

Replace appliances to save money

Home improvement projects often involve remodeling. But homeowners can improve their homes without ever picking up a hammer.

Upgrading a home's appliances with products that are more eco-friendly can add value to a home and make the home more attractive to buyers who want their homes to look good and pay dividends for the environment.

The average family spends thousands each year on energy costs, and large, inefficient appliances contribute heavily to those expenditures. Appliances that are several years old, including refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, and even ovens, may no longer meet the stringent energy-saving specifications required of new items. That means such appliances are negatively affecting the environment and their owners' bottom lines.

According to the Energy Star program, a refrigerator that is at least 15 years old may be consuming twice as much energy as a newer Energy Star-rated refrigerator. Even though purchasing new appliances will require a financial commitment, such items may help save money while benefiting the environment at the same time.

Read the label

Familiarize yourself with the "EnergyGuide" label that appears on most appliances. This label gives consumers an idea as to how much it will cost to run the appli-

ance, as well as how much energy the unit uses on average. Use this label to compare the different models you are considering.

Choose appliances that are part of the Energy Star program, which helps consumers find products that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Downgrade to a small model

Large appliances tend to consume more energy than small appliances. Scaling down the size of the appliance can reduce energy consumption. Empty nesters may no longer need a refrigerator capable of holding food for a family of four, while those who routinely dine out may find they don't get much use out of their larger refrigerator.

Look for rebate programs

Rebate and recycling programs can help reduce the initial cost of purchasing new appliances. The government may offer tax incentives to those people who purchase a new, energy-efficient models.

Think about future salability

Homeowners who do not intend to stay in their homes much longer may find energy efficient appliances make their homes more attractive to prospective buyers.

Energy efficient appliances can reduce homeowners' carbon footprints while also saving them considerable amounts of money over the life of the products

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SOLD RECORD-SETTING SALE
to has everything meticulously clean and is home features maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances, elegant glass tile backsplash and a large LED lighting fixtures, W/D in the in-suite W1 storage unit, sunny south-facing balcony w/ beautiful escarpment views, owned UG parking spot (no scraping in winter!), owned storage locker and a brand new a/c. Close to all amenities: 24hr Sobeys, LCBO, Beer Store, school, park, Timmy's, Starbucks, library, rec centres, conservation areas/skiing, public transit, GO Train and easy highway access. \$373,500.