

Ask questions when purchasing appliances

Whether it's refrigerator or a blender, a new home appliance is an investment which becomes "part of the family" for (hopefully) a long time.

The following checklist will remind you of some simple steps toward making the best use of your money and ensuring satisfaction with your purchase decision:

Ask the dealer for specification sheets from several manufacturers of the appliance types you plan to purchase. Study them carefully and note the different features, designs and capacities.

Ask the dealer to see the warranty before purchasing the appliance. Does the warranty cover the entire product? Is labor included? Only certain parts? How long is the

warranty coverage?

Ask the dealer for the use and care manual. Read it carefully before you purchase the appliance. The Dealer should have manuals available from the floor models on display. These manuals will help you to ask pertinent questions, tell you how the product operates and what special care it needs.

Decide what special features you will really use. Consider the possibility of adding on features at a later date such as an icemaker for a refrigerator.

Decide what capacity or size your family's lifestyle requires. For example, if purchasing a room air conditioner, know the dimensions of the room and number of windows. Make certain the model you

choose has sufficient BTU's to cool the area.

Check the space available for the appliance. Will it fit where you plan to put it? Is there adequate clearance space in the hallway or doors through which the appliance will have to pass before installation?

Check the product design carefully prior to purchase. Does the product's design meet your usage habits. Compare the designs of different brands. If you are purchasing a combination microwave oven/range, check the space between the units to be sure your favorite pans will fit.

Clearly establish the cost of delivery and installation. Are these coats included or are they extra?

Ask the dealer if he services the appliances he sells. If not, ask him where to go for authorized factory service on the appliance you plan to purchase.

Compare price in relation to convenience and service. Both vary according to the model. As more features and conveniences are included, the price increases.

Be sure your house has adequate electrical service for the appliance in order to avoid overloading circuits. Also, be sure your home has adequately grounded, three-hole receptacles.

Add safety precautions

Injuries do not get as much publicity as heart disease or cancer, but they are the leading cause of death among young people (age 1 to 44) in the United States. Fortunately, they are among the most preventable causes of premature death.

If you need to be persuaded to add safety precautions to your life, consider these statistics from a recent report in the Journal of the American Medical Association:

Injuries are the fourth leading causes of death nationwide, accounting for nearly 150,000 deaths each year.

More than one percent of all persons aged 10 to 34 today will die of injuries by the year 2000.

About 75 percent of today's ten-year-old males who die during the next 15 years will die of injuries.

For people now aged 10 to 24, the risk of dying of injuries during the next 15 years exceeds the risk of dying of all other causes combined.

A white male aged 15 today has a one in 110 chance of dying as a result of an automobile accident by age 30.

A black male aged 20 today has a one in 50 risk of dying of homicide by the time he is 25.

For children aged 5 to 9, the risk of dying of injuries in the next 15 years is 2.6 times greater than the risk of dying from all other causes combined.

Water, water everywhere and not a drop will drain. If the winter season has you thinking along these lines, perhaps your landscape isn't draining properly.

Drainage problems around the home are usually caused by underground springs, seasonal high water tables, ponding of surface water, or poor soil permeability. We offer the following drainage solutions.

Underground springs. Natural springs may flow all year, or only during periods of heavy rain. Subsurface drains at least four inches in diameter and surrounded with six to 12 inches of gravel can be placed along the outside of the foundation to divert the water.

Subsurface drains are made from various materials. Checking local

building codes for approved materials and other drainage regulations.

Seasonal high water table. The term water table refers to the level below which soil is saturated with water. The water table usually fluctuates by several feet throughout the year. On some homesites, the seasonal high water table may be at or near the ground surface for long periods.

Again, subsurface drains around the outside foundation walls may lower the water table. On lawns where only a small area is affected by a high water table, a small excavated pond may be the answer. However, before building a pond, be sure to check state and local safety regulations about pond construction.

Ponding surface water. Small diversion ditches will channel surface water off the lawn or driveway. In developed residential areas, these structures usually are installed near property lines, or in back of or alongside houses.

Generally, yards should be graded so the surface water drains away from the house. A minimum grade of one foot in 100 feet is sufficient.

Installing downspouts to control roof water may prevent ponding in low areas of the yard. Downspouts can empty into a subsurface drain or into dry wells that carry the water away from the house.

Poor soil permeability. Some homesites have a dense layer of clay soil that restricts the flow of water and creates puddles or ponds.

If the dense layer is near the surface, a small trench can be dug through the layer and filled with sand, gravel or other coarse material to improve the drainage in a low-lying wet spot.

For large areas, subsurface drains four to six inches in diameter at a depth of two to five feet may be necessary. They should be packed with six to 12 inches of gravel. If possible, sand and gravel should be used to back fill the drain trench to within a foot of the ground surface.

Even on well-drained soil, heavy foot traffic during rainy periods will compact the soil and reduce its permeability. Restricting foot traffic in the wet yard helps prevent soil compaction.

Energy saving suggestions from OSU

Q. How often should I clean my chimney? One neighbor suggested a once a year and another said to do it after burning three cords of wood.

