

What's the average lifespan of an appliance?

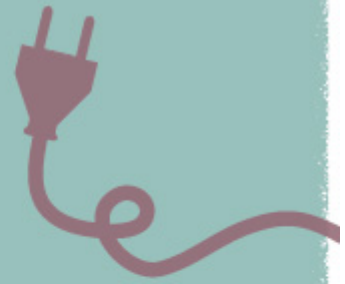


There's no doubt about it. Owning a home can be an expensive undertaking, especially if your appliances are starting to age.

When will your major appliances likely need to be replaced? And how can you help them last longer?

According to the National Association of Home Builders, the expected lifespan of major appliances is as follows:

APPLIANCE LIFESPAN



Washer	10 years
Dryer	13 years
Dishwasher	9 years
Garbage disposal	12 years
Trash compactor	6 years
Refrigerator	13 years
Freezer	11 years
Electric range	13 years
Gas range	15 years
Range hood	14 years
Microwave oven	9 years
Air conditioner (central)	15 years
Air conditioner (window)	10 years
Furnace	15-20 years
Water heater	10-20 years



But, as with most elements of your home, proper upkeep can go a long way. That's why it's crucial to carefully read every owner's manual - as you'll probably get a list of tips.

Likely, you'll find the smallest things can make the biggest differences, such as:

- Cleaning your refrigerator coils with a vacuum or a brush
- Cleaning your oven and stovetop with approved cleaners

- Making sure your dishwasher and washing machine are level, so they're less likely to vibrate or shut off unexpectedly
- Avoiding overloading your washing machine
- Cleaning your dryer's lint trap and making sure its vent is free from build up

Before it's time to repair or replace an appliance, make sure your home insurance is in working order, too. Talk to an agent, today.

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