Baseline Home Maintenance

Appliance Buyer's Guide 2026

This guide covers refrigerators, dishwashers, ranges, washers and dryers. For each one it shows which brands and designs needed the fewest repairs, which features cause the most problems, and what to check before installation. Every figure comes from an independent source listed on the last page.

At a glance

Appliance	Lowest-risk choice	Watch out for
Refrigerator	Top- or bottom-freezer with no through-the-door ice or water. For a French door: LG, GE or Bosch with the ice maker inside.	Through-the-door ice and water dispensers
Dishwasher	Miele or Bosch. KitchenAid for best value under $1,000.	The cheapest lines, which use more plastic
Gas range	GE, such as the JGB735SPSS (about $1,199)	Feature-heavy models with more electronics
Electric range	LG, such as the LREL6323S	Extra features, which raise repair rates
Induction range	LG, such as the LSIL6336XE	Needs a heavy 240-volt circuit and magnetic pans
Washer	Top-load: GE Profile or LG. Front-load: LG.	Mold in front-load door gaskets
Dryer	Gas or electric to match your hookup. Heat pump if venting outside is hard.	Plastic or foil vent ducts

How to use this guide

Start with the type of appliance, then the brand, then the model. The type and features you choose affect reliability as much as the brand does. A simple appliance with fewer electronics and no dispensers usually has fewer things to break.

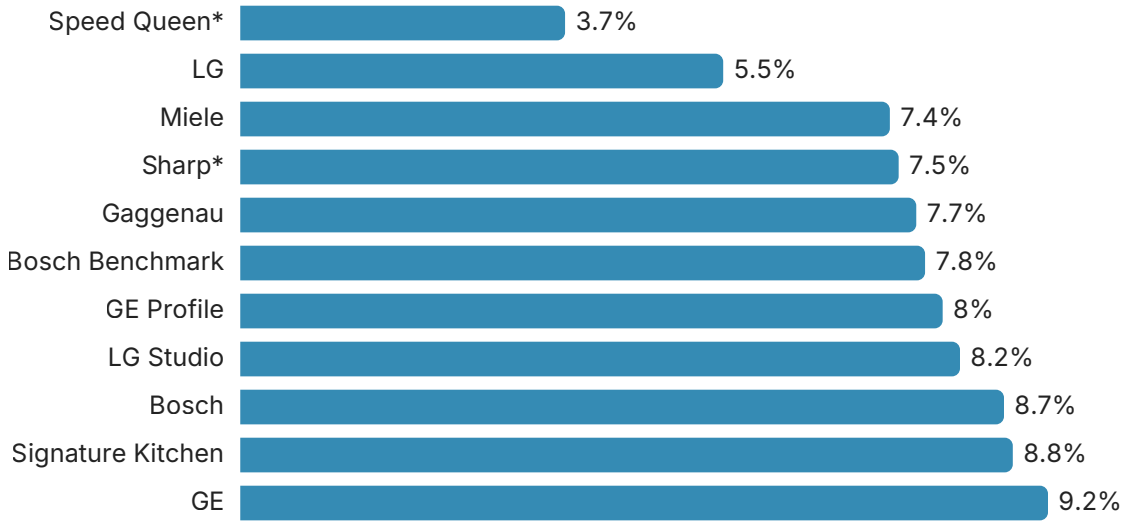
Check that someone near you services the brand and can get its parts before you buy. A reliable brand is still a problem if no one local can fix it.

Where the Numbers Come From

This guide uses two independent sources. They measure different things, so it helps to know how each works.

Source	What it measures	Limits
Consumer Reports	Lab tests of hundreds of models, plus member surveys about breakdowns and satisfaction. Gives each brand a score by appliance type.	Survey of its members; most details are behind a paywall
Yale Appliance	A retailer that also repairs what it sells. Its "service rate" is the share of units that needed a repair visit in the first year: units serviced ÷ units sold, from over 33,000 service calls.	One company, Boston area, first year only, only brands it sells

First-year service rate by brand, all appliances (Yale Appliance, 2026)



Lower is better. *Speed Queen is laundry only; Sharp is mostly microwaves. Yale reports washers, dryers and dishwashers as the least-serviced categories, and French-door refrigerators and professional ranges as the most-serviced.

Consumer Reports best brands of 2026

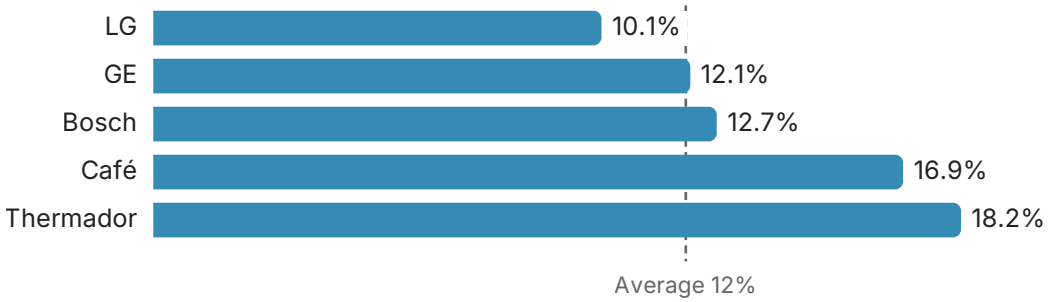
Appliance	Best brand	Appliance	Best brand
Dishwasher	Bosch	Electric range	Frigidaire
Top-freezer fridge	LG	Gas range	GE
French-door fridge	Bosch	Gas and electric cooktop	LG
Side-by-side fridge	GE	Wall oven	LG

Refrigerators

The type matters most. Consumer Reports finds top-freezer models are by far the most reliable type of refrigerator. French-door models make up more than half of new refrigerator purchases among its members, but most French-door brands score middling or worse for predicted reliability. Bosch and Fisher & Paykel are the exceptions.

Ice makers are the weak point. Consumer Reports estimates that 31% of refrigerators with ice makers have a problem by the end of the fifth year. Yale reports that ice makers are its most common refrigerator repair, especially on models with a dispenser in the door.

Counter-depth French-door refrigerators: first-year service rate (Yale, 2026)



If reliability is your priority: a top-freezer or bottom-freezer model. Consumer Reports recommends the LG LT18S2100W (about $700), a top-freezer with no dispenser or ice maker. LG top-freezers get its top rating for predicted reliability.

If you want a French door: LG had the lowest first-year service rate in Yale's data, GE has a large factory service network, and Bosch rates best with Consumer Reports. Choose a model with the ice maker and water dispenser inside the fridge, not in the door.

Features to skip

- Through-the-door ice and water, which Yale calls the biggest reliability risk
- Touchscreens, door-mounted electronics and Wi-Fi modules, which add failure points

