

Keep energy use in mind when buying new appliances. You'll save money and help the environment with high-efficiency models.

Think 'green' when selecting appliances

Many homeowners want to make their kitchens as environmentally friendly as possible. But, according to Whirlpool home economists, remodeling "green" doesn't mean you have to give up all the conveniences or time-saving features you have come to expect. Many of today's appliances are far more energy efficient than you realize. No doubt about it, since refrigerators run all the time, they do use more energy than other appliances. But you may be surprised to learn how much more energy efficient they have become in recent years. In 1972, the average frost-free refrigerator used 1,986 kilowatt-hours per year. By 1994, that number

had dropped to only about 700 kilowatt-hours per year—a real savings on the utility bill. Study the yellow EnergyGuide labels when you shop to make sure you're getting the "greenest" refrigerator. These labels, mandatory on all major refrigerators beginning in 1995, give you the product's annual energy usage in kilowatt-hours of electricity and make for easy comparisons.

But, say Whirlpool home economists, if you are truly concerned about the environment, your best bet is one of the new CFC-free refrigerator systems. CFCs are chemicals believed to deplete the ozone layer, the part of the at-

mosphere that protects the earth's surface from ultraviolet radiation. For years the chemical has been used in both the sealed refrigeration system and foam insulation of refrigerators. However, a 1993 contest sponsored by the Super Efficient Refrigerator Program (SERP), a nonprofit corporation of 24 public and private utilities, helped bring the first energy-efficient CFC-free refrigerator system to the market.

These SERP refrigerators not only have all the features of other refrigerators, but 1995 models also beat 1993 federal efficiency requirements by as much as 41%.

Dishwashers are another appliance that many consumers believe are bad for the environment. However, reports Whirlpool home economists, the reality is that hand-washing dishes uses an average of 5.8 gallons of water more

than a fully loaded dishwasher. An Ohio State University study showed that washing eight place settings and serving pieces by hand used an average of 16 gallons of water. In comparison, the normal cycle, the most commonly used cycle on a new dishwasher, uses approximately 7 gallons—less than half the water of hand washing.

And, like with refrigerators, a newer dishwasher is going to keep you out the benefits of newer energy standards. All dishwashers produced after May 14, 1994, are required to use no more than 2.17 kilowatt-hours per wash cycle, an improvement of about 25% over previous standards. These new machines also use less water than older ones.

To further cut energy costs, the home economists at Whirlpool suggest choosing a dishwasher with internal heating—it ups temperatures to grease-dissolving levels so the machine doesn't place extra demands on your hot water heater.

Looking for other areas in the kitchen where you can help the environment? How about a trash compactor or in-sink garbage disposer to help reduce the volume of trash that you send to the landfill. Also, why not set up a recycling center in your kitchen. Consider buying or building cabinets with separate bins to help make sorting items easier. By locating these cabinets near the kitchen's back door or door leading to the garage, you minimize the effort required to get recyclables out of the house and to the recycling center.

So, forget the idea that you can't have a wonderful, new kitchen, full of all the conveniences you've dreamed about, and still be a good friend to Mother Earth. Today, you can have the best of both worlds!

