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APPLIANCE & PROPERTY SERVICES

Buying Appliances for Your Home

A Practical Ontario Homeowner's Guide



Start with how your household really lives

People in the home

More people usually means more laundry and more fridge space.

Daily use

How often you cook, bake and run laundry decides what you need.

Cooking and laundry habits

Big family batches or small loads? Weeknight meals or weekend baking?

Available space

Know the footprint you have before you fall for a model.

Budget and long term

Think about what it costs to own, not only what it costs today.

Fuel and hookups

Gas, electric or both? Check what your home is set up for.

Measure the route, not just the opening

Why the opening alone is not enough

The appliance has to get through doors, halls, stairs and tight turns before it reaches the kitchen or laundry room.

Once there, it needs room for the door to swing, and space behind for hoses, vents and cords.

- [ ] Width, height and depth
- [ ] Door swing and clearance
- [ ] Doorways, halls and stairs on the delivery route
- [ ] Ventilation (dryer vent, range hood)
- [ ] Water connections
- [ ] Drain location
- [ ] Electrical supply and outlet type
- [ ] Gas connection, where applicable

Match each appliance to how you use it

Refrigerators

Check capacity, door swing and any water-line needs. Mistake: ignoring hallway and door clearances.

Washers and dryers

Front or top load, vented or not, gas or electric dryer. Mistake: forgetting the vent and outlet.

Dishwashers

Check opening size, drain and power connection. Mistake: ignoring the drain and supply hookups.

Ranges and cooktops

Gas or electric, plus the hood above. Gas hookups need a TSSA-certified gas technician.

Ovens

Single or double, built-in or freestanding. Confirm the cut-out size and electrical supply first.

Other major appliances

Microwaves and freezers: confirm ventilation, clearances and the circuit before you buy.

Read the label before the price tag

EnerGuide (black and white)

Shows estimated annual energy use in kWh, an arrow comparing the model with the most and least efficient in its class, the model number, and an ENERGY STAR logo if it qualifies.

ENERGY STAR logo

Reserved for the most energy-efficient models in each product class. You can check certified models in Natural Resources Canada's product list.

How to compare

1. Compare the same type and size only.
2. Lower kWh means a more efficient model in its class.
3. Remember the yellow US EnergyGuide label uses different scales.

Features versus practicality

Usually worth paying for

- Controls you find easy to use every day
- Capacity that fits your household
- Quieter operation, especially in open-plan homes
- Filters, seals and racks that are easy to clean

Ask before you pay extra

- Smart or Wi-Fi features you will actually use
- Extra cycles or modes you may never run
- Premium finishes that add cost, not function
- What each extra feature could add to a future repair

Warranty and after-sales service

Manufacturer warranty

Read what is covered, for how long, and what the manufacturer expects from you.

Extended warranty

Compare its cost with its coverage, its exclusions and who actually does the repair.

Exclusions

Look closely at installation, misuse and cosmetic damage. Ask for the terms in writing.

Parts and service

Ask whether repair service and parts are available in your area.

Installation rules

Some warranties expect installation to follow the manual. Check before anyone installs.

Under warranty?

Contact the manufacturer first. A warranty repair may cost you nothing.

The sticker price is only the start

Day one

- Purchase price
- Delivery
- Installation
- Removal of the old appliance

Every year

- Energy and water use
- Routine maintenance
- Repairs when they happen

End of life

- Replacement cost
- Haul-away of the old unit

Tip: ask for delivery, installation and haul-away in writing before you pay.

Six buying mistakes to avoid

1. Measuring only the opening

Fix: measure the opening and the whole delivery route.

2. Forgetting the route

Fix: check doors, halls, stairs and turns before ordering.

3. Ignoring hookups

Fix: confirm vent, outlet, water, drain and gas type.

4. Comparing price only

Fix: compare EnerGuide labels on similar models.

5. Paying for unused features

Fix: pick features you will use every week.

6. Skipping warranty questions

Fix: ask about coverage, parts and service first.

Your homeowner buying checklist

- [ ] Measured the opening and the delivery route
- [ ] Checked door swing and clearances
- [ ] Confirmed vent, outlet, water, drain and gas type
- [ ] Matched capacity to my household
- [ ] Compared EnerGuide labels on similar models
- [ ] Noted which models carry the ENERGY STAR logo
- [ ] Read the warranty and its exclusions
- [ ] Asked about parts and repair service
- [ ] Got delivery, installation and haul-away in writing
- [ ] Booked a TSSA-certified gas technician for any gas hookup
- [ ] Kept the receipt and warranty papers
- [ ] Wrote down the model and serial number

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When you need a hand after you buy

- Appliance repair for fridges, washers, dryers, dishwashers and stoves
- New appliance installation, connected and tested
- A written price you approve before any repair starts
- $99 service call, credited toward your repair if you go ahead (prices before 13% HST)
- Gas work done by a TSSA-certified gas technician

Explore and book

bellwoodgroup.ca/appliance-repair

Book a repair online

Repair or replace? Read the guide

289-278-6062

info@bellwoodgroup.ca

Serving Oshawa, Durham, Toronto, York, Peel and Halton.
Bellwood is an independent repair company, not affiliated with or authorized by any appliance manufacturer.

Sources and notes

Natural Resources Canada: What does the EnerGuide label mean?

Natural Resources Canada: ENERGY STAR for Products

TSSA: Unsafe, uncertified gas installations (only certified individuals and registered contractors may work on fuel-fired appliances)

Bellwood: Appliance repair and pricing

Bellwood: Brands we repair (warranty guidance)

This guide is general information, not professional advice. Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions and local requirements. Examples are descriptive only and use no invented statistics, prices or lifespans.