

KITCHEN

planning & buying guide

SPECIAL ISSUE | MAY 2014

Dream Kitchens

**Bright ideas for
everyone!**

Exclusive

survey reveals:

**Brands
that
break**

**Our most
energy
efficient
picks**

ConsumerReports Specials

\$9.99US

43>



Display Until May 26, 2014

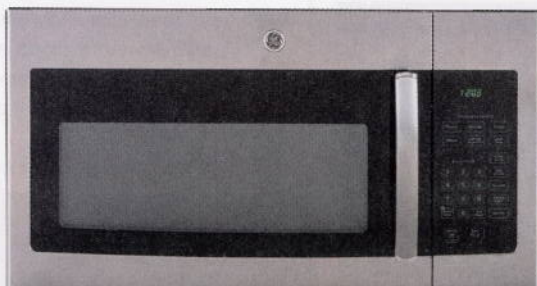
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Top-rated products

- Roomiest fridges
- Fastest ranges
- Quietest dishwashers
- Toughest countertops & more!

New appliances

use less energy and, in the case of dishwashers, less water than older models. That's another incentive to upgrade.



Microwaves

OVER-THE-RANGE

1-2 yr. REPAIR	3-4 yr. CONSIDER REPAIR	5+ yr. REPLACE
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Median repair cost \$132

TIP Some top-rated models are in the \$200-to-\$300 range, so you might be better off with a replacement if you're facing an expensive repair bill.



Before you call in a pro

A single service call can cost you \$50. So before you contact a repair shop, take the time to make sure your appliance really is broken. Read the troubleshooting section of your owner's manual and look online at the manufacturer's website for repair instructions or free technical support that can walk you through the steps to diagnose the problem and perhaps fix it. Websites such as repairclinic.com and pcappliance.com offer extensive repair advice, including videos, and can even sell you the necessary parts.

Ranges

GAS

1-3 yr. REPAIR	4-5 yr. CONSIDER REPAIR	6+ yr. REPLACE
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Median repair cost \$187

TIP Dual-fuel models are pricey, so they're often worth fixing.

ELECTRIC

1-2 yr. REPAIR	3-4 yr. CONSIDER REPAIR	5+ yr. REPLACE
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Median repair cost \$190

TIP Parts for electric ranges tend to cost less than those for gas models.



Handy? Online guides can help you save on repairs.