



"Your Neighborhood Appliance Specialists"

A HELPFUL APPLIANCE HINT

*PLANNING A VACATION?
WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR REFRIGERATOR?*

Here's what some manufacturers suggest:

If you will be gone for a month or less, remove food that would spoil, do nothing else and leave the controls at the normal settings.

During longer absences, do the following:

- Remove all food.
- Shut off the icemaker and the valve (usually a saddle valve) where you tapped into the water line to supply water to the refrigerator.
- Disconnect the refrigerator from the electrical outlet.
- Bleed the water from the icemaker fill line and dry the icemaker thoroughly.
- Drain the water reservoir of chilled water if you have that feature.
- Clean and wipe down the interior of the refrigerator and freezer sections and the inner doors with a mild detergent.
- Prop the doors in the open position to allow airflow and prevent mold buildup.
- When returning from vacation, discard the first two or three ice harvests from the icemaker and allow plenty of water to run through the water reservoir.

BASEBALL TRIVIA



Why is baseball the only sport in which managers wear uniforms?

In baseball's early days, the managers were also players. Even today, they still follow Rule 1.11a:

"All players on a team shall wear identical uniforms."

Before that rule in 1857, several managers, including The Philadelphia Athletic's Connie Mack and the Brooklyn Dodger's Burt Shotton, wore civilian clothes in the dugout.



Happy Summer!

8 Things Adults Learn from Children

- A king-size water bed contains enough water to fill a 2,000-square-foot home 4 inches deep.
- A 3-year-old's voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.
- If you spray hair spray on dust bunnies and run over them with roller blades they can ignite.
- When you hear the toilet flush and the words "Uh-oh", it's already too late.
- "Play Dough" and "microwave" should never be used in the same sentence.
- Garbage bags do not make good parachutes.
- Always look in the oven BEFORE you turn it on.
- The local fire department has a 10-minute response time.



ALL ABOUT... YOUR REFRIGERATOR AND SAVING ENERGY



Here are some common sense (and some not so obvious) tips on reducing the energy consumption on your refrigerator and freezer:

- Locate the refrigerator away from heat-producing appliances such as the range, the dishwasher, heat vents or direct sunlight.
- Do not block ventilation from around the front base grille.
- Let hot dishes cool slightly before putting them into a refrigerator or freezer.
- Cover liquids.
- Keep your freezer section full to near capacity so less cold air will escape during door openings. Empty space inside the freezer will be replaced with ambient, room temperature air during an average door opening. The freezer then has to “work” to get the temperature of that air back to zero. We suggest filling milk cartons $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water to act as “filler” if you cannot keep the freezer more than 70% full. This extra “block ice” also works well in coolers when required and reduces the need to spend extra money for ice.
- Wipe moisture from the outside of containers before placing them into the refrigerator.
- Avoid opening the doors too often. Monitor the kiddies (or adults) as they stand in front of the refrigerator with the door open wondering what they want to eat or drink while they “graze”!



DEBIT OR CREDIT?... More different than you think!

While credit cards and debit cards may look almost identical, not all plastic is the same. "There's a difference in how the transactions are processed and the protections offered to consumers when they use them," says John Breyault, director of the Fraud Center for the National Consumers League, a Washington, DC-based advocacy group

While debit cards and credit cards each have advantages, each is also better suited to certain situations. Since a debit card is a direct line to your bank account, there are places where it can be wise to avoid handing it over. Here are two important instances when a debit card should NOT be used:

ONLINE (also phone orders):

Since a debit card links directly to a checking account, "don't use a debit card online...you have potential vulnerability there," says Susan Tiffany, director of consumer periodicals for the Credit Union National Association. The Federal Reserve's Regulation E sets a consumer's liability for fraudulent purchases at \$50, provided they notify the bank within two days of discovering that their card number has been stolen, but this protection does not relieve consumers of hassles (i.e. trying to get money put back into an account, and the problems that a lower-than-expected balance can cause in terms of fees and refused checks or payments.)

BIG TICKET ITEMS:

“With a big-ticket item like a major appliance, a credit card is safer,” says Chi Chi Wu, with the National Consumer Law Center. “A credit card offers dispute rights if something goes wrong with the merchandise or the purchase...with a debit card, you have fewer protections,” she says. In addition, some cards will also offer extended warranties and in some situations, such as buying electronics or renting a car, some credit cards also offer additional property insurance to cover the item.

