APPLIANCE LIFE SPANS

FROM LAURIE AND LINDA

Even if your appliances are brand new, the day will come when your trusty appliances reach the end of their usable lives. If you plan ahead, these breakdowns won't break your budget. The important key is knowing how long various applicances generally last - on average. Of course, their life expectancy depends on the quality, correct installation, maintenance, and cleaning. The frequency of usage is also a big factor.

According to Appliance Magazine, typical life spans for some of the most common appliances are as follows:

9 Years: Disposals, microwaves

10 Years: Dishwashers

11 Years: Central air conditioners, washing machines, gas water heaters

12 Years: Clothes dryers, refrigerators

13 Years: Electric water heaters

14 Years: Gas furnaces

16 Years: Electric ranges

17 Years: Gas ranges, oil furnaces

Since they can call it quits when you least expect it, a good idea is to tuck away some money for repairs and replacements.

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