

Appliance Buying Guide

A step-by-step guide to find the right products for your home project

YALE
APPLIANCE



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Brands

We cover Premium, Affordable Luxury, and Affordable brands.



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What's New

New technologies and products in the appliance world



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How to buy products by brand, features, reliability, and value.

Overview

Congratulations for downloading this guide.

You will learn style, design, and problems in buying appliances.

Don't worry; you will have a clearer idea of what to do after reading.



Protect Your Appliance Budget in 2025

Tariffs could raise appliance prices by up to 10%-30%, with little to no warning. Even U.S. brands may be affected due to global parts sourcing.

How to stay ahead:

- Lock in today's pricing
- Free storage until 2026
- Full refund if your project is delayed*
- Flat \$199 for unlimited deliveries
- Avoid deposit risks—verify your order is truly reserved

✓ Order early for price protection and peace of mind.



How to Plan Your Kitchen Project

When starting a kitchen project, it is common for contractors and cabinet shops to suggest prioritizing your appliances as they can significantly impact your kitchen's layout.

Starting with your sink is a practical approach since it is your kitchen's most frequently used appliance.

Afterward, consider where you want to place your cooking appliances, such as wall ovens, cooktops, or ranges, as they can significantly impact your kitchen's ventilation, plumbing, electrical, and overall flow



**How to Design Your
Kitchen Project**

How to Make Your Kitchen Unique

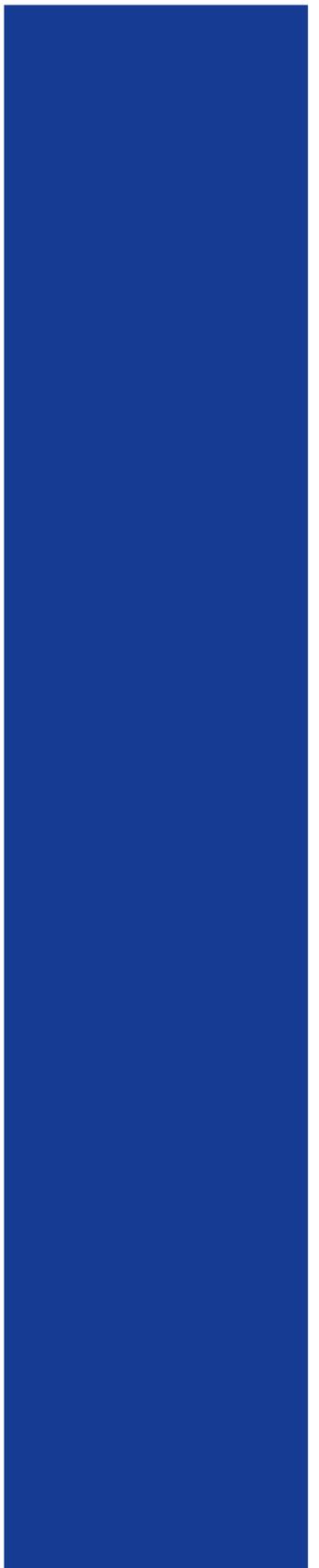
Stainless steel is the most popular finish in the appliance industry.

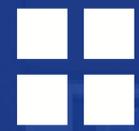
However, you can always choose colors, accents, and panel your appliances for a unique look.

Check out the five ways to make your kitchen stand out from your neighbors in our webinar below.



How to Make Your Kitchen Unique





Brands

We discuss brands in the Premium, Affordable
Luxury, and Commodity segments



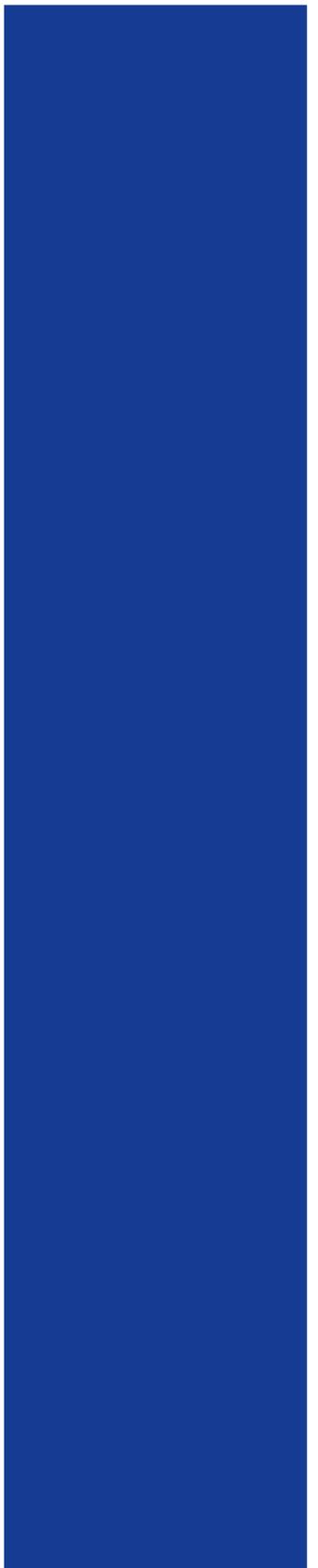
Premium Brands

Brands: Sub-Zero, Wolf, Thermador, True, Monogram, JennAir, Viking, Miele, BlueStar, Signature Kitchen Suite (SKS), Fisher & Paykel, and Liebherr.

What to Expect: Pro or integrated refrigerator, wall oven and cooktop or pro range, European dishwasher.



The Best Luxury Appliances



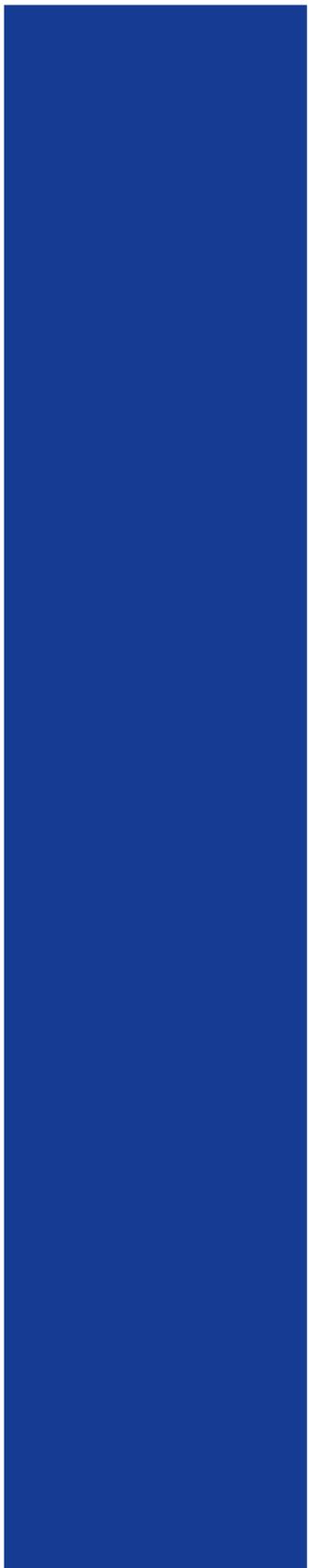
Affordable Luxury

Brands: Bosch, Bosch Benchmark, Café Appliances, JennAir, KitchenAid, GE Profile, LG, LG Studio, LG Signature, and Samsung.

What to Expect: Shallow depth refrigerator, slide-in cooking with enhanced burners, stainless interior dishwasher.



**Best Affordable
Luxury Brands**



Budget-Friendly Brands

Brands: Maytag, LG, GE, Samsung, Amana, Frigidaire, and Whirlpool.