Wu does advise to, “avoid store cards with deferred interest.”

NUMBERS TRIVIA



27 The percentage increase in U.S. consumer use of coupons in 2009

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF APPLIANCE REPAIR... The 8th commandment



Thou shalt not wait until the warranty period has expired to notify the servicer of a problem or a possible problem. If there is the slightest doubt that something is not operating correctly, call the dealer and/or your servicer right away to discuss the situation.
DON'T PROCRASTINATE!



DON'T LET THOSE FARMER'S MARKET GOODIES GO TO WASTE... FRESH FOODS ≠ MORE WASTE

WASTE NOT... WANT NOT... LEFTOVER FOOD TIPS

According to a recent survey, about 40% of all food purchased by Americans gets thrown away.

Let's do some math. The average family of four spends \$170 per week on food or \$8840 per year. With a 40% spoilage rate that is more than \$3,500 per year in food that we purchase, but never get a chance to eat. THAT is big bucks!

Good refrigerator food management prevents unnecessary waste and helps save money. Most modern refrigerators have features that will preserve fresh foods for longer periods, but consumers don't seem to utilize or understand the importance of these features.

Read the owner's manual for your refrigerator closely. You will likely find that you have separate vegetable and fruit drawers that are designed to keep the proper humidity levels to preserve each. Fruits and vegetables do not like the same humidity level. In addition, you may have a separate, low-temperature drawer that will dramatically extend the life of meats, lunchmeats and cheeses.

Think about the foods you routinely throw into the garbage. With better fresh food management and using the features provided by the manufacturer of your refrigerator, you could save some significant money.

Call us and we'll explain those features you're not using.

Another way to cut down on waste is to put a fresh twist on those things you might normally throw away.

Hamburger and hot dog buns: Make croutons for soups or salads by cutting into cubes, drizzling with butter and seasonings and heating for 15 minutes at 375°F, turning once.

Eggs: Hard boil extra eggs and refrigerate for up to seven days. Use in garden salads, serve for breakfast or make egg salad or tuna salad sandwiches for lunch.

Ground beef: Cook and freeze for later use. Perhaps for taco meat or meatballs or as an addition to your favorite pasta sauce.

Vegetables: While the vegetables are still decent, chop and simmer in a pot with chicken broth, rice, beans and seasonings. Serve the chopped vegetable broth as a soup for dinner or freeze until later.





Here are some great planning and organizational suggestions that will S-M-O-O-T-H any 'bumps' along your road to summertime fun and relaxation:

Going on a trip?

START PLANNING AND GET ORGANIZED

- **PACK LIGHT!** Try to pack all of your items in one suitcase. Before you start to pack, think about the outfits that you'll need and only pack those items plus one extra outfit just in case. Get travel-sized toiletries, if possible. If you buy products from department stores or beauty stores, ask them if they have samples of the products that you buy. Take those when you travel.
- **STAY ON TRACK!** Get a GPS or make sure you have a map of the area that you're traveling through and tuck it in the glove compartment. When you need to use it, always pull over so you're not distracted while driving.
- **HAPPY KIDS = HAPPY TRIP!** Pack a child's bag if you're traveling with children. Make sure to include toys and games that don't make noise. If you're going to bring a portable DVD player or music player, make sure you toss a pair of kid-friendly headphones in the bag. Put a couple snacks that your child enjoys, a beverage in a cup with lid or cap and a comfort item such as a blanket or teddy bear in the bag.
- **DON'T FORGET YOU!** Pack an adult travel bag to keep in the front seat with you. Include a couple healthy snacks so you don't waste time pulling over for high-calorie food that will make you sleepy. Include a couple bottles of water and your cell phone. If you need to use your cell phone, pull over to concentrate on the call.
- **HAVE ESSENTIAL PAPERS!** Organize your glove compartment before your trip, especially if you usually clutter it with receipts, grocery lists and other nonessential papers. Make sure that you have your car's operating manual, proof of insurance, critical medical information, pen and paper and emergency contact numbers. You want emergency responders to have all necessary information in case of a car accident.
- **CLEAN UP!** A clean traveling environment is key. Prior to your trip make sure the car is vacuumed and free of clutter and garbage. Have a garbage bag in the car and empty it every stop you make. Throw in a bottle of hand sanitizer and a supply of travel wipes.