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“Green” Homes: Making the Switch to Energy-Efficient Appliances

Making your home more environmentally friendly can save you money on your annual energy bill

WACO, Texas (June 4, 2007) – What’s your home doing to help the environment? If it’s time to replace one of your old appliances, look for a model with a high energy efficiency rating. You’ll be reducing your impact on the environment and lowering your energy bill at the same time.

“Every year appliances are becoming more energy efficient,” says Doug Rogers, president of Mr. Appliance Corp. “Depending on the model, the energy savings could offset the cost of the new appliance in a few years.”

This is especially true for refrigerators and freezers. After air conditioners, they typically use the most power in the home. Refrigerators manufactured after 2001 use at least 30 percent less energy than models made in the 1990s or earlier. It’s possible to save more than \$60 on your annual utility costs by just replacing the refrigerator and freezer. If your refrigerator is more than 10 years old and needs repair, it may be time to look into a more energy-efficient model.

When shopping for a new appliance, look for models that have an Energy Star rating. The Environmental Protection Agency provides an Energy Star rating on more than 30 product categories and thousands of individual models. The EPA tests all major appliances and gives Energy Star status only if they exceed the federal minimum standards for efficiency.

According to the EPA, these are the Energy Star ratings for common household appliances:

- Energy Star washing machines use 50 percent less energy than standard washers.
- Energy Star dishwashers use 41 percent less energy than federal standards require.
- Energy Star refrigerators use 40 percent less energy than conventional models sold before 2001.
- For information on all Energy Star rated products, visit www.epa.gov.

“With energy costs rising, the savings on your utility bill can add up quickly,” Rogers says. “By purchasing a ‘green’ appliance, you can reduce your energy consumption without changing your lifestyle.”

Advances in manufacturing technology have reduced the cost of many Energy Star appliances since federal standards took effect in 2001. Depending on your individual situation, there may be tax rebates available for making the switch.

If you want to reduce your impact on the environment, replacing inefficient appliances with Energy Star models is a great way to start.

About Mr. Appliance®:

Established in 1996, Mr. Appliance Corp. is North America’s largest appliance repair franchise. Its franchises feature full service residential and commercial appliance maintenance and repair. Recognized by Entrepreneur magazine’s Franchise 500 list, Top 101 Home-Based Franchises and ranked Top Home Repair Franchise System, Mr. Appliance Corp. has more than 100 locations across the United States and Canada. Mr. Appliance Corp. is a subsidiary of The Dwyer Group, Inc. For more information, visit www.mrappliance.com.

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