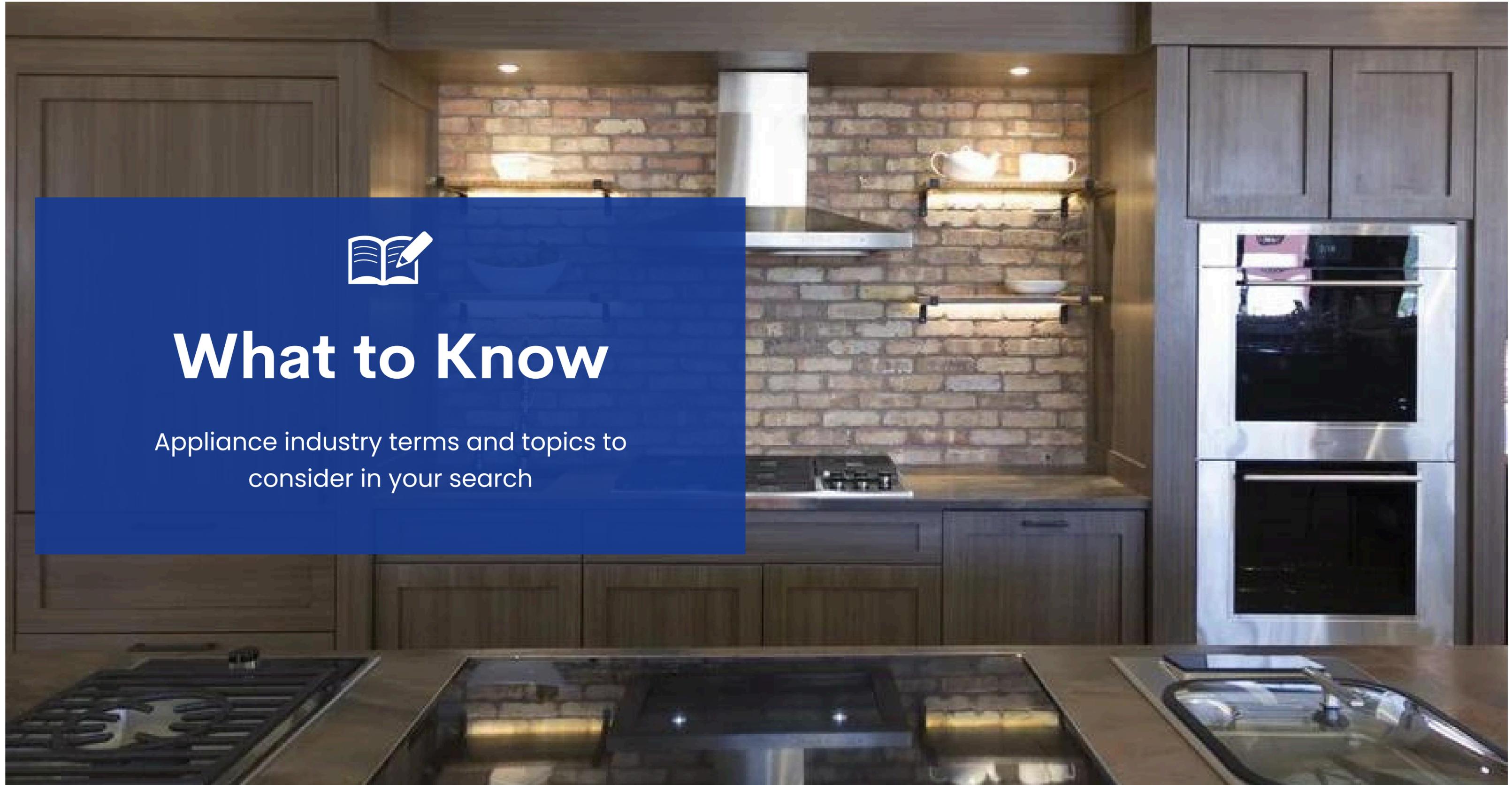
What to Expect: Regular freestanding gas or electric range, over-the-range microwave, and a domestic dishwasher.





What to Know

Appliance industry terms and topics to consider in your search



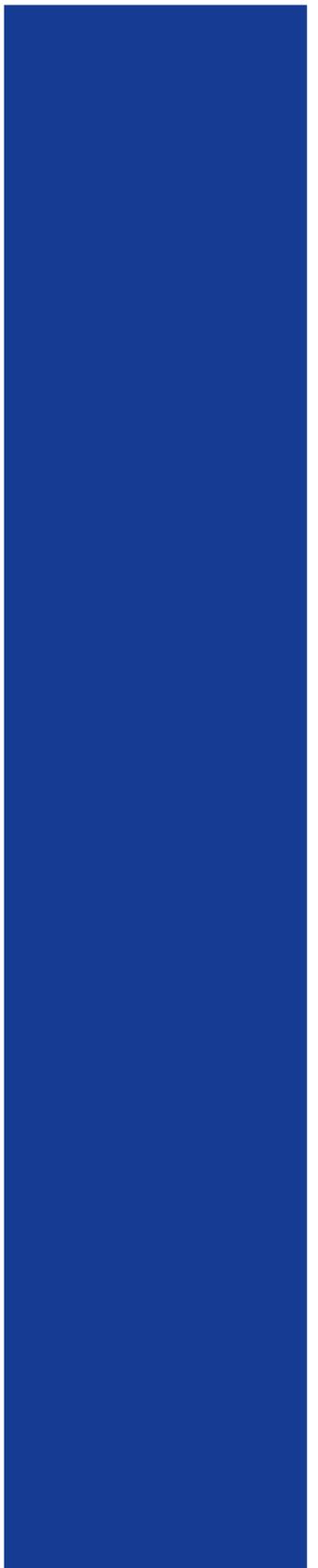
Custom Appliance Finishes

Many of the popular finishes like Black Stainless, Oil Rubbed Bronze, White Ice, Black Ice, Slate, and Mocha Brown have waned considerably over the years.

At Yale, 75% of BlueStar ranges are bought in a customized color.

A pop of color on a range like orange may look funky. A kitchen of all orange will become dated. So be careful.

Many brands like GE, Fisher & Paykel, and Viking will have some colors. La Cornue has several, and BlueStar will offer 1,000.



Kitchen Appliance Packages

Choosing all your kitchen appliances from the same brand is a good idea if you like how each one looks.

This way, all the handles and designs will match.

Plus, many brands give special discounts when you buy a set of appliances together.



**Best Kitchen
Appliance Packages**



Appliance Service

Service is just as important as the appliance itself.

Make sure the brand you choose has reliable service in your area.

