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TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS 77843

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TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

The Texas A&M University System

S.O.S. Shopper:

Appliance sales are conducted to reduce inventory, clear last year's models or bring people into a store to introduce other new models that may not be on sale. Other reasons for appliance bargains are quantity buying by dealers or to sell damaged or unclaimed appliances.

In this leaflet you will find clues for appliance sales shopping. For more information about specific appliances, call, write or come by my office for free bulletins.

Happy Sales!

County Extension Agent



APPLIANCES

Major home appliances are among the largest, most important investments made for the home. You can save at appliance sales and be pleased with the savings if you consider a few factors before the purchase. Know:

- *What features you need.* What do you want the appliance to do? How many extra features will you really use? Will needs and requirements change with future family or home size?
- *What the total cost will be.* Be aware of installation and service charges, interest or other credit-related costs. Plan ahead and save for sale purchases. A "sale" appliance bought on credit may easily cost more than the same item bought with cash at the regular price.
- *What the estimated life cycle costs are.* Life cycle costs include the original purchase price plus costs of service or maintenance and costs of operation. For many appliances, operation costs over the lifetime of the appliance may amount to more than the original price. To figure life cycle costs, look for a label on the appliance telling the estimated annual energy cost of operation. Use the chart below to find the normal number of years the appliance will last. Multiply these two figures for the estimated life cycle costs. Then you can compare appliances more easily and know the real price involved.
- *What you would pay for a similar model at other stores?* Appliance dealers are often very competitive with prices varying on similar models; it may pay to do comparison shopping.

Do you wait until your appliances quit working before you plan to replace them? The best way to take advantage of appliance sales is to figure out about when your appliances will wear out. How can you know? The chart below shows the

average number of years a new appliance will work. How old are your appliances and how much longer can you expect them to work? They may last longer if they receive regular care and maintenance.

Many dealers offer service contracts for appliances. For a yearly fee, a company provides you with insurance against big bills. If the appliance turns out to be a "lemon" you could save quite a bit. However, if repair bills are normal, you may spend more on a service contract than you would on repairs.

Before you sign up for a service contract, consider the following points:

- the service life expectancy of the appliance
- your own ability to maintain or repair the appliance
- the product warranty
- how large a repair bill you could handle

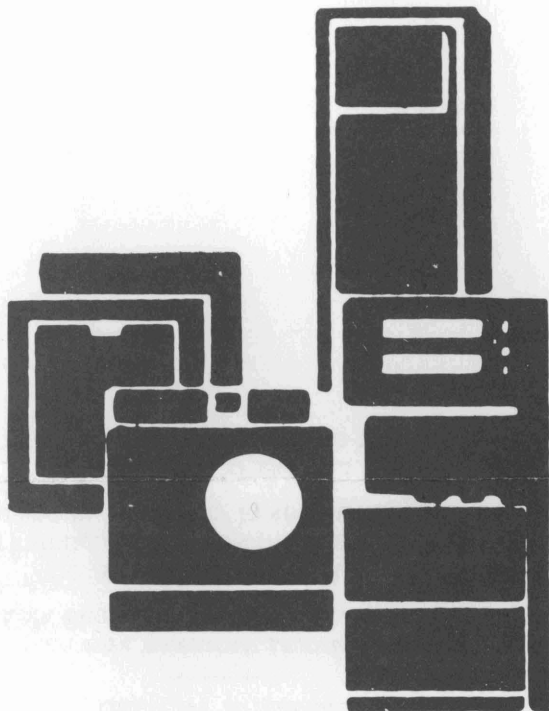
Service contracts are not standardized, and generally their terms depend on the appliance. Read before you sign and know exactly what you're paying for, as well as how much you're paying.

The following Extension publications discuss the selection, use and care of specific appliances:

- L-1139 Selection, Use and Care of Major Appliances
- L-1168 Refrigerators and Freezers
- L-1179 Decisions about Dishwashers
- L-1180 Washers
- L-1181 Dryers
- L-1240 Ranges
- L-1241 Microwave Appliances
- L-1560 Save Appliance Energy

These are available from your county Extension office.

SERVICE LIFE EXPECTANCIES (Years of Use by One Owner For Appliances Acquired When New)



APPLIANCE	YEARS
Clothes Dryer	
Electric	14
Gas	13
Dishwasher	11
Freezer	17
Range	
Electric	12
Gas	14
Refrigerator	15
Washing Machine	11

Source: Tippitt, K. S. "Service Life of Appliances By Selected Household Characteristics." Family Economics Review, Summer 1978.

Prepared by Extension family resource management specialists, The Texas A&M University System.

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