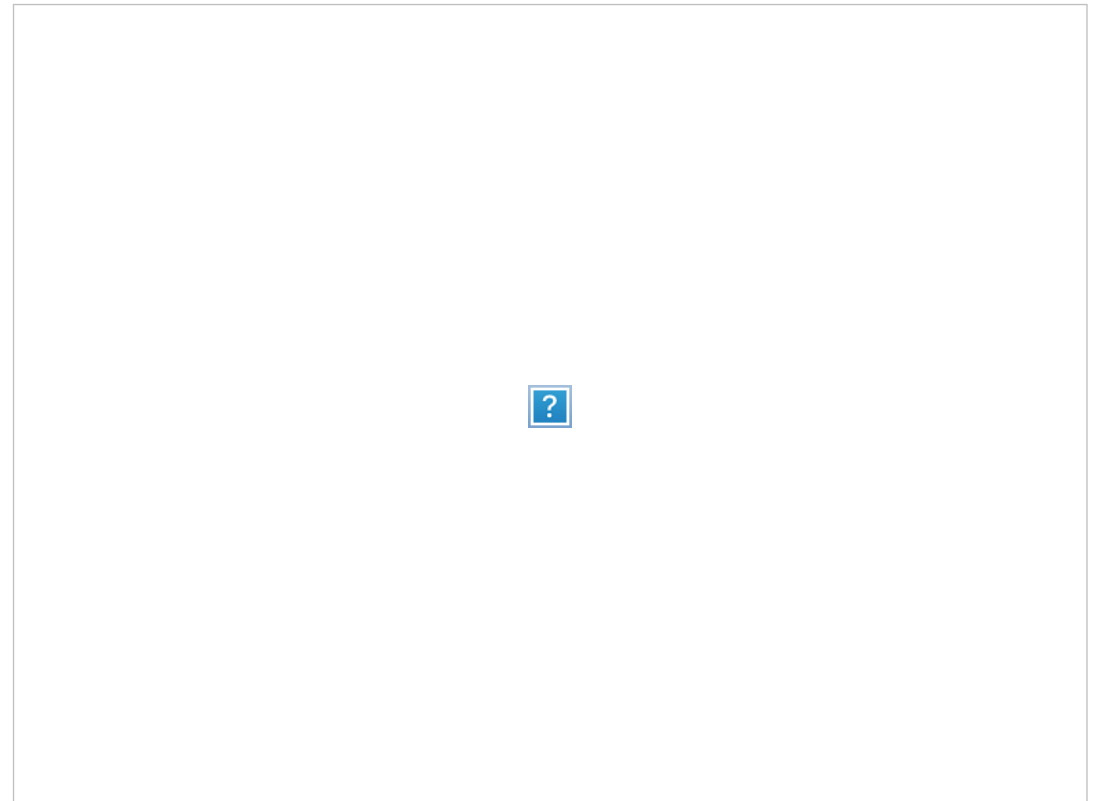
A Guide to Home Appliances and How you can Save Money!

Share:    

In a consumer culture like ours, it can be hard to opt to repair or upgrade an appliance when we can simply run to the store and get a shiny new one. In the US, we spend over \$150 billion on new appliances each year – much of that to unnecessarily replace older appliances that could easily be fixed.^[i] Worse, we throw away hundreds of millions of appliances and electronics each year that immediately pile up in landfills and release toxic waste into the soil and groundwater. Before you run out to purchase a brand new appliance, ask yourself if you can repair your old one, upgrade it, or at least **recycle it**.

