

Maintaining your appliances for longevity



Maintaining household appliances is not just about ensuring their longevity but also about saving you from unexpected repair or replacement costs. In South Africa, where climate conditions vary from dusty inland areas to coastal regions with high humidity, your appliances require special attention. Let's explore how to protect and extend the life of your appliances, given the challenges of wear and tear, environmental factors, and the reality that most insurers do not cover appliances against wear and tear.

Stoves and ovens: Regularly remove and clean your gas stove burners and grates to prevent the buildup of grease and food residues. Use non-abrasive cleaners to avoid damage. Many modern ovens have self-cleaning features. Utilise these functions to reduce the need for harsh chemical cleaners.

Fridge coil cleaning and sealing checks: South Africa's dust can accumulate on fridge coils, reducing efficiency. Clean the coils at the back or underneath the fridge annually to ensure proper cooling. Periodically inspect and clean the gaskets (rubber seals) around the fridge and freezer doors. A tight seal prevents warm air from entering and keeps your fridge running efficiently.

Washing Machine and Dishwasher Care: Clean the lint filter in your washing machine and inspect hoses for leaks. Clean the dishwasher filter to prevent clogs that can affect performance. Avoid overloading your washing machine and dishwasher to prevent strain on motors and pumps. Follow manufacturer guidelines for load capacity.

Gas Braai Maintenance: After each braai, clean the grill grates and remove grease buildup to prevent flare-ups and maintain hygiene. Use weatherproof covers to protect your outside gas braai from rain and dust when not in use. Consider a UV-resistant cover to prevent sun damage. Coastal areas experience high humidity, which can lead to rust on metal parts of appliances. Regularly clean and apply rust-resistant coatings to outdoor gas braais and other exposed appliances.

Insurance Coverage and Saving for Replacement

It's important to note that most insurers do not cover appliances against wear and tear. This underscores the significance of proactive maintenance to avoid unexpected expenses due to poor appliance upkeep. To further protect your financial well-being, consider setting up a savings account dedicated to replacing appliances when needed. Planning ahead ensures that you're prepared for unforeseen circumstances and can comfortably maintain your appliances, making them last longer.

By following these maintenance practices, you not only extend the lifespan of your appliances but also ensure they perform efficiently. Whether you're enjoying a traditional South African braai or keeping your indoor appliances in top shape, thoughtful maintenance saves you money and keeps your appliances functioning at their best.