

Appliantology

The Journal of Appliance Wisdom

“How Much is a New One?”

So, Old Reliable is broken and you're wondering if you should just buy a new one rather than pay for a repair. After all, there were some pretty good deals in the Sunday paper—in fact, those prices are about what you paid for your old appliance 10 years ago. Well, here's the low-down on those low-end appliances.

Back when you bought Old Reliable, say 12 years ago, \$400 would buy you a top-of-the-line washer or dryer. That same \$400 today would only buy you a low-end machine that you'll be throwing away or repairing every three to four years. In other words, you'll need to buy a higher end model to get a similar quality machine. Why is this true?

The difference is in the internal components used in the machines. The lower end machines today are constructed of lower quality materials than similarly priced machines 10 or 15 years ago. So, while your current appliance is built with beefy American-made parts that gave you many years of reliable service, many of the parts in the new appliances you see in the Sunday paper are made out of plastic in Chinese or Mexican factories. For example, many of the modern washer transmissions use plastic internal gears instead of steel. This means the parts will fail more quickly and you'll be faced with this “repair or replace” decision all too soon.

Another cost associated with buying a new appliance is the “aggra-dollars.” That is, the aggravation and time spent that goes along with shopping for a new appliance—having it delivered, getting it installed, and disposing of your old one. Not to mention the time spent researching brands—not all higher priced appliances are equal in quality or durability. If you've experienced this joy recently, then you know that the aggra-dollar factor can be a very significant cost.

When asking, “How much is a new one?”, you need to consider the quality of appliance you can afford as a replacement versus the convenience of having your existing appliance properly repaired by a competent professional. Mr. Appliance can diagnose and evaluate your appliance to determine if it's in your best interest to repair or replace it and make a recommendation accordingly. So if Old Reliable is having problems, call Scott or Susan at Mr. Appliance today.

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