A. Clean it when a quarter-inch of creosote accumulates on the interior walls of the chimney. How quickly that thickness develops depends on your wood stove, the type and location of the chimney and if you keep a fire going for long periods of time.

Inspect a newly cleaned chimney every two weeks until you learn how fast creosote builds up. This will give you an idea of how often to clean your chimney.

To aid in visually checking stove pipe and metal chimneys, you may want to install a cleanout tee. It can replace the lowest elbow in the connecting pipe, or the lowest pipe section of a metal chimney. Masonry chimneys usually have a cleanout door giving access to the bottom of the chimney.

Check the chimney and stove pipe by looking into the cleanout using a flashlight and mirror as necessary.

Q. We heat with a heat pump.

My wife was told that all registers in all rooms should remain open for maximum efficiency. Can't we save money by closing off an unused room or two?

A. There's no simple answer to your question. Heat pump manufacturer's recommend that at least 400 cubic feet of air per minute flow through your heating system for each ton of heat pump capacity. If you shut some of the registers, two things will happen: air flow and heat pump efficiency both will decrease. How much, depends on your system.

Manufacturers recommend not shutting registers for two main reasons:

Your system probably is already designed for the optimum air flow.

If you reduce air flow too much you can damage the compressor. If there isn't enough air flow to carry away the heat, the compressor can overheat. A similar product can occur when you air condition.

You may be able to save some money without problems, particularly if your heat pump was installed with a generous air supply. You could try (against most manufac-

turers recommendations) to close the registers in one or two rooms. Look carefully at two things: air supply temperature and energy savings.

With a thermometer, measure the temperature of the air coming out of a register in one of the rooms not closed off. If the temperature while the heat pump is heating increases more than a couple of degrees after you've closed a register, check with a heating contractor to be sure you aren't damaging the compressor.

To check your energy savings, record the reading on your electric meter at the same time each day. If the weather is about the same, and you use less electricity with a few registers closed, enjoy the savings.

A final caution: If closing one or two registers changes the supply air temperature more than a couple of degrees, or the noise from the open register increases, check with a heating contractor. Having to replace the compressor would more than offset any savings.

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Good management means using resources effectively to obtain the maximum comfort, convenience, pleasure and satisfaction from your energy investment.

Wrap water heater tank with insulation if located in an unheated space.

Insulate accessible hot water pipes passing through unheated space.

Install water flow restrictors in showerheads and sink faucets.

Vacuum or brush dust and lint from refrigerator and/or freezer grill and evaporator coils every two

to three months.

Use lighting efficiently. Light the areas in your home being used. Select energy-efficient bulbs, tubes, and fixtures when replacements are made.

Use energy-powered home appliances efficiently.

Consider energy efficiency when purchasing appliances, automobiles, and other powered equipment. Consider life-time cost when making purchasing decisions.

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Install storm windows and doors to reduce heat loss and/or heat gain.

Find and weatherstrip air leaks around windows, exterior doors, exhaust fans, and attic access panels. Use good quality materials on doors and frequently-opened windows.

Caulk joints, holes, cracks and openings in the exterior skin of the house. Caulking can be applied on interior surfaces as well as exterior.

Install foam gaskets approved for the purpose on all exterior wall electric outlets and switches.

Check heat ducts in cold areas (crawl spaces, attics, garages) for leaks and insulation. Seal cracks with duct tape; replace missing insulation.

Adjust thermostat setting by 5 degrees on heating and air conditioning systems and compensate for comfort with the clothing you wear.

Use exhaust fans effectively to control heat and excess moisture at the source.

Check exhaust fans in bathrooms, kitchen, and laundry for freely-operating back draft shutters with proper seals.

Keep damper on fireplace and/or wood stove closed when not in use.

Inspect and clean or change fur-

5. Grooming: Yvonne Nathan.

6. Photography: Esther Surface (Set for a later date).

7. Knitting: Virginia Forseth.

8. Rifle: Set for a later date.

9. Rocking 4-H Livestock: Jeff Sanders, Biff Johnson, Luke Sanders.

10. Cultural & Heritage: Reggie & Beatrice Winishut, Pat Smith.

11. Arts & Crafts: Carol Allison (Community Center).

12. Skiing: Lee and Cheryl Tom, Wendell Jim.

4-H Clubs in the community

The following is a list of the scheduled 4-H clubs for the 1986-87 year. Call the Extension office at 553-1161, ext. 238 for more information.

1. Beadwork: Brenda Scott, Trish Courtney, Caroline Tohet (Community Center).

2. Boys Cooking: Arlene Graham, Tammy Hoptowit.

3. Sewing: Joni David, Jewell Minnick.

4. Holiday cooking: Orthelia Miller, Nina Rowe.

Hay list

The Extension office now has a listing of hay growers in the Central Oregon area with hay and grass straw for sale. Each card contains information about the type of hay or straw, the cost per ton, and the grower's address and phone number. Stop by the Extension office for more information or call 553-1161, ext. 238.

Baking workshops

Two "Holiday Baking Workshops" will be held Mondays, November 17 and 24 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in 4-H Center. Cost is \$2.00. Call 553-1161, ext. 238 to sign up.

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