

## If Your Appliances Could Talk

By David Hardy, Appliance Supervisor

If your appliances could talk, what would they say? Perhaps they would give you some hints on how to save money and extend their lives. Here is what you need to know about the appliances provided in student housing:

### RANGE (STOVE/OVEN)

- ⊕ All grease around the burners (or “eyes,” as some call them) should be wiped up after each cooking event, and not allowed to build up. The burner can be lifted on an electric range for better cleaning and to remove and clean the drip pan. On a gas range, the black grills the pans sit on while cooking can be removed to allow for cleaning under them.
- ⊕ The entire top on many ranges can be lifted like the hood of a car for cleaning. This should be done every three to six months. Be sure to remove the loose parts on top first.
- ⊕ On electric ranges, NEVER cover the drip pans with foil. You run the risk of creating a fire or getting a serious shock!
- ⊕ On gas ranges, never clean the gas burner (with the small holes) with anything but a damp cloth. The holes can get clogged by some cleaners, which will affect the ability of the burner to operate. (You will have to unclog the holes one by one with a straight pin if this happens).
- ⊕ The oven should be cleaned before there is a serious buildup of charred crumbs and drips. There are a number of inexpensive spray-on oven cleaners on the market that will be fine. Just be sure to wear rubber gloves. Be aware that the oven may have an odor the first time it is heated again.

### REFRIGERATOR

- ⊕ Avoid packing the freezer completely full of food. This can restrict the freezer’s air circulation and affect the refrigerator’s ability to properly cool.
- ⊕ Avoid “shopping” with the freezer or refrigerator door open. Try to get in and get out, to avoid letting warmer, humid air in (which makes the fridge work longer).
- ⊕ Clean the cooling coil periodically, located under the fridge. The dust acts a barrier to efficient cooling. Remove the panel at the bottom front by pulling forward, then use a long thin brush or vacuum attachment to remove the “dust bunnies.”

### DISHWASHER

- ⊕ Your dishwasher is probably the most energy efficient appliance in your home. On average, you can actually wash dishes for less money than hand washing.
- ⊕ Briefly pre-rinse dishes before loading them in the dishwasher. The less food on the dishes, the better the final dishwashing result.
- ⊕ To get better dishwashing results, run hot water to the sink just before starting the dishwasher.
- ⊕ Unless you are taping a new “I Love Lucy” episode, NEVER use anything but soap made for dishwashers—no matter how tempting. Otherwise you will have soap suds everywhere!
- ⊕ Adding a rinse agent to the small well in the door of the dishwasher will reduce spots on dishes.



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