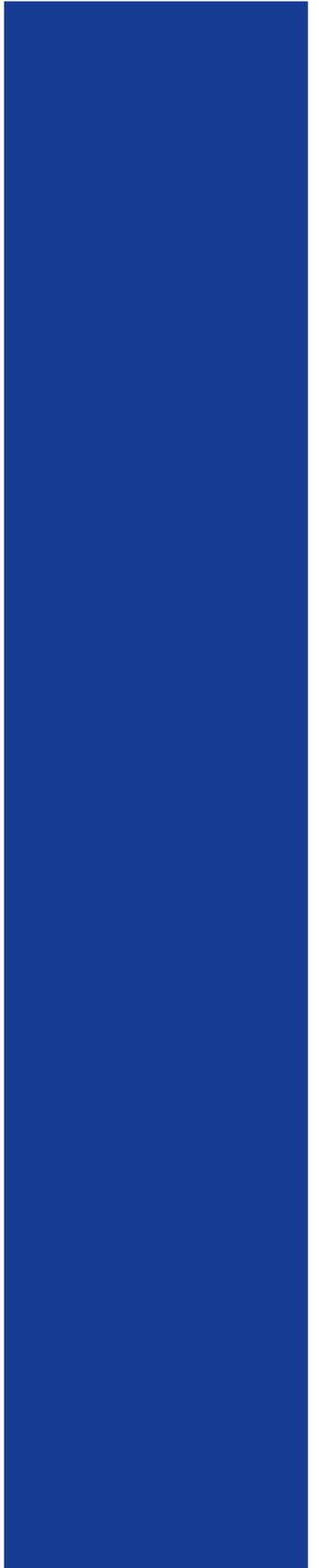
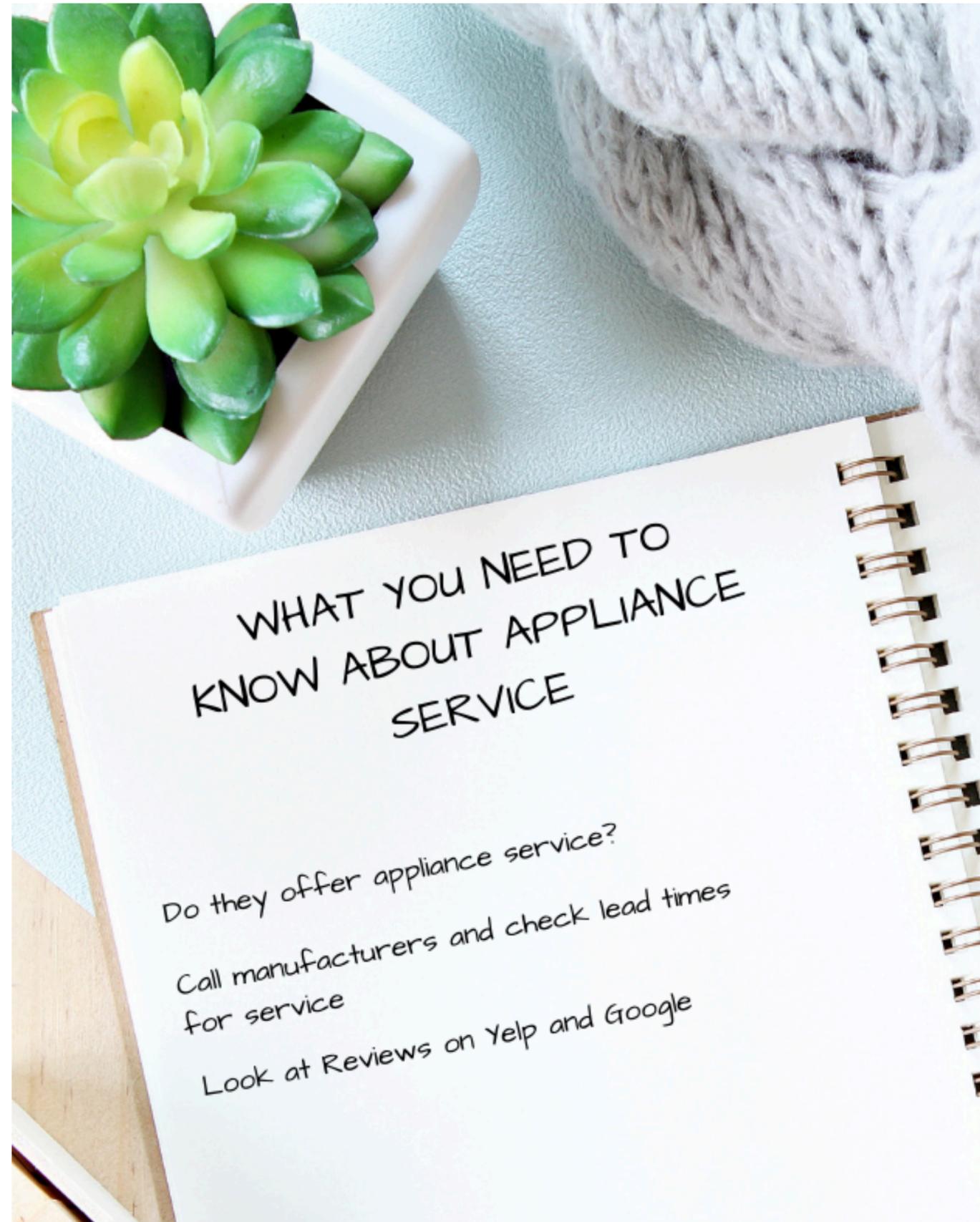
If they don't, consider other options.

Good service means quick help when you need it. Also, check reviews—not just for the appliances, but for service and delivery, too.

These can make a big difference after your purchase and help you avoid future problems.



**Why Your Broken Appliance
Won't Be Repaired**



Delivery

Delivery methods for appliances vary greatly among retailers.

Some offer basic "curbside" delivery, unloading at the sidewalk, while others provide "in-house" options, including installation and removal.

Always compare delivery estimates before you buy any appliance.

Click the link below to download our delivery comparison sheet.



[Our Free Delivery Comparison Checklist](#)



Service Contracts

Appliances will need service within the first year 9.5% of the time.

After the first year, the likely hood you'll need service increases.

Do not buy a service contract from a company that does not have their own service department.



**Are Appliance
Extended Warranties
Worth It?**





What's New

New technologies and products in the
appliance world

CAFE
DISTINCT BY DESIGN



Refrigerator Technology

Brands have made some interesting claims of freshness between two compressors and evaporators, freshness bins, Blue Lights, ethylene gas filters to scrub fumes off spoiling foods, among others.

We tested them all in what we call Project Produce by placing identical fruit and vegetables in 5 refrigerators.

Click the link below to see the results.



**Which Refrigerator Keeps
Food Fresh the Longest?**



Smart Appliances Are Getting Smarter

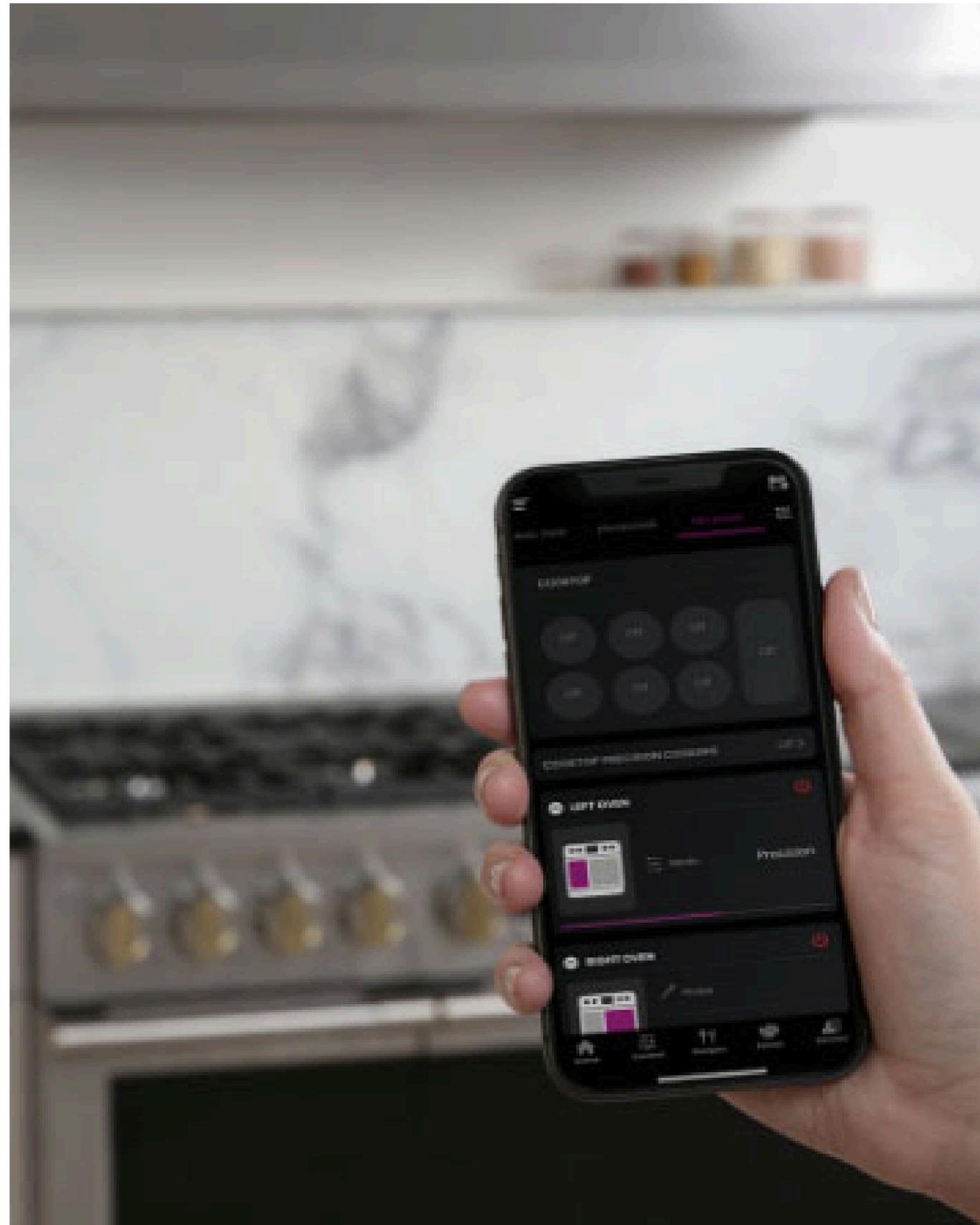
Smart appliances have come a long way from simply setting the oven temperature or sending texts from your phone.

Today, you can download customized cycles and access a range of additional features. In some cases, you can even use your phone's camera to monitor your food as it cooks.

While we're not quite at the point of having Alexa cook our meals for us, the technology is constantly improving, and we can expect even more exciting developments in the future.



Smart Appliance
Buying Guide



New Dishwasher

Features

Dishwashers have evolved to hold more dishes while being quieter and more efficient than ever.

Bosch has led the way with their CrystalDry models, featuring innovative Zeolite volcanic elements.