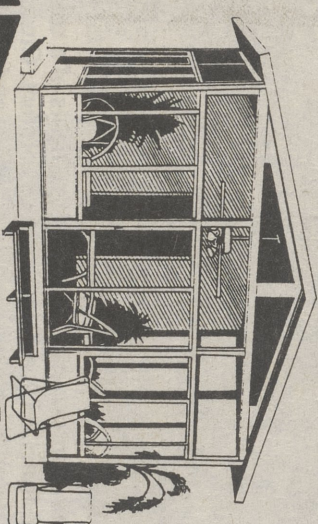
Easy energy-saving ideas

- You can see wasted food or paper, but you can't see wasted energy. It can go to waste quietly and invisibly. There's no telltale mess left behind—only a few numbers on your utility or fuel bill that could have been lower. Following are a few steps that you can take to help you save energy at home.
- **Weatherstrip.** Seal cracks around doors and windows to stop air leakage.
- **Insulate.** One of the most important single steps you can take! In addition to using windows with insulating glass and thermal breaks in their frames, be sure you have at least four inches of fiberglass insulation in your walls and six inches in your ceiling.
- **Keep doors shut as much as possible.**
- **Keep drapes closed** on sunny windows in summer; on shaded windows and at night in winter.
- **Keep drapes open** on sunny windows in winter.
- **Keep your thermostat at 68 degrees in winter** (even lower at night). For each degree below 72 degrees you set your thermostat, you save 3 percent on your heating bill. Consider using a "clock type" thermostat that automatically lowers the temperature at night. Use an electric blanket instead of heating the whole house!
- **Keep heating and cooling unit filters clean.**
- **Don't heat or cool unused rooms.** Close them off.
- **Choose window air-conditioning units with "Energy Efficiency Ratios" (EER) of 8 or better.** EER is the Btu rating divided by the wattage. Example: A 12,000 Btu unit that uses 1,500 watts would have an EER of 8.0.
- **Cut appliance use in summer as much as possible.** Be sure clothes dryers are vented to the outside. Always turn off appliances and lights when not in use.
- **Keep your attic vented.** Attics can reach very hot temperatures in summer. Consider installing an attic vent fan to flush the hot air.
- **Fix leaking hot water faucets.** One drop per second leaking from a faucet wastes 650 gallons of water a year—as well as the energy used to heat it.
- **Keep refrigerator and freezer defrosted.** Ice build-up means more work. But remember that self-defrosting units use up to 50 percent more energy than those requiring manual defrosting. Use your oven more for cooking. It stores heat so it uses less energy than surface "burners." Avoid "oven peeping" while cooking, though.

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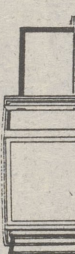
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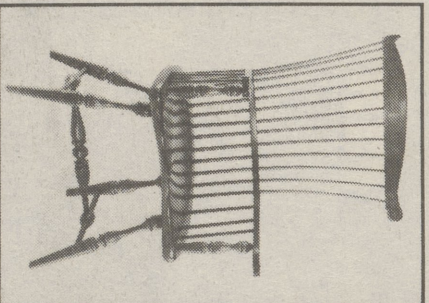


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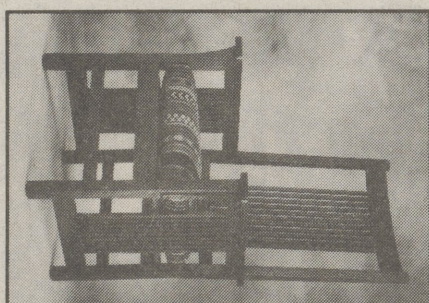
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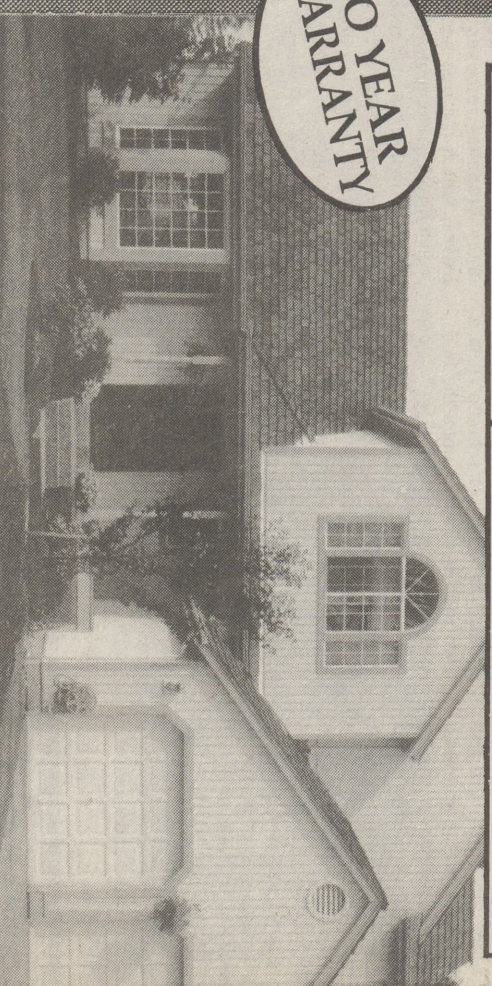
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