

When to Replace your household appliances

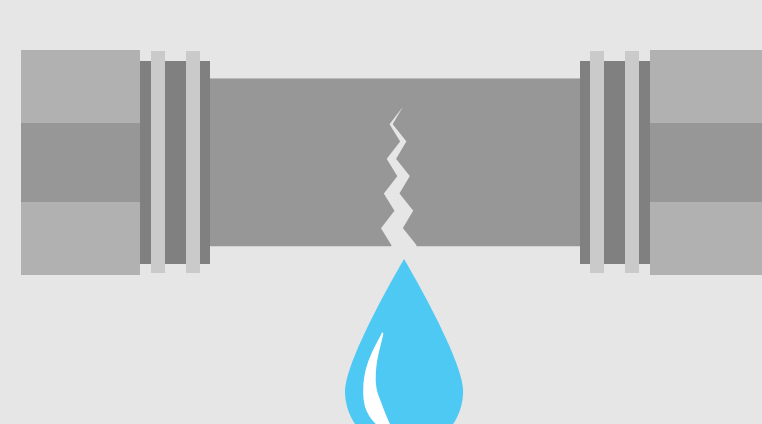
Routine maintenance can prolong the service life of your home's appliances, but keep in mind that maintenance isn't always the best course of action. Even well-kept appliances are susceptible to issues caused by wear and tear and other forms of damage. In many instances, it's often easier to replace your appliances entirely rather than trying to repair them.

Dishwashers



Dishwashers have a **nine-year average service life**, and after that time, unit replacement will usually be a better option.

Dishwashers have inner shells, which keep both soap and water inside the unit. If this shell is fractured, liquids can leak onto the mechanical components, causing significant malfunctions. Similarly, if rust is found at the bottom of your unit, this is a sign that leaked water has collected and immediate replacement is needed.



If the water in the dishwasher won't drain properly, this could signal deterioration of the drain itself. Lack of drainage can also be caused by improper installation and usage; in either case, replacement is a better choice.



Similar to dishwashers, washing machines rely on hot water to provide efficient cleaning. If your machine's heating element is frequently damaged, you might have a leak somewhere in the system. Leaks can be hard to pinpoint, and as such, it's easier to replace the unit.



Washing machines rely on several components: motors, tubs, pumps, belts, seals, and pulleys. While many of these components are inexpensive and simple to repair, others are more problematic. Faulty motors and tubs are difficult to repair, and unit replacement is usually the more cost-effective option.



A new washing machine has an **average service life of 11 years**; once your unit reaches this age, it will be harder to find suitable parts to repair it. Many professionals recommend replacing washing machines after only eight years if it is a low-end model.

Washing Machines



Dryers



Many dryer problems are caused by poor installation or general misuse. If your dryer seems to be working, but takes a long time to dry your clothes, this could mean that hot air is not properly exiting the unit. Bent or blocked vents are the cause of this problem, which can lead to dryer fires. These vents are repairable, but full unit replacement ensures that the dryer will be safer to use.



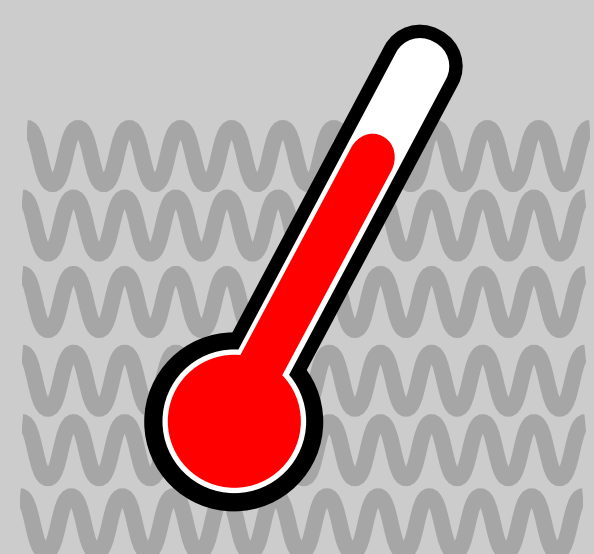
If your dryer is excessively loud and makes odd sounds, the support rollers probably need replacement. Should you still hear these sounds, and your dryer is more than **10 years** old, consider replacing the entire unit.



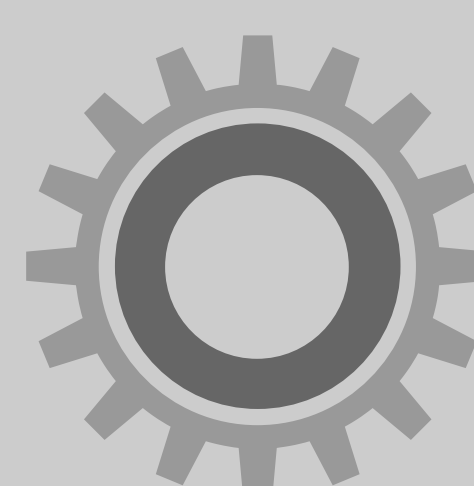
Dryers rely on thermal fuses and thermostats to maintain optimal temperatures and moisture levels. Internal dryer components are quite sensitive; thermal fuses can blow out should an electrical spike occur in the system, and thermostats are also easily damaged. Without these components, dryers won't be able to turn on. You can opt to repair, but these problems often persist.



Compressor motors are vital to refrigerator operation. Should the motor not cycle on and off properly, the motor itself or the refrigerator's thermostat is at fault.



Refrigerators can have a **service life ranging from 10 to 20 years**. Repair costs will be more substantial as your unit ages; if your refrigerator is over a decade old, consider replacement.



Like many machines, refrigerators produce heat, but too much heat can be a critical problem. A common cause of excessive heat is dust buildup on the unit's condenser coils. When the coils are too hot, the refrigerator's motor will overcompensate, causing wear on other components. Repairing these coils can be a costly endeavor, often more expensive than buying a new unit.



Refrigerators



Microwaves



If you notice that your microwave is not as powerful as it once was, this is a sign that the unit's magnetron has worn out. Place an 8-ounce cup of water in your microwave for two minutes—the water should be steaming hot after that time. If the water isn't steaming, replace your unit.



Loud microwave noises may indicate a problem with either the high voltage capacitor or power diode. These components are quite expensive, and it's often easier to just replace the microwave.

Microwaves have an average **lifespan of 10 to 12 years**. Around the 10-year mark, consider replacing the unit.



Trash Compactor



Trash compactors generally provide **up to 12 years of service life**—any older unit should be replaced.

Every trash compactor generates noise, but excessive grinding noises could indicate loose internal components. If you still hear unusual sounds after these components are properly tightened, the trash compactor's shafts may need lubrication. Should these problems persist, replace the unit.