At the same time, Miele's dishwashers feature automatic detergent dispensers that ensure your dishes are always clean.

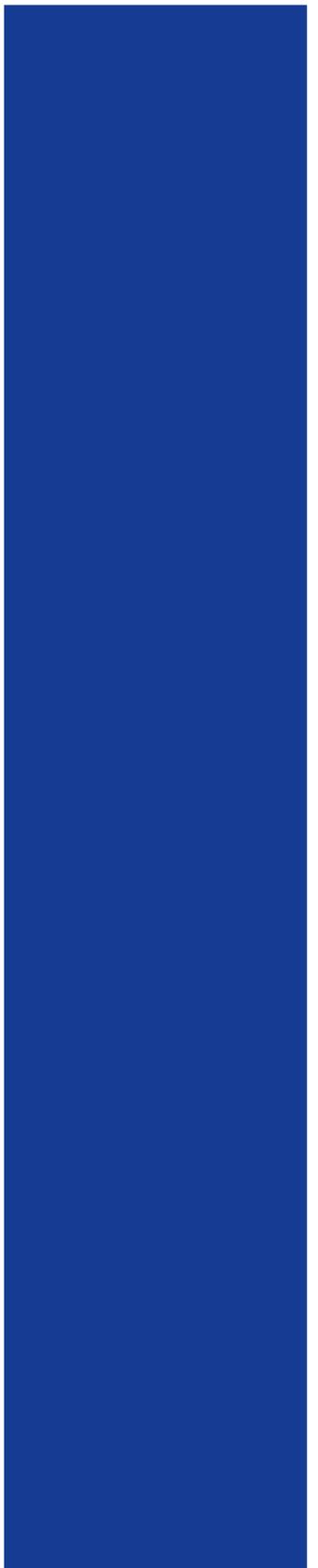


**Best
Dishwashers**

New Upscale Brands

SKS offers pro ranges with gas, induction, and sous vide in 36 and 48 inches.

The new Monogram features 23,000 BTUs and Hestan Cue technology for step-by-step recipe guidance.



Steam Cooking

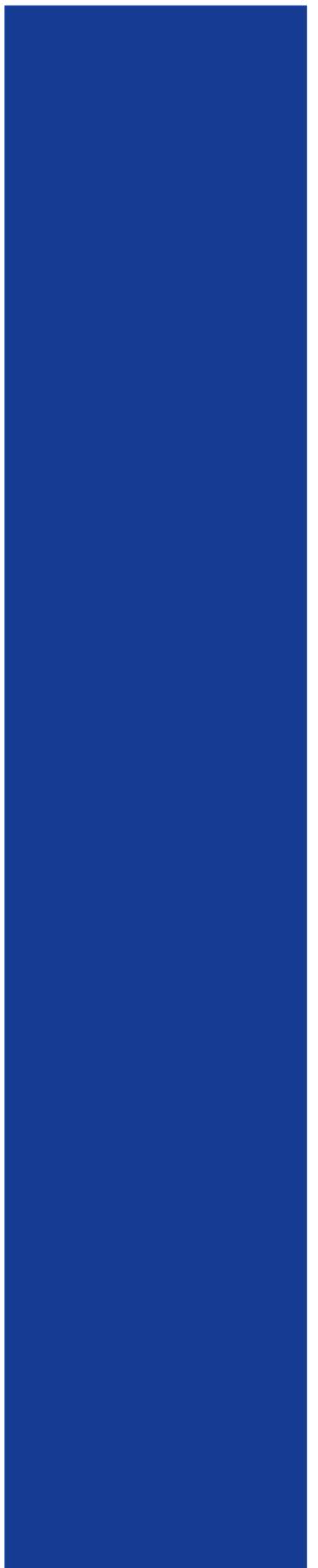
Steam cooking is the healthiest method as it retains the nutrients in your food while adding moisture. Miele and Gaggenau have been marketing steam ovens for years, and now Thermador and Wolf offer steam ovens at lower prices.

Thermador introduced steam in their pro range in 2013, and Miele added a steam assist option to their range in 2015.

Thermador has a full steam wall oven, allowing you to cook an entire turkey.



The Best Steam Ovens



Sous Vide Cooking

Sous vide is a precise method of cooking using water immersion instead of direct heat.

It's great for cooking in large batches or for consistent results every time you cook.

It's gaining popularity with Miele, Gaggenau, and SKS offering different ovens and stovetop options with sous vide capabilities.



**What Is Sous
Vide Cooking?**

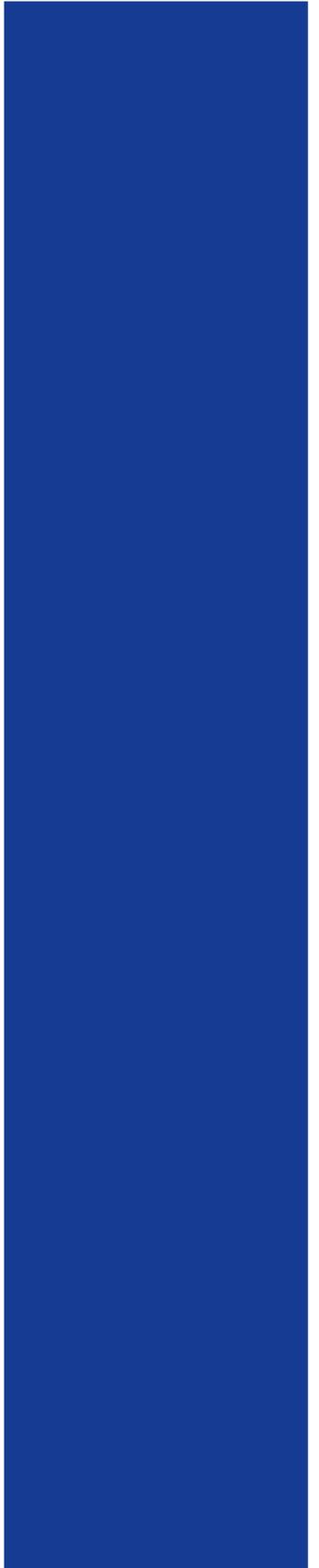


Automatic Detergent Dispensers

Whirlpool, Maytag, and GE allow you to load from 14.3 to 50 ounces of detergent.

The machine releases the right amount of detergent every time.

It's convenient to not load detergent every time, and you won't have service issues later from too much detergent eating away at the bearings of your washer.



True Refrigeration

True offers commercial-grade refrigerators, freezers, beverage centers, and wine centers in a range of 14 colors and six hinge accents to fit any design aesthetic.

Their new high lacquered finishes have the same sleek look as a race car and add a touch of luxury to any kitchen.



**Should You Buy a
True Refrigerator?**



LG WashTower with a Heat Pump Dryer

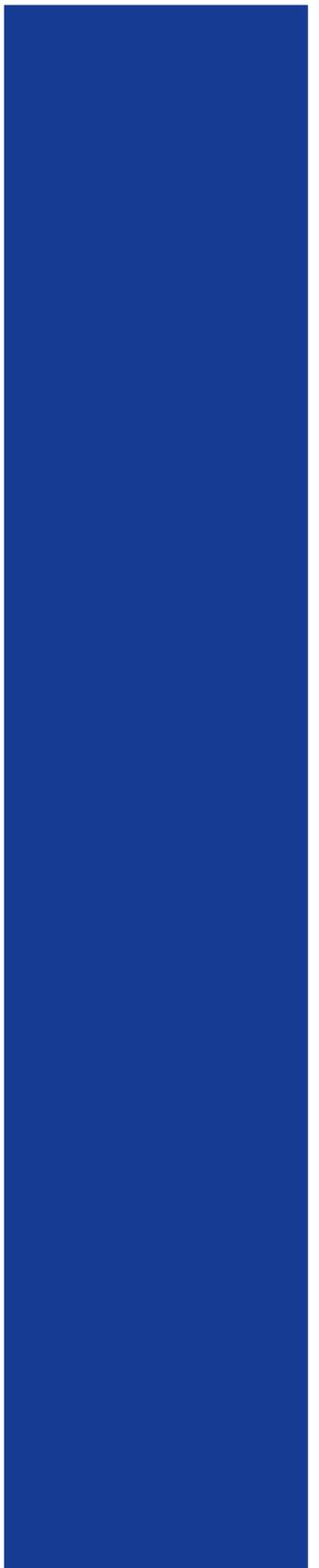
The LG WashTower with a ventless heat pump dryer is a game-changer for laundry rooms.

