



My Go-2-Guy Handyman Services

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What to do With Your Appliances

Appliances, they seem to be breaking more frequently then ever before, but in fact that is a just a common misconception. Consumer reports indicate that machines are breaking at the same rate as they did 10 years ago.

Then why do we always say “they don’t make them like they use to”? That is because they don’t. Back in the day a coffee maker wasn’t computerized, washing machine didn’t have more options than a Baskin Robins and fridges didn’t take pictures of what’s in them and send them to your phone. With everything so much more complicated than the old simple mechanical appliances of 50 years ago, the cost of parts and labour are higher than ever before but the frequency in which they need repair are very similar. Now that we sorted out that we can start talking about making a decision.

Rule of Thumb

Now this is something some of you may have already heard before and the rule is quite simple. Appliance repair specialists will tell you, don’t spend more than 50% of the cost of a new product repairing an old one, but how well does this rule hold up across a wide variety appliances. After all, we have appliance ranging from as little as \$50 to in some cases 10,000 or more.

Life Span vs. Cost

For this example we will use the dishwasher, a dishwasher has a life span similar to a dogs, roughly 12 years. So consider this, your dishwasher break down in year 10 of it’s life and the cost to fix it will be in the range of 30% of a new washer should you buy a new one? Let’s do the math.

$10 \text{ divided by } 12 = .8333 \text{ or } 83.33\%$

Meaning your dishwasher has likely lived 83.33% of its life. Considering the cost of repair at 30% and the remaining life expectancy is only 17.66% you would most likely be better off purchasing a new machine if you can afford too.

Can You Handle The Down Time?

A lot of people don’t think about this but it can be a real pain. Say your washing machine breaks on Saturday; you likely won’t get anyone out to fix it until Monday at the earliest if you’re lucky. If it’s an easy fix that’s great, but almost

every time we've had appliance repair issues it hasn't been, and many times they've needed to order parts, meaning 1 to 2 weeks with out a washing machine. Now if that's something you just can't handle you might be better off buying a new one in many cases appliance stores offer next day delivery and some places will even hook them up for you. So next time something breaks don't forget to ask yourself "can I handle the downtime?"

Age and Efficiency

Unlike whiskey or a fine wine our appliances do not improve with age, and often time the repair bills get more frequent and expensive with age. The more frequent repairs your machine requires the faster your reserve fund shrinks. Don't forget each repair your appliance need the less return you get on your investment. Now considering how efficient todays appliances are, with the fact that your golden oldie is more likely to break, you may want to go shopping.