

# Should I replace my appliance?

## Deciding whether to replace working appliances

Did you know electric appliances could save you money?

You want to save on energy expenses but you just invested in new systems or appliances? Should you cut your losses and re-invest or wait and look forward to saving for the future?



### Why should I consider electric appliances?

Gas prices are forecasted to rise significantly by 2030. Your home gas bills will be expensive so why not consider changing to more affordable electric appliances? Electric appliances are more efficient than gas appliances. This means they use less energy than your gas appliances. Typical energy bills are made up of the following costs:

- **Space Heating:** 45-50% of your typical energy bill
- **Hot Water Heating:** 25% of your typical energy bill
- **Cooking:** 2-4% of your typical energy bill

Converting your space heater to electricity will save you the most money on your energy bills.

### How much more efficient are electric appliances?

- Electric water space heaters can be 3-5 times more energy efficient than equivalent gas appliances.
- Induction cooktops take less time to cook food and have less heat loss.

## What to Consider with Investments

A number of factors make up the life cycle cost of an appliance:

**Asset Life:** How long something will last after being used.

**Performance:** How much energy an appliance uses. Climate, usage, maintenance, and consumer habits will all affect performance.

**Initial Cost:** The upfront cost of buying an appliance. The initial cost may be expensive, but having a more efficient appliance will save you money in the long term.

**Maintenance:** will be a regular expense needed to ensure your appliance functions correctly. Maintenance will need to be done often to keep your appliance working properly.

## What are the available appliance replacements?

**Space heaters:** Split system, reverse cycle air conditioners provide heat 3-7 times more efficiently than gas heaters. There are replacements for existing space heaters, or new space heaters to install in your home. See the “Split System, Reverse Cycle Air Conditioners” factsheet for more information about which model to choose.

**Hot Water Heaters:** Hot water heat pumps are 3-4 times more efficient than gas hot water heaters because they use heat energy from the air. They can be installed in any home. Please refer to the *Hot Water Heat Pump* factsheet for more information about life cycle costs and efficiency.

**Cooktops:** Induction cooktops provide a modern alternative to gas cooktops. They cook food faster than gas cooktops while using less energy. Induction cooktops are very easy to install. For more information please refer to the *Induction Cooktop* fact sheet.

## What are the benefits of converting to electric?

- No gas service fee
- Reduced energy expense
- Greener, sustainable living style
- Long asset life for appliances

## Considerations for converting to electric

- High initial cost
- Possible loss of investment on current appliances
- Possible extra installation fees required

## What are my options?

**Convert immediately:** It will be expensive to convert all of your appliances immediately. There are government rebates that can help you save money on the initial cost. The sooner you convert, the faster you can save money on energy costs.

**Convert as your existing appliances break:** Begin switching out appliances as they fail. This would maximize your investment in your current appliances and prepare you for a future of purely electric appliances. The efficiency of appliances is only going to improve in the future.

**Convert in steps:** Start by converting your space heater to electricity. Next, invest in a water heater and when you are able to afford another appliance, your cooktop can be replaced. This gradual transition would spread out the initial investment while still allowing you to enjoy the benefits of your energy saving appliances.

The decision to convert can allow you to reduce your energy use and save money in the future. How you go about converting is a matter of your budget and preference. If you can invest right now, you can maximize your savings, but waiting may allow you to purchase even more efficient appliances that come out in the future.