As the largest stacked washer and dryer, it offers a high-capacity solution for tackling large loads.

The ventless heat pump technology allows for flexibility in placement, as it doesn't require a vent to the outside, making it a versatile option for any home.



**Should You Buy the
LG WashTower?**



GE Profile Combo Washer & Dryer

The GE Profile UltraFast combo washer and dryer addresses the typical high repair rate of combo units with an innovative double-sided filter.

It ensures efficient drying through a heat pump, compressor, and air exchanger.

The unit's Microban anti-mold surface coatings and a generous 4.8 cubic foot interior make it a top choice for laundry needs.



**GE Profile UltraFast
Combo Washer & Dryer**



Heat Pump Dryers

Heat pump dryers use compressors to move the existing air in the drum instead a heating element warming new air.

They are 50% more efficient than a normal dryer but do take a longer time to dry.

Bosch, Miele, LG, GE, and Samsung market heat pumps in the US. However, you will see new exciting laundry with heat pump technology.



**Best Non-Venting Options
for Full-Size Laundry.**



French Door & Side Swing Wall Ovens

French door and side swing wall ovens allow you easier access to your food. You don't have to lift a heavy turkey over the door.

Café Appliances and BlueStar offer the best French door wall ovens.

Gaggenau, Bosch, Thermador offer good side swing ovens.



**Best French Door & Side
Swing Wall Ovens**



Color-Changing Refrigerators

LG Studio's new MoodUp refrigerator and Samsung's Bespoke refrigerators offer a unique way to customize your fridge's appearance.

LG's MoodUp refrigerator features a sleek glass panel on the front that can display various images or custom designs. This allows users to personalize their refrigerator to match their decor or mood.

Meanwhile, Samsung's Bespoke refrigerators offer a customizable modular design that allows users to mix and match panels, colors, and finishes to create a unique look.





10 Common Questions

Answers to the most frequently asked questions we hear from customers.

LE

Grind

Wall Oven & Cooktop vs. Range

Wall ovens are more accessible, but ranges offer more centralized cooking in less space.

With a wall oven, you also have more steam, speed, and other cooking options.

This is the most important question in kitchen planning because it impacts so much.



Slide-In vs. Freestanding Ranges

Freestanding ranges have the controls on the back, blocking your back guard.

Slide-in and front control ranges are similar because you can see your backsplash. Slide-in ranges fit over the counter so there is no seam, for easier cleaning.

Front control ranges have the seam but are easier to install.



Top Load vs. Front Load Washers & Dryers



Front load is larger, more efficient and is gentler on your clothes.

Read the Yale Washer Buying Guide to understand all the differences between top and front load washers by clicking the link below.



[Free Washer & Dryer Buying Guide](#)



Induction Range



Gas Range



Pro Gas



Electric Range

Induction vs. Gas vs. Pro Gas vs. Electric Ranges

Induction is the best choice for fast heating and precise simmering.

It heats pots directly, making it quicker and more efficient than gas or electric.

If you're considering a pro gas range for power, know that many standard gas ranges now have strong burners too, offering plenty of heat without the higher cost.

Electric ranges may cook slower but provide steady and even heat, making them a good, reliable option.

Updraft vs. Downdraft



Updraft is better for ventilation as smoke naturally rises. You also have way more capture area in a hood than a downdraft.

Do NOT downdraft a professional range as it will not capture the smoke and heat.



**Free Ventilation
Buying Guide**

Professional vs. Counter-Depth Refrigeration

- **Professional Refrigeration:** Different styles of refrigerators with very different prices. Professional refrigeration is commercial-looking with the compressor on top.
- **Regular & Counter-Depth Refrigeration:** The regular counter depth doesn't protrude from the cabinets and looks like a household refrigerator at a much cheaper price.



[Free Counter-Depth Refrigerator Buying Guide](#)



Integrated vs. Professional Refrigeration

- **Integrated Refrigeration:** Integrated Refrigeration is hidden and sits seamlessly with your cabinets.
- **Professional Refrigeration:** Different styles of refrigerators with very different prices. Professional refrigeration is commercial-looking with the compressor on top.



Will This Dishwasher Be Quiet?

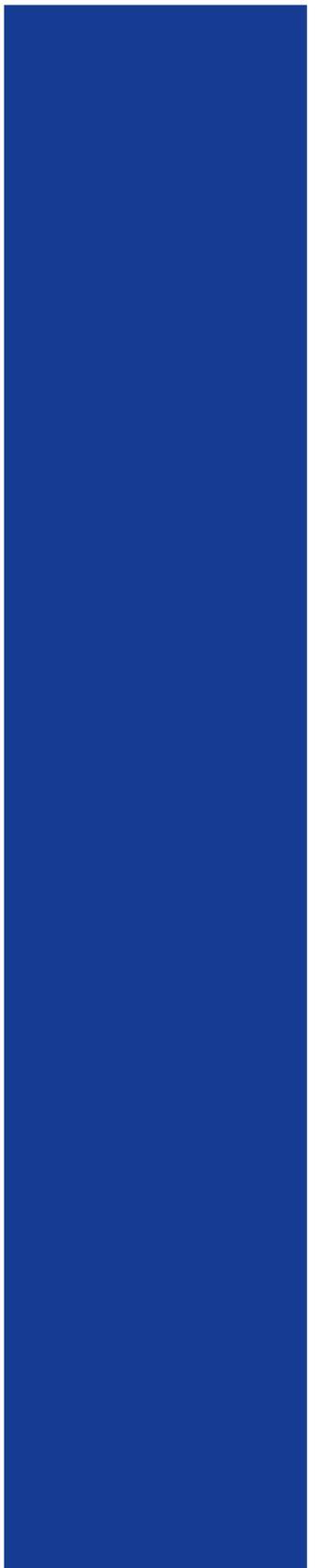
Yes, depending on the dishwasher. **Under 44 dB is considered quiet.**

Bosch and KitchenAid are the quietest at 37 dB. KitchenAid now offers 39 dB dishwashers under \$1,000.

Here's a tip: Don't overpay for an extremely quiet dishwasher. Forty-four decibels is incredibly quiet. Extremely quiet dishwashers can cost \$1,000 more.



Quietest Dishwasher
by Decibel Rating



Can I Get My Appliance Fixed?

In most cases that answer is no. Yet, out of thousands of appliance dealers only 5% service what they sell.

You should always inquire about service before you buy any appliance.



**Why Doesn't Every
Brand Offer Service**



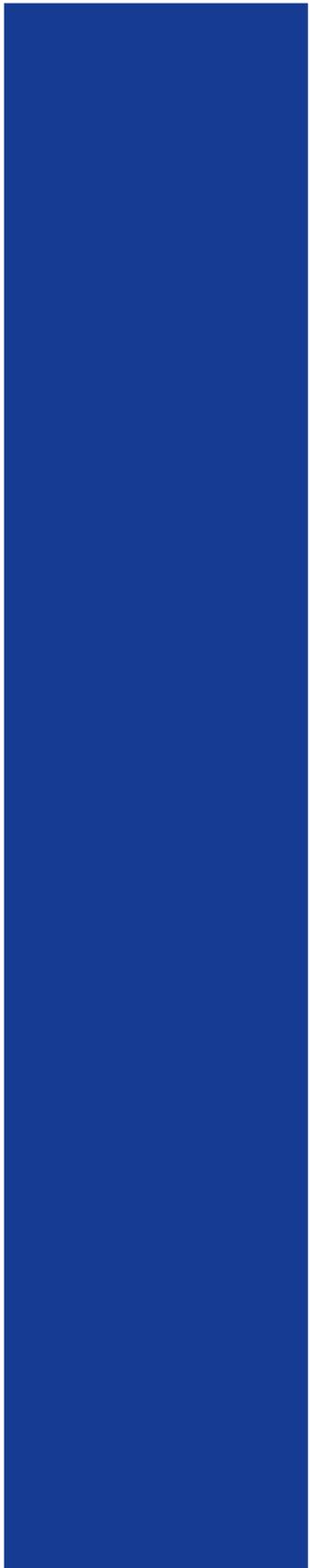
What Are the Most Reliable Brands?

Gaggenau, LG, GE Profile, GE, and Thermador are the most reliable appliance brands based on over 37,000 service calls logged by our service team.

Read the article below for more information.



The Most Reliable Appliance Brands



What Should I Ask My Appliance Salesperson?

