



Trail Appliances

Your Home. Your Style.

FEATURING TIPS TO HELP MAKE YOUR BUYING DECISION RIDICULOUSLY EASY

# APPLIANCE BUYING GUIDE



# CONGRATULATIONS!

You're looking to buy a new appliance. We know it's a big decision, so we want to make it easy and comfortable for you to find the perfect appliance to fit your home, budget and lifestyle.

This buying guide will explain the terminology for different types of appliances, provide tips for choosing your new appliance, and point out some special features you might want to consider.

And remember: if you have any questions about a product, our knowledgeable Product Experts are here to help. You can also touch, test and try out our appliances in-store, to make sure they work for you. With over 50 brands and 8000 products to choose from, we're confident we have something for your budget and lifestyle.



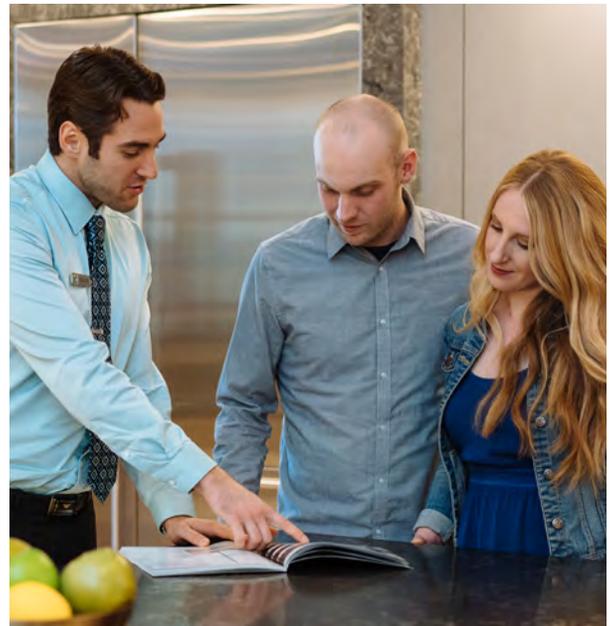
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# WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY

## WAYS TO SAVE

- **Timing:** There's no perfect time to buy appliances. Many manufacturers will drop prices around Boxing Week in July, Black Friday and Boxing Day, but will offer competitive pricing all year round. So if you need something right away, there's no need to wait.
- **Manufacturer Promotions:** Many manufacturers will offer rebates or gifts with purchase. When shopping, check with a Product Expert, who can let you know if there are any promotions offered on brands you're interested in.
- **Future Savings:** Many people choose their new appliance based on the savings at the time of purchase. But not many think about how their new appliance will save them money in the future. For example, energy-efficient appliances will save you money in utility bills, and an extended warranty will save you repair costs if your appliances have issues.



## ENSURE THE FIT

Here's how you can make sure your new appliance is the right fit for you and your home.

- **Draw a diagram** of your home with measurements of the doorways and space for your appliances.
- **Measure the available space for your new appliances.** Sometimes the space from an upper cupboard to the wall and the countertop to the wall may differ. Measure both, just in case.
- **Find out where you need venting and connections** like the water line if you want a fridge with an ice maker or water dispenser, or the drain hose for your washer—and include it on your diagram.
- **Know your home's capabilities:** your potential dryer or induction range might need a 220V grounded connection instead of the standard 110V that runs through most homes.

## STRESS-FREE DELIVERY

Trail's delivery team will handle your purchase—and your home—with utmost care. Here are some ways to make it even easier:

- **Double-check your space:** We can't stress this enough. Do your doorways, elevators and stairway corners have enough room for your new appliances to pass through?
- **Walk the delivery path and determine any potential hazards,** like extension cords or wall hangings that will need to be removed, so the delivery team can safely transport your new appliance to you.





FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR WITH EASY ACCESS DOOR

# REFRIGERATORS

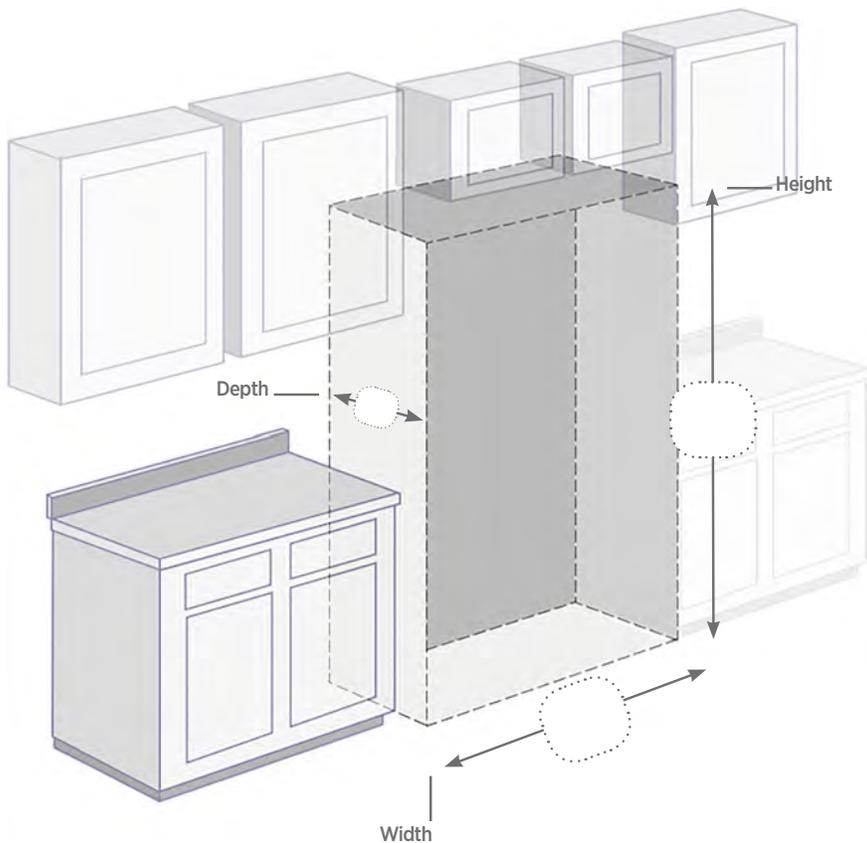
*The first step in choosing a new refrigerator is determining how much space you have for it. Once you know that, you can decide on the style and features you want.*

## PRODUCT CONSIDERATIONS

There are a variety of styles of fridges available, each with their own advantages. Some of the most popular styles are:

- **Top Freezer Refrigerators** - The most cost-effective models in the market. They're great for people who frequently use the freezer compartment.
- **Bottom Freezer Refrigerators** - For people who mostly use their fresh food compartment. The freezer is usually a drawer which allows you to easily see what's in it.
- **French Door Refrigerators** - A subset of bottom freezer fridges: their refrigerator door is split in two, so you won't let out as much cold air when you're just grabbing something quickly. French Door fridges are the most popular fridge we sell.
- **Side-by-Side Refrigerators** offer equal access to the fridge and the freezer, but their popularity has decreased.

## HOME & LIFESTYLE CONSIDERATIONS



- **Measure the space you have** for a new refrigerator, not the size of your old refrigerator. You may find you have room for something bigger and better!

- Refrigerators are most **energy-efficient** when they're full; otherwise you're paying to cool air. Buy a refrigerator with a capacity to suit your household and lifestyle.

- If the refrigerator you're choosing has an **ice maker or water dispenser**, you'll need a water line to connect to the fridge. We can coordinate the hook-up of the water line with a recommended installer.

## UPGRADE YOUR FRIDGE

Refrigerator technology and its features are constantly improving. We recommend upgrading to a new energy-efficient model so you can start saving on your utility bills. Some fridges have **Wi-Fi and a built-in tablet**, while others have NASA-level purification technology so as your food storage needs change, your fresh fruit and vegetables keep fresher, longer.

# DISHWASHERS

*Dishwashers are an essential part of any kitchen. Not only do they save time, but they save water and energy as well. They can also spark enthusiastic “discussions”: forks pointing up or down? (Tip: check the instruction manual. Each dishwasher is different, and the manual will have the proper instructions for loading, cleaning and maintaining your particular dishwasher).*

## PRODUCT CONSIDERATIONS

Today’s dishwashers use water and energy much more efficiently, but the trade-off for efficiency is longer cycles. Here are some other things to consider.

