

Repairing an Appliance

Zero Waste: Repair

Are you in the market for a new dryer to replace your broken one at home? Have you considered having the old one repaired? **There are two factors to consider when thinking of repairing a major appliance: cost of the repair and life expectancy of the appliance.**



What is the life expectancy of an appliance?

Depending on the appliance, a repair cost might run up to \$400 according to improvenet.com. **A good rule of repair is to consider repairing an appliance if the repair cost will total up to less than half of what was originally paid for the appliance.** For example, if you paid \$600 for a dryer and the repair cost is less than \$300 then it might be worth it to consider investing money and time on the broken appliance as opposed to replacing it right away. The exception to this rule though would depend on the age of the appliance. A dryer is designed to last up to 13 years, if your appliance is less than half way to its life expectancy than repairing or a maintenance service will be the smarter route.

Life Expectancy (Years)	Low	High	Average
Dryers, Electric	11	18	14
Dryers, Gas	11	16	13
Dishwashers	9	16	12
Garbage Disposals	10	15	13
Freezers	12	20	16
Microwaves	5	10	8
Refrigerators, Standard	10	18	14

Note: Life expectancy may vary from model to model and relies heavily on usage.



Appliance Maintenance Tips

1. **Read the use-and-care manual, some appliances might need light DIY maintenance,** air filters on air conditioners need to be replaced periodically.
2. **Repair experts strongly recommend surge protectors on major appliances;** this will go a long way for washers and dryers.
3. **Everyday care will help extend the useful life,** such as cleaning the stove after every use and checking the burners.