Buying a kitchen appliance will require getting the right advice and constant communication between your builder, architect, and designer.

Click the link below to see if your appliance salesperson is up to the task.



10 Questions to Ask Your Salesperson

10 Questions to Ask Your Appliance Salesperson

1. Should I Buy a Gas or Dual Fuel Range?
2. Should I Buy Induction or Professional Gas, and If I Buy Induction, What Are the Pitfalls?
3. Should I Buy a Downdraft for My New Kitchen?
4. What Is Make-Up Air and Why Is It important?
5. What CFM Do I Need for My Kitchen?
6. What Do You Think About Black Stainless Appliances?
7. How Quiet Should My Dishwasher Be?
8. What Are the Differences Between Front Load, Top Load, and Hybrid Top Load Washers?
9. What Are the Benefits of Twin Evaporator Refrigerators?
10. Where Can I Find Service for My Appliances?



What to Avoid

Guiding You Through the Don'ts of
Home Appliances



Over-the-Range Microwaves

I loved over-the-range microwaves when they first came out in the '90s—they saved space and combined two functions in one.

But today, they can't handle the higher heat from modern burners and don't provide enough ventilation. Plus, their placement makes them harder to reach and clean.

If you want better ventilation and easier access, consider a range hood instead. It does a much better job of keeping your kitchen air clean and handling the demands of today's cooking.



**Are Over-the-Range
Microwaves Going Out of Style?**

Black Stainless-Steel Appliances

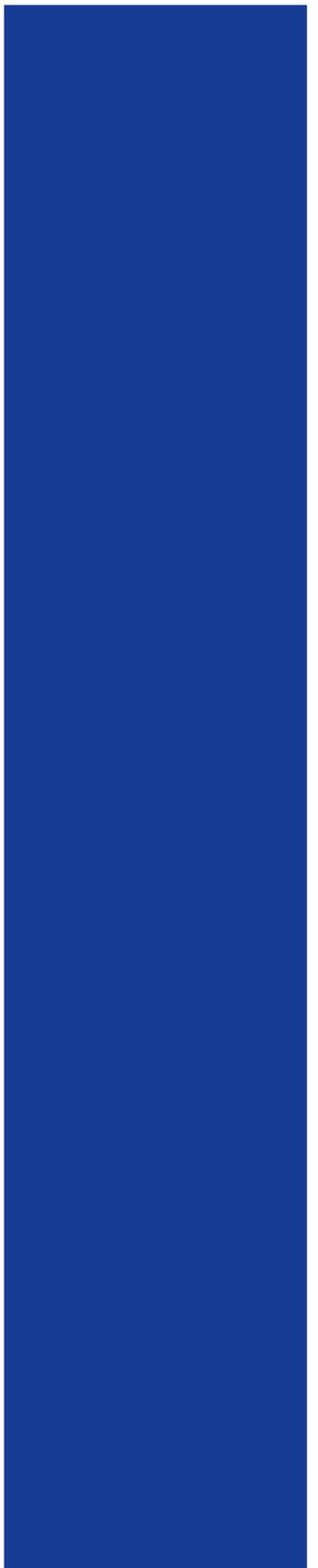
Black stainless steel appliances might look sleek, but they come with some trade-offs.

The finish is just a thin oxide coating that can easily scratch, and once it does, you're stuck with it. **The scratches can't be repaired, and manufacturers don't cover them under warranty.**

If you want a finish that holds up better over time, you might want to consider traditional stainless steel or other options that won't show wear as easily.



**Should You Buy Black
Stainless-Steel Appliances?**



Downdrafts

Downdrafts might save space, but they aren't very effective at venting. Because they pull air down instead of up, they struggle to capture smoke and grease, especially with powerful cooktops.

The long vent runs they require also reduce their efficiency. If you're building or renovating your kitchen, it's better to skip downdrafts.

They can't keep up with modern appliances, and you might end up with lingering smells. **A traditional hood will do a much better job at keeping your kitchen clean and odor-free.**



**Can You Install a Downdraft
Behind a Range?**

Buying More Expensive Relabeled Brands

Many brands offer products from the same company that are identical.

For example, KitchenAid, JennAir, Whirlpool, and Maytag refrigerators are the same, but the prices can differ by \$1,500 for the same model.



30-Inch Dual Fuel Ranges

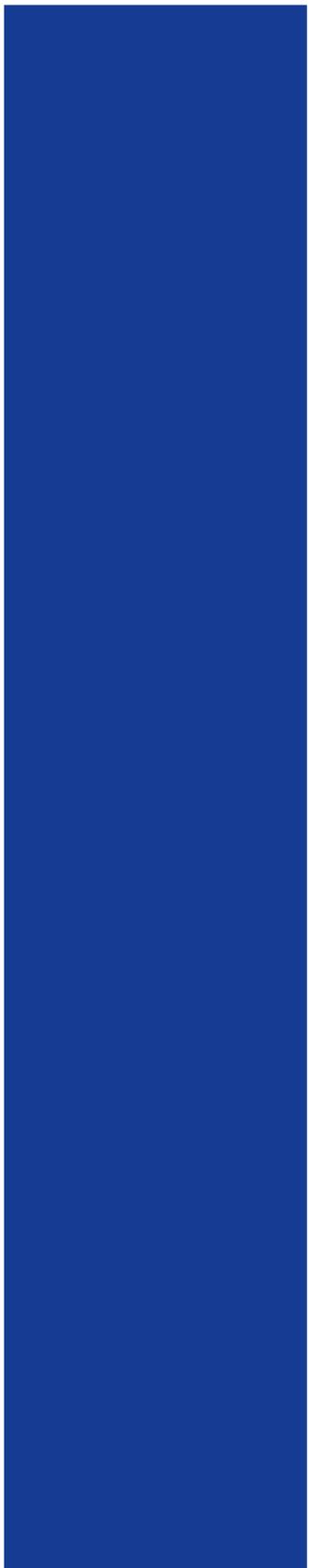
For faster cooking, choose an induction stove.

It provides a more responsive cooktop while maintaining the same features as a traditional electric oven.

Also, remember that a gas oven is typically better for roasting and broiling.



Best 30-Inch
Induction Ranges



Pro-Style Ranges

You might be drawn to pro-style ranges like Bertazzoni, Smeg, Forno, or Fortuzzi because they look great and seem like a good deal.

But here's the thing: they might not deliver the cooking power you need.

These ranges often have lower BTU output, meaning they won't heat up as fast or get as hot as you'd like.

Their broilers can also be underpowered, and the oven capacity may be smaller than you expect.

If performance is a priority, you might want to explore other options.



**Professional vs. Pro
Style Gas Ranges**

Not Adequately Planning Ventilation

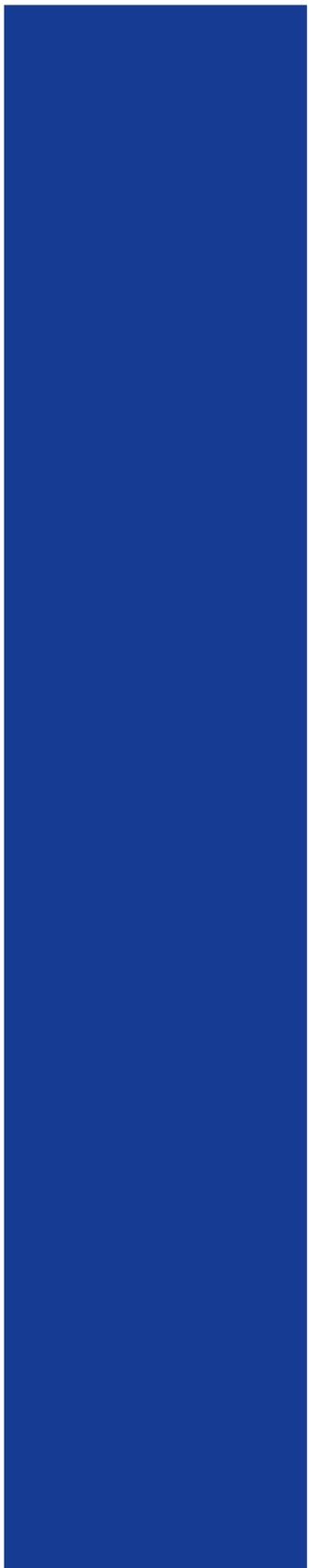
Your stove will emit a toxic brew of compounds as part of the cooking process.

Your new energy-efficient windows will keep that brew in your house longer.