- **Stainless steel or plastic interior?** Dishwashers with plastic interiors are more cost-effective, but stainless steel is more durable, hygienic and stain-resistant than plastic. They also retain heat better than their plastic counterparts, making them more energy-efficient as well.
- **Clean your crustiest cookware:** Some dishwashers have designated areas or cycles for the most stubborn messes. If you constantly crave casseroles, you may want to find a dishwasher with this option.

DISHWASHER WITH FRONT CONTROLS



# HOME & LIFESTYLE CONSIDERATIONS

- **Will your dishes and flatware fit in your new dishwasher?** Every dishwasher has a different configuration of spacing between the tines that keep your dishes from banging against each other while they wash. Compact and European dishwashers are often designed to hold average European dishes, which are usually smaller than North American dishes. Feel free to bring some of your dishes into a Trail store to test them out in a few different dishwashers and find your right fit.
- **Need some quiet time?** You'll want to look for a dishwasher rated 44 decibels or lower. (Normal conversation takes place at 60 db.) If you have an open kitchen, you may want a quieter appliance so your dishwasher isn't competing with the television. If your dishwasher is in an enclosed kitchen, you may not care about the noise level and can focus on other feature considerations.

## UPGRADE YOUR DISHWASHER

Get more out of your appliance with a **third rack for cutlery**, an **adjustable upper rack** to accommodate any of your dishware, or **advanced technologies** (like water-leak protection) to fit your lifestyle.



# LAUNDRY PAIRS

*Laundry is a critical part of a functioning household. There are many washer and dryer options available today, ranging from a 2-in-1 machine that'll both wash and dry, to compact stackable sets that will fit in the smallest apartment, to ultra-capacity machines for large and busy families.*

## PRODUCT CONSIDERATIONS

In North America, **washer and dryer capacity** are rated in either I.E.C (European standard) or D.O.E. (U.S. Department of Energy). For example, a washer with a 5.0 cu. ft. I.E.C capacity would be approximately 4.3 cu. ft. D.O.E. Many European washers will use kilograms to rate their capacity. Make sure you're comparing laundry using the same rating system, or ask a Product Expert to help you with conversions.

Washers require hoses for water intake, and drainage; most dryers require hoses for venting. Most laundry appliances don't come with them so you'll have to purchase these separately. We advise against reusing your old hoses as the rubber in these hoses may have degraded over time.

## TYPES OF WASHERS

- **Top Load Washers** use an agitator that extends up through the middle of the wash basket. The agitator moves clothes around, while the wash basket spins to clean clothes and extract water.
- **High Efficiency Top Load Washers** are more energy-efficient and use less water than traditional Top Load Washers. An impeller creates turbulent currents to move the clothes through the water, cleaning your clothes with minimal force to preserve them longer.
- **Front Load Washers** are known for energy efficiency because they use only a third of the water a Top Load Washer uses. Front Load washers don't have an agitator taking up room so they allow for larger loads.

## TYPES OF DRYERS

Dryers use hot air to absorb moisture from your clothes while they're being tumbled. How the dryer handles the moist air determines the type of dryer:

- **Traditional tumble dryers** vent the hot air outside. This is not very energy-efficient or cost-effective in the long run, but they do have a lower purchase cost.
- **Condensation dryers** tumble clothes using air heated by a condenser. As moisture gathers in the air, the air runs through the condenser and the collected water is either stored in a reservoir or drains through a hose to pump it out. This is an energy-efficient option.
- **Heat Pump dryers** send the hot air through an evaporator to remove the moisture and then reheat the remaining air to continue drying your clothes. This is the most energy-efficient dryer option.



