

APPLIANCES

Modern life is filled with conveniences—smart thermostats, digital assistants, remotely controlled doors and locks—all designed to simplify our routines. While many of these devices are “set it and forget it,” routine maintenance ensures they function efficiently and last for years. Let’s take a look at the essentials in the kitchen and laundry room.

Dishwasher:

Our dishwasher is definitely an essential for me after having handwashed dishes for years. Some simple things to do to keep it in good condition are:

- Weekly: Clean the filter; Wipe down the door seals;
- Monthly: Check and clean the spray arms; Run cleaning cycle;
- Quarterly: Wash interior with vinegar solution

If you notice a stale odor after the door has been closed for a while, try leaving it ajar to let the interior dry. Using a rinse aid or salt solution occasionally can also help prevent odors.

Refrigerator & Freezer:

Routine maintenance on your refrigerator and freezer will keep your food fresh, flavorful and ready at all times. Weekly cleaning of the interior will keep the interior fresh and avoid bacteria that could grow. Cleaning up any spills and regularly tossing out expired or older leftovers will ensure this freshness as well. With that said, a full refrigerator or freezer will maintain a more consistent temperature and require the motor to work less.

Every 3-6 months, replace the filters for both the water and air. Refer to the manual for the specific filters for your appliance. Putting them on auto ship from your supplier of choice will help to remind you. We change our filters every 3 months as we fill a lot of water bottles daily.

Most “modern” refrigerators and freezers have sealed backs but if you have an older one, putting on your fall and spring maintenance schedule should be cleaning of the coils.

Oven & Stovetop:

For me, cooking is a love language, so the oven & range are workhorses in the kitchen. Maintenance on these appliances is typically light but still important.

- Weekly: Wipe down the interior oven and look at door seals; Clean the stovetop and check the surfaces for any scratches or chips if you have a glass top;
- Monthly: Run the cleaning cycle on the oven & deep clean the burners;
- Quarterly: Check gas lines for any leaks or the breaker function if you have an electric range.

Remember If you suspect an issue with gas or electrical systems, consult a qualified plumber or electrician.

Microwave & Hood:

The convenience of a microwave when melting butter, reheating leftovers at lunch, etc. is wonderful but it is so easy to have splatters inside the unit when heating foods. Making sure to clean the microwave routinely based on your usage will help maintain a clean and healthy environment in your home.

- Weekly/Daily: Wipe the interior and exterior
- Monthly: Clean filters & check door seal;

Safety Note: Never put metal in the microwave or run it empty, as this can cause arcing, damage the magnetron, or even start a fire.

Washer & Dryer:

Moisture and warmth make washing machines prone to odors. Just like the dishwasher, leaving the unit open after a cycle can help to reduce these odors and the potential for mold to develop. Periodically cleaning the lint trap and behind the rubber gasket on front load machines is necessary for this as well. Remember to check the hoses to the washer monthly for leaks. A leaky pipe can lead to deterioration in the floors or walls leading to a bigger repair issue.

Whatever type of dryer you have, clean the lint filter *every* time you run a cycle. This will help to maintain the airflow through the exhaust operating the dryer more efficiently and not overheating. At least annually, pull the dryer out and inspect the dryer vent hose and flue. Lint buildup in the exhaust system is one of the leading causes of fires in homes.

With both machines, avoid overloading them. Overloading can reduce efficiency in both cleaning and drying.

A little regular attention keeps your appliances running smoothly and extends their lifespan—ensuring they remain the “modern conveniences” we rely on. If you have questions about your appliances or any other aspect of home construction or maintenance, feel free to reach out. We’re here to help in any way we can!

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