Ventilation needs to be planned properly. Read this guide next:



[Ventilation](#)
[Buying Guide](#)



Not Checking Reviews

No store or brand is perfect, but some are measurably better than others.

It is important to review the ratings and feedback of not only the appliance but also the delivery and repair services before making a purchase.

★★★★★

We needed a new dishwasher and very happy we chose Yale. The salesperson was very knowledgeable and advised us to go with an LG model. Purchase, delivery and installation all went smooth. I highly recommend putting Yale on your appliance shopping list.

★★★★★

We bought a new LG refrigerator from Yale and the whole process was so easy! They had exactly what we wanted and we ordered online. Our delivery from Truck 5, was great. They were professional, courteous, and friendly. Highly recommend buying from Yale!!

★★★★★

Yale Appliance saves the day for me and my family again!! The Yale Appliance team helped me decide on a new fridge to fit my small kitchen when my old one died this week and they had it installed in less than 48 hours! The installation team worked fast and were super quiet and neat. The new fridge is wonderful! Thank you!

★★★★★

Made the mistake of going to a big box store because they had it in stock. On delivery day, they refused to deliver up to the 2nd floor unit and suggested I hire movers. Yale sent their guys to measure and said they could get the LG Washtower upstairs. Very professional, excellent service. Yale is my preferred appliance store!



Buying Strategies

How to choose products by product category

Buying Premium

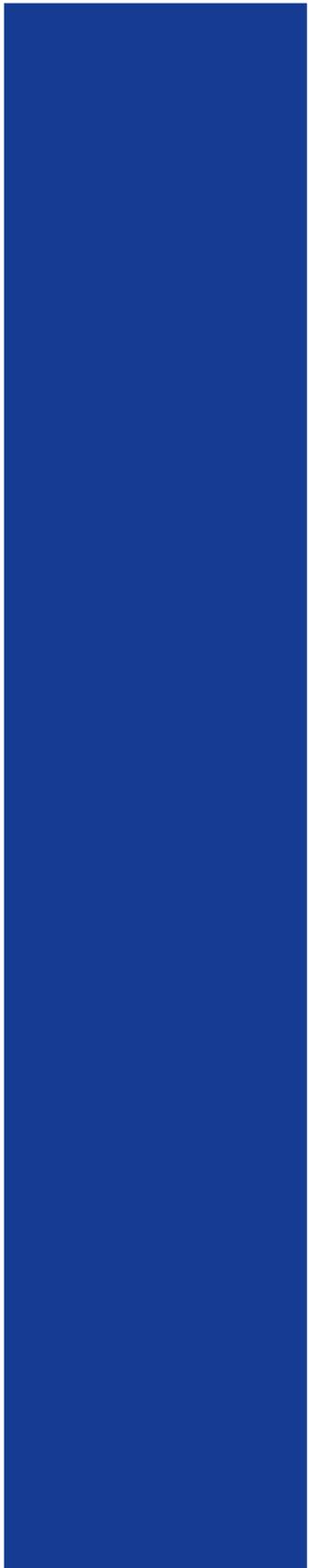
By size, dishwashers are all the same.
Refrigerators fit within standard cabinets, typically 30", 33" and 36" width.

The biggest choice in premium appliances is between a cooktop and wall oven or a regular range.

The cooking choices determine the layout of the kitchen.

Placement of islands, lighting and cabinets depend on this decision.

The cooking appliance industry is very competitive with Wolf, Miele, Thermador, SKS, Monogram, and BlueStar vying for your business.



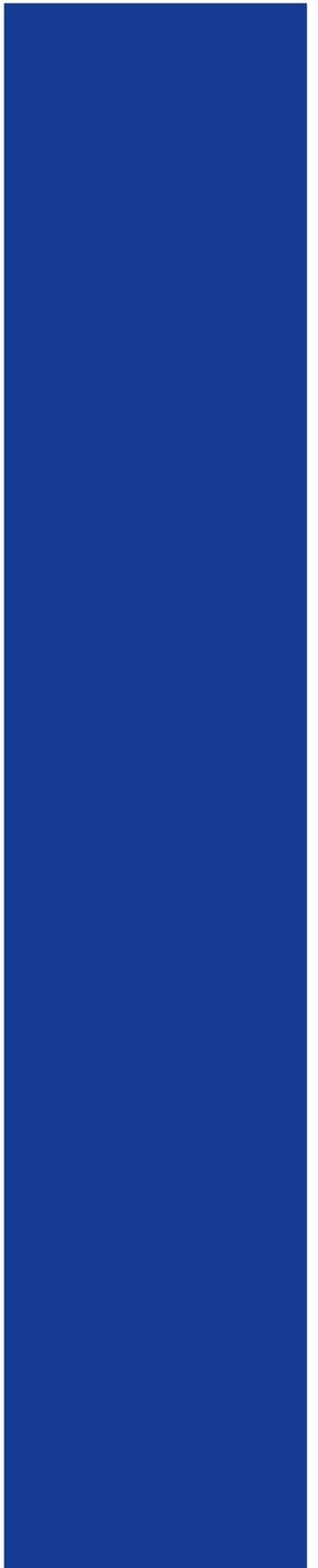
Buying Premium

Sub-Zero dominates the refrigeration, although integrated products from Thermador have become popular.

The best dishwashers are Bosch and Miele. Products can be paneled or integrated.



**How to Choose the Best Premium
Kitchen Appliance Package**



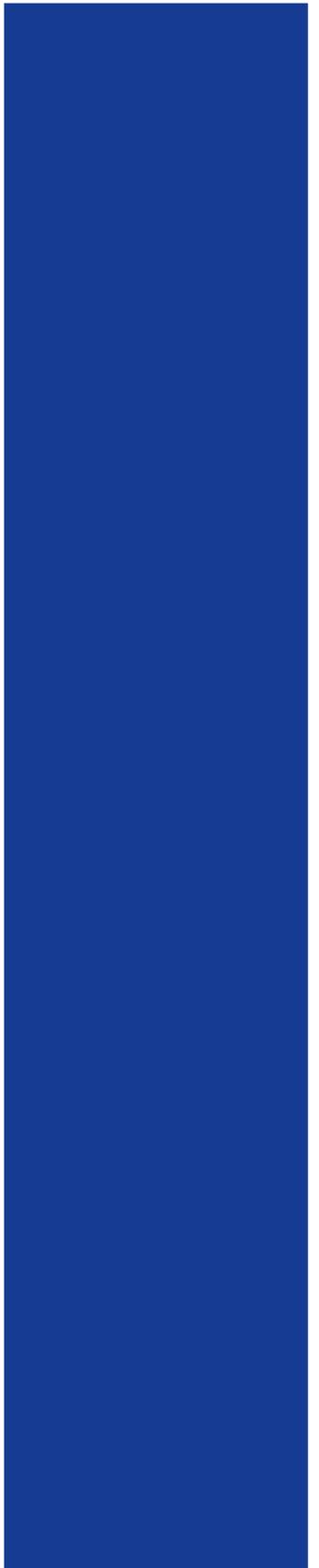
Buying Affordable Luxury

Affordable Luxury is the most competitive segment, with many brands manufacturing good-looking, functional appliances.

Among others, Café Appliances, GE Profile, LG Studio, LG Signature, Bosch, and Samsung have great products in this category.

Convection cooking, slide-in ranges and over-the-range microwaves are hallmarks of this segment.

You may want to consider LG and GE with some interesting styling, decent refrigerators, and overall better pricing.



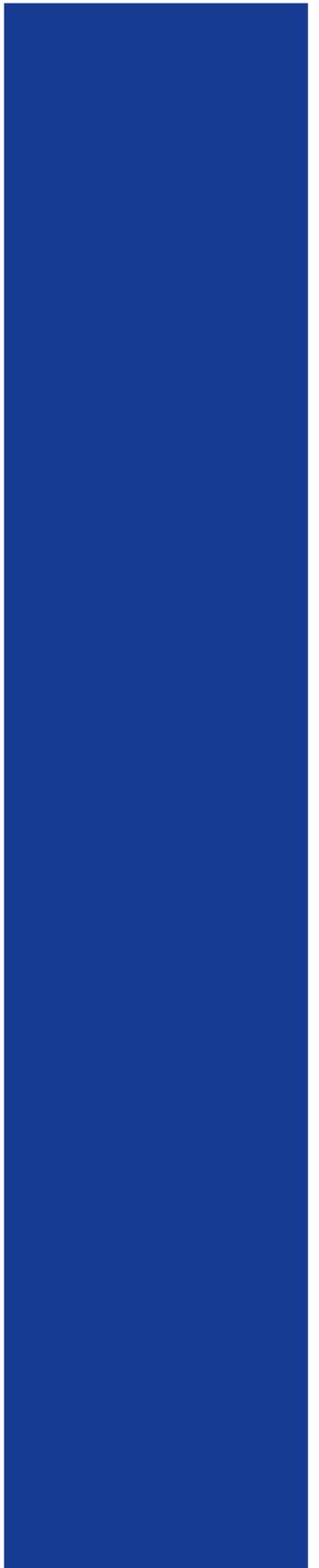
Buying Affordable Luxury

Look for rebate programs to influence your choices and always try to buy around the holidays like:

- Black Friday
- Labor Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day.