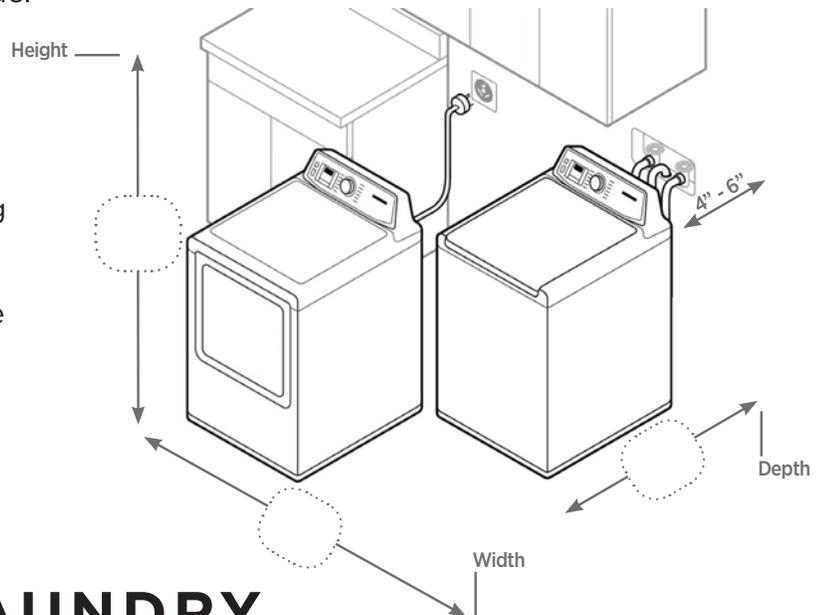
## HOME & LIFESTYLE CONSIDERATIONS

Many people look for the highest capacity laundry set they can afford, but a 1-2 person household is usually fine with a compact laundry pair. A large family running many loads of laundry per week should consider a laundry pair with a large capacity. **Laundry capacity just means how much you can wash at a time.** A compact washer can still wash your duvet, just not 3 at a time.

If you're short on space, look for a **front-load laundry pair. Many can be installed stacked or side-by-side.** If you stack your laundry you'll need a stacking kit, which is sold separately. **Top load laundry pairs** can only be installed side-by-side.

### Check Your Space!

- Confirm where venting is required.
- Allow 4"-6" behind the machines for venting and connections.
- Confirm the drain hose is within reach of the washer.
- Ensure you can provide a clear path to the laundry space for delivery.



## UPGRADE YOUR LAUNDRY

Some dryers have a **steam kit option** so you can get those wrinkles out fast when you're in a hurry! Current technology also gives you the option to **check diagnostics** on your washer through your phone, or to keep tumble-drying your clothes a little longer until you get home. You can even have your washer or dryer **send you alerts** when it's time to clean them or check the hoses.



# COOKING

*There are two main options when it comes to cooking in your kitchen: with a range (often called a stove), or with a wall oven and cooktop combination. Ranges are really two appliances in one — a cooktop and an oven. Finding the right cooking appliance for you involves considering how you cook and what voltage your home can support.*

## PRODUCT CONSIDERATIONS

### TYPES OF COOKTOPS

- **Electric coil-top cooktops** have traditional coil burners. Coil burners are durable and less expensive to replace, but the cooking surface is inefficient and doesn't provide optimal temperature control.
- **Smooth-top (or ceran-top) cooktops** have burners hidden beneath a glass ceramic surface. This makes them easier to clean and offers more cooking flexibility because the elements come in various sizes and power levels.
- **Induction cooktops** are a subset of smooth cooktops. They use electromagnetic energy and are the most energy-efficient way to cook. They also provide control and performance similar to gas.
- **Gas cooktops** look great and have fast, responsive heat control, but are not very energy-efficient.

### OVEN OPTIONS

- **Convection ovens** are growing in popularity. A convection oven, whether as part of a range or as a wall-oven, has a fan that circulates hot air within the oven cavity so the air is evenly distributed. The result is evenly cooked food, often done in a faster cooking time than normal. Without convection, the majority of the heat hovers near the heating element on the bottom of the range, and is often the reason food is cooked unevenly.
- **Steam ovens** are also an option to consider. Typically a built-in wall oven, a steam oven has a water tank to help generate steam to circulate within the oven cavity for moister cake and juicier food. Because steam only adds moisture, many ovens are actually combination-ovens, which give the option of using steam, convection or both for cooking.