Quick Facts: the True Cost of Throwing Away Appliances

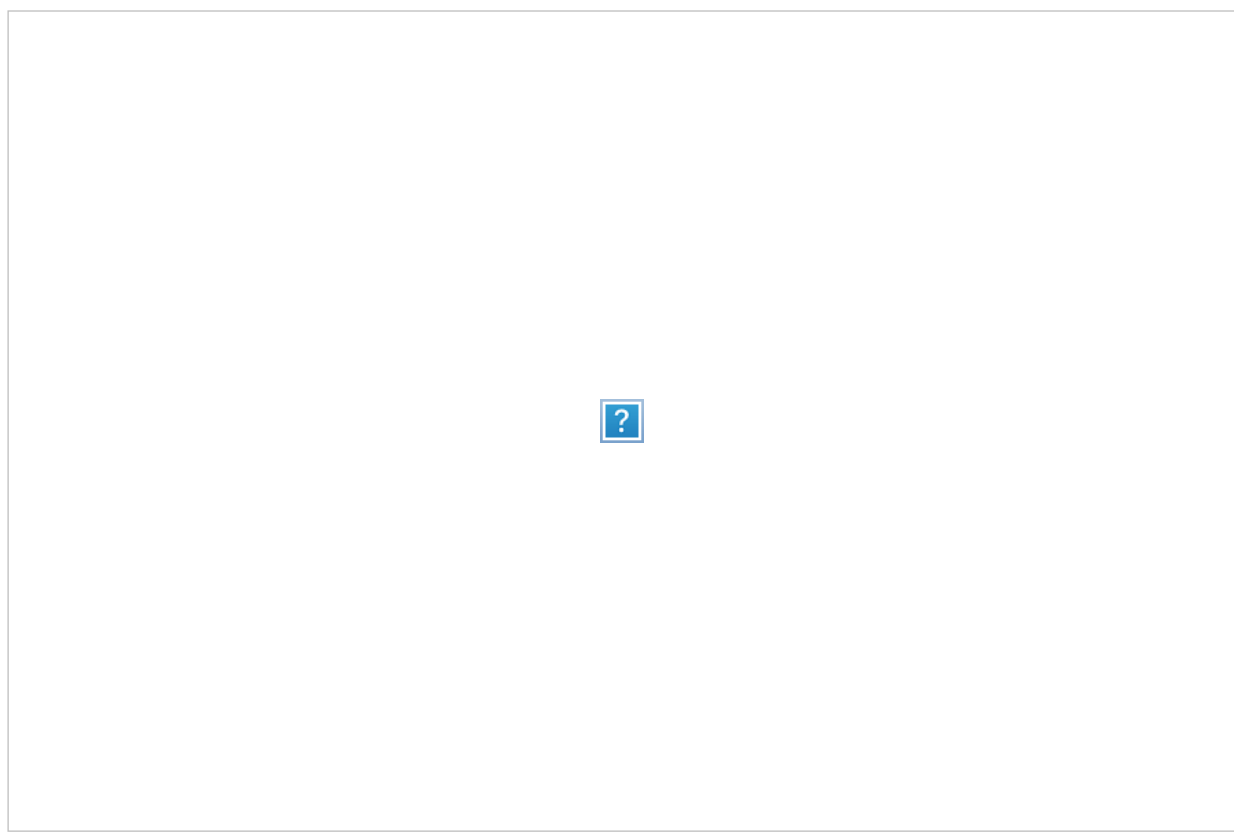
- **\$70-\$170 per month spent on powering appliances:** Alabama, Hawaii, and Maryland all spend over \$150 per month just to power their homes.^[ii]
- **16% fewer appliances being repaired in last 15 years:**^[iii] Replacing rather than repairing means more raw materials, more manufacturing energy, and more waste.
- **Millions of appliances thrown away per year:** More than 55% of our trash is deposited into landfills where it contributes to the massive waste problem and seeps chemicals into the soil and groundwater.



Take Action! Knowing Whether to Repair or Replace

1. **Furnace:** 29% or up to \$600 of your annual home energy bill.^[iv]
 - **Replace when:** 10+ years old with a much higher efficiency one.
 - **Maintain and repair when:** Younger than 10 years old. Regular monthly maintenance will help extend the lifetime of your furnace.
2. **Air conditioning:** 17% or up to \$348 of your annual home energy bill.^[v]
 - **Replace when:** 7+ years old with higher energy efficiency on a new AC.
 - **Maintain and repair when:** You have an efficient air conditioner and parts cost less than 50% of a new purchase. Replacing or cleaning the filter monthly will greatly improve efficiency. Remember to recycle your used air conditioner.
3. **Hot water heater:** 14% or up to \$276 of your annual home energy bill.^[vi]
 - **Replace when:** 10+ years old with higher-efficiency ones.
 - **Maintain and repair when:** Less than 10 years old. Putting an insulation blanket on your heater can improve efficiency by as much as 10%.^[vii]
4. **Refrigerator:** 13.7% or up to \$23 of your monthly home electricity bill.^[viii]
 - **Replace when:** Made before 2001. Replace with an ENERGY STAR model and get rid of the beer fridge or secondary fridge in the garage as these double your refrigerator energy use and can cost over \$100 extra per year. ^[ix] Don't forget to recycle old refrigerators.
 - **Maintain and repair when:** If the fridge is too warm or the ice maker malfunctions. Replacement parts range from \$20 to \$55 while a replacement ice maker costs under \$100. Cleaning the coils can also increase efficiency by 30%.^[x]
5. **Dryer:** 5.8% or up to \$120 of your annual home electricity bill.^[xi]
 - **Replace when:** Your dryer is completely dead and more than 13-14 years old.
 - **Maintain and repair when:** Dryers don't differ much in energy efficiency so you will want to maintain the machine regularly and for as long as possible – which can also boost energy efficiency of your dryer by 30%.^[xii]
6. **Electric Range Top and Oven:** 4.6% or up to \$94 of your annual home electricity bill.^[xiii]
 - **Replace when:** Your range hits 12-13 years old and no longer functions.
 - **Maintain and repair when:** If the cooktop element does not work, a replacement part costs just \$14-\$32. Other replacement parts range from \$34 to \$52.
7. **Dishwasher:** 2.5% or up to \$52 of your annual home electricity bill.^[xiv]
 - **Replace when:** Manufactured before 1994; replace it with a more energy and water efficient ENERGY STAR model.
 - **Maintain and repair when:** Dishwashers work best with regular cleaning. If your dishwasher is less than 10-11 years old, you should consider repairs over replacement.
8. **Microwave:** 1.7% or up to \$35 of your annual home electricity bill.^[xv]
 - **Replace when:** Your microwave oven breaks and your warranty has expired.
 - **Maintain and repair when:** Since microwave ovens are much cheaper than most household appliances, it only makes sense to repair it if it is still under warranty. **Proper maintenance** like regular cleaning will extend the lifetime of your microwave.
9. **Washing machine:** 1% or \$20 of your annual home electricity bill (not including hot water).^[xvi]
 - **Replace when:** Your machine has a top loader – replace it with a front-loader as they have significantly higher energy efficiency.

- **Maintain and repair when:** Your machine does not agitate or has washer leaks, you can easily remedy the problem by buying a replacement part for under \$80.



Dig Deeper: Saving Money with Repairs and Maintenance

- Find new energy efficient appliances via the [Find ENERGY STAR Products search](#).

- Learn more about repairing or replacing appliances with this [Parts Select infographic](#) or about cheap refrigerator part replacements with this [Cool Infographics](#).

Images By [cj sorg](#) and [woodleywonderworks](#).

+ References

+ References

Share: [Pinterest](#) [Like 2](#) [Tweet](#) [Email](#)

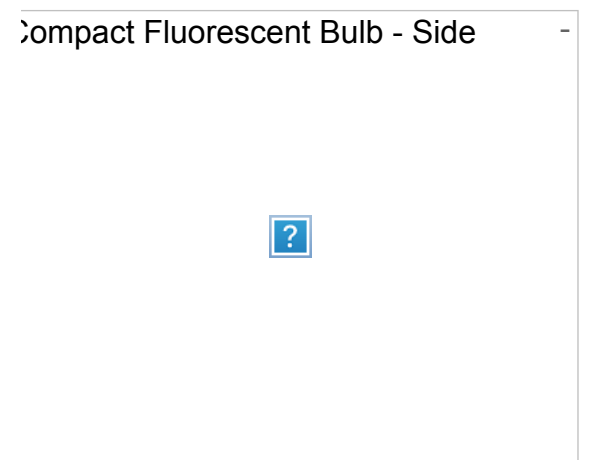
Related Articles



Shade Your Air Conditioner to Save Money on Electricity



Right-Sized Air Conditioners Allows for High Efficiency



How to Buy the Right CFLs

Comments

0 Comments

Sort by [Oldest](#)



Add a comment...

[Facebook Comments Plugin](#)