**How to Choose the Best Affordable
Luxury Kitchen Appliance Package**



Buying Commodity

Commodity brands like **LG, GE Appliances, Samsung, Whirlpool, and Frigidaire** give you solid performance at prices that won't break the bank.

These brands are known for being reliable and affordable, making them great options if you're trying to stick to a budget.

Keep an eye out for package deals that can save you money and simplify your shopping.

Focus on key appliances like refrigerators and ranges first, as they'll have the most impact in your kitchen.

With these brands, you can get good quality without overspending.



Final Takeaways

Buying appliances in 2025 to 2026 won't be easy.

With uncertainty around tariffs and ongoing supply chain issues, you'll need to be careful.

Over 100 appliance stores have closed in the past year.

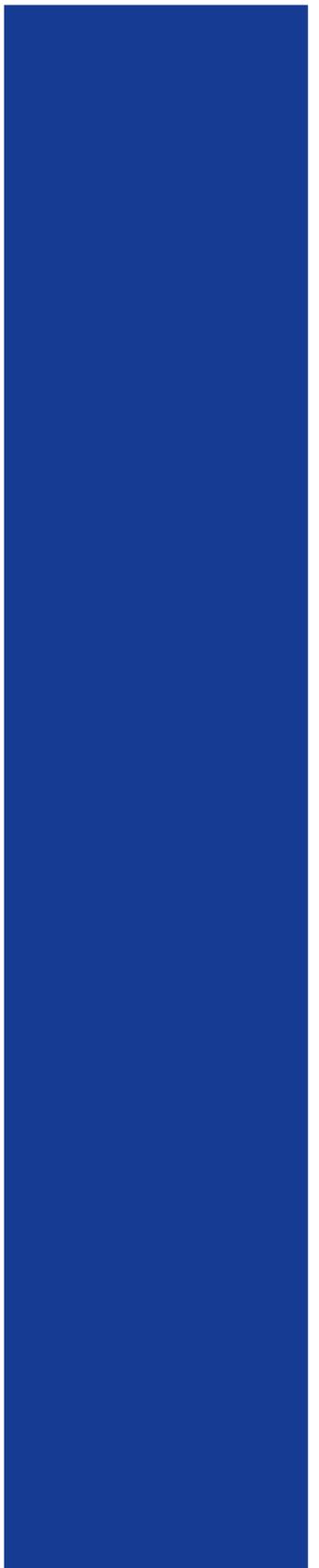
Make sure to read reviews, not just price tags.

Pay close attention to everything: delivery, installation, and especially the quality of service.

These details can make or break your experience.

Good luck, and we hope you found this guide helpful.

Subscribe to our blog for updates, new products, how-to's, and more.



Yale Appliance Webinars

Want to know how to start your kitchen?

How about learning from others' mistakes or about appliances you shouldn't buy?

Check out a [Yale Webinar](#) for deep dives on appliances, design, mistakes, and more.

Over 100,000 people have watched a Yale Webinar.



Yale Appliance
Webinars



How to Protect Yourself

You may think appliances will be an easy purchase.

Unfortunately, with delivery, installation, damage, and the increasing amount of service, it can be a stressful ordeal.

Read the articles below to protect yourself and make the best buying decisions.

Remember, you have the most leverage before you buy anything.



**Why Doesn't Every
Brand Offer Service**



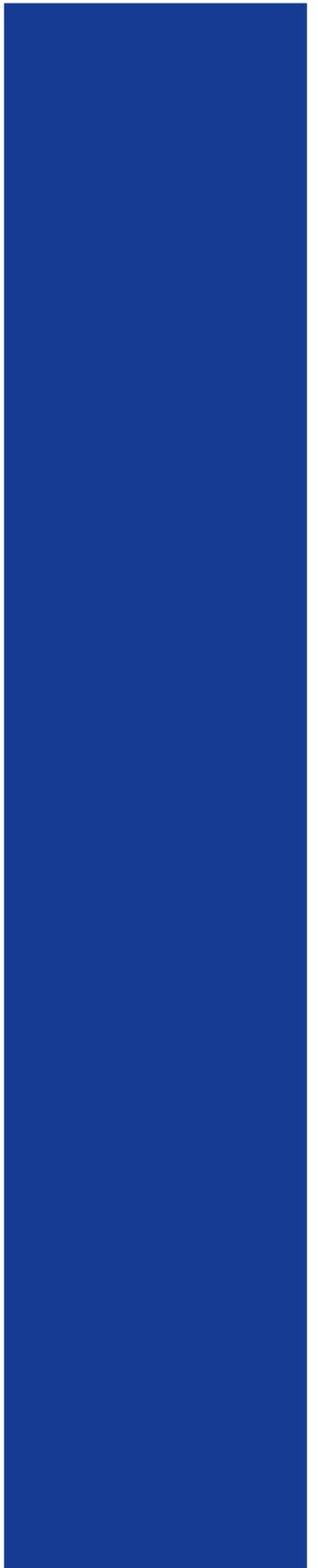
Wisdom of Crowds

Buy where you're comfortable.

There are tons of stores and products, but a limited number of consumers.

Check review sites like Yelp, CitySearch, Google and the Better Business Bureau before you purchase.

Remember, any store can sell an appliance; the biggest issues are shipping and service.



Appliance Delivery Checklist

Our free checklist will help you avoid a delivery nightmare by teaching you what to ask your appliance dealer.

Delivery issues are a major cause of dissatisfaction. Be prepared.

In the Delivery Checklist, you'll learn:

- How to choose a dealer with top-notch delivery
- Questions to identify a quality delivery team
- The importance of online reviews for your appliance search



[Get the Free Appliance Delivery Checklist](#)

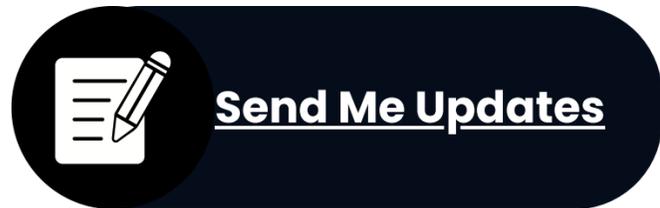


Want to Learn More?

Want more tips, tricks, reliability statistics, and information about kitchen appliances sent directly to your inbox? Sign up below.

We do not sell your email to anyone for any reason – ever.

We don't spam or promote. Over 100,000 people have found value in Yale Appliance emails.





About Us

Yale Appliance has been serving the Boston area for over 100 years and operates six showrooms: in Boston, Framingham, Hanover, Hyannis, Nantucket, and Norton.

We have the largest independent service and repair department in New England, staffed with over 40 people.

Our sales team has an average of 10 years of experience, and our staff chef offers cooking demonstrations to help you make the most of your new appliances

Visit Our Stores

Schedule a showroom visit to meet with our team and discuss your appliance project.

Choose a time that works for your schedule.



Schedule a showroom appointment



Contact Us

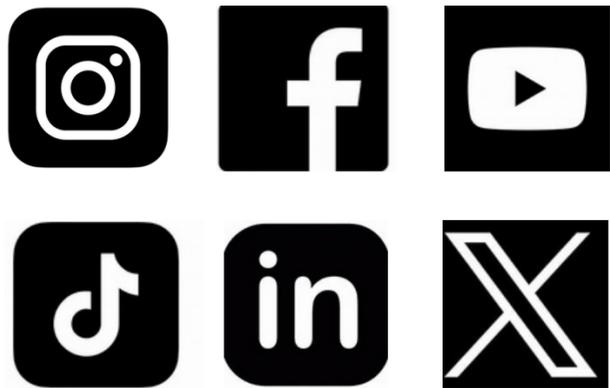
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