## ALL ABOUT GAS

- **How much power do you need?** Manufacturers use BTUs, or British Thermal Units, to rate the amount of heat gas burners provide on their highest setting. If you do a lot of high-heat cooking or wok-style cooking, look for a range with one or more power burners (approximately 15,000 BTUs or more). For cooking soups or delicate sauces, a range with a simmer burner can provide a low, consistent heat.
- **Gas vs dual-fuel range:** A gas range has both a gas cooktop and a gas oven, whereas a dual fuel range has a gas cooktop and an electric oven. Although the cost of a dual fuel range is generally higher than an all-gas range, it provides you with the best characteristics from both gas and electric ranges: the temperature control and high-heat capabilities of a gas cooktop, combined with the consistent heat of an electric oven.

# HOME & LIFESTYLE CONSIDERATIONS

Your kitchen design will determine which style of range is best for you.

- **Freestanding ranges** have finished sides and a backsplash where the controls are located. Because of the finished sides, you can place it anywhere you want.
- **Slide-in ranges** are designed to fit between cabinets. There is no backsplash, and the controls are on the front of the range.

## UPGRADE YOUR COOKING

For an avid cook, a **double-oven or a warming drawer option** may be the right fit; however, if your meals are quick and simple, a **speed oven** — which is smaller than a regular oven and features a **combination of microwave and convection technology**, may be more convenient. Or if you decide you want a convection oven, you can get one that automatically converts your recipes for you, so you don't have to do the math yourself!



ALL GAS RANGE WITH WOK GRATE

# VENTILATION

*The kitchen is the main source of pollution inside your home. Cooking creates unhealthy heat, odours, gases, grease, steam and smoke. A kitchen range hood (also called a hoodfan) is a fan with an enclosure to capture and vent unwanted pollutants. The range hood's internal fan effectively captures the rising column of air directly over the cooking surface and sends the contaminants outside the home.*

## PRODUCT CONSIDERATIONS

**How much ventilation power do you need?** Although there are many factors for how much fan power you need to keep your home clean, an easy guideline to follow is that for every 10,000 BTU of cooking power you have, you need 100 CFM of ventilation. This means that if you do a lot of high-heat wok-style cooking you'll need a more powerful hoodfan than if you mostly cook with a longer simmer or boiling time.

**Most kitchen range hoods** are located directly over the cooking surface, like under-cabinet or wall-mounted hoods. Alternatives include downdraft and ceiling ventilation.

## TYPES OF VENTILATION



## HOME & LIFESTYLE CONSIDERATIONS

How well a range hood performs depends on its airflow (measured in CFM - cubic feet of drawn air per minute), sound, power and ducting. **Adequate ducting** is essential to properly dispel the contaminants out of the house. To **minimize sound** associated with your range hood, purchase one with a low sone rating and ensure the ductwork serving the range hood is properly sized.

**Actual performance varies** greatly among range hood models and manufacturers, so check with a Product Expert to find out which type of range hood is right for your home.

## UPGRADE YOUR VENTILATION

Some hoodfans will **turn on automatically** once they detect vapours rising from the cooktop. They can also **turn off automatically** once the area is cleared, or can **adjust the speed** of air flow as your cooking changes.

# BBQS & GRILLS

*Know your terminology? Barbecuing is cooking slowly and with the lid closed so heat encompasses your food. Grilling is done with the top up and the heat source on the bottom. The terms are often used interchangeably but each performs a different function.*

## PRODUCT CONSIDERATIONS

Barbeque types include **built-in**, **freestanding** or **portable**. From there you'll need to determine how you'll power your new grill. Most use **liquid propane** or **natural gas**, though there are also **charcoal** or **electric options**.

## HOME & LIFESTYLE CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the maintenance factor: what are you willing to give up in terms of convenience? **Cast iron grates** are great for cooking but can rust in the winter whereas **stainless steel grates** require very little maintenance. Do you want your food faster? A **charcoal grill** requires a longer preheat time than a **gas grill** in order to achieve that smoky flavor, but you'll need to remember to empty the ashes before you can grill again.

## UPGRADE YOUR GRILL

There are a lot of different features for today's BBQs. Do you need a rotisserie? Side burners? Maybe a searing station? Or would you prefer to have a built-in BBQ station complete with an outdoor mini fridge and warming drawer?

While barbecues tend to be seasonal, they start to sell quickly once the weather warms up. Dreaming of a custom-built outdoor grilling area that's ready to entertain by May? You'll want to start shopping in March as **custom pieces need to be ordered in** and that can take anywhere from 3-5 weeks.



FREESTANDING BBQ

# WE ALSO CARRY

Trail Appliances carries much more than the appliances featured in this guide. We have a wide variety of specialty appliances for your home such as trash compactors, garburators/disposers, coffee systems, ice makers, microwaves (both standard and over-the-range), wine cellars and much more! See our online product catalogue or talk to a Product Expert for more.



WINE FRIDGE

BUILT-IN COFFEE MACHINE

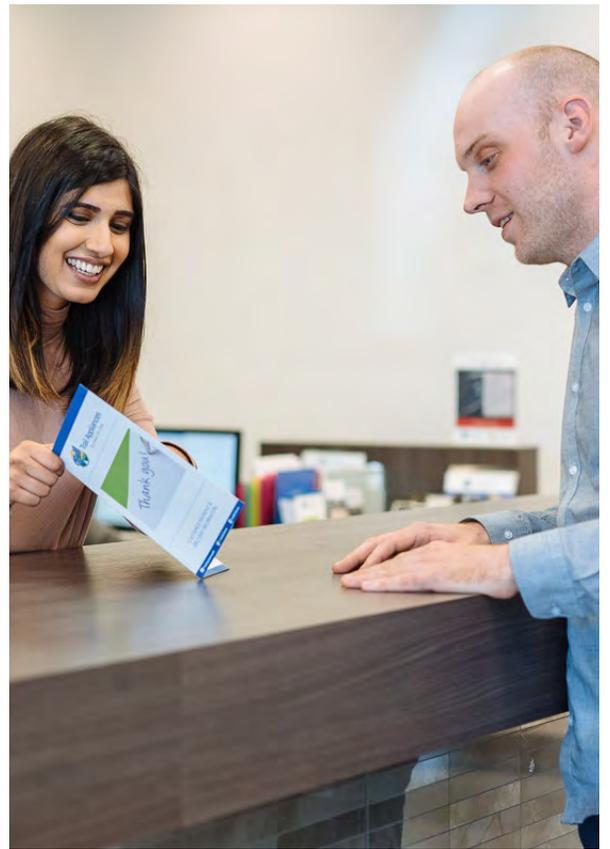
COUNTERTOP MICROWAVE

# WHY BUY FROM TRAIL

At Trail Appliances, we offer excellent everyday pricing and a unique, comfortable shopping experience. We're committed to providing you with unparalleled customer service and expert advice, so you can find the best products for your home, budget and lifestyle.

Come in and take the Trail Test Drive. We have a wide selection of appliances on display, so you can touch the controls, explore the settings and hear the appliance working, just like it would in your home. With over 50 brands and 8000 products to choose from, we have something for every budget and lifestyle.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



# NEED HELP?

## Chat or Buy Online

Can't make it in-store? Chat and buy online with our Online Product Experts from the convenience of your own home or wherever you are.

Learn more at: [trailappliances.com/live-chat](https://trailappliances.com/live-chat)

## Price Guarantee

Shop with confidence and take advantage of our excellent everyday pricing!

For full details please visit [trailappliances.com/price-guarantee](https://trailappliances.com/price-guarantee), or ask your Product Expert for more information.

“The Trail Appliances' 2019/2020 Buying Guide is a reference guide intended to increase customer understanding and know-how when it comes to shopping for appliances. While we have sought to maintain a high-level of accuracy in the preparation of this guide, we cannot guarantee there are no errors or omissions, and we will not be held responsible for any misinformation or missing information. This information is approved as of the time of printing. For the most up-to-date version of the buying guide, visit us at [trailappliances.com](https://trailappliances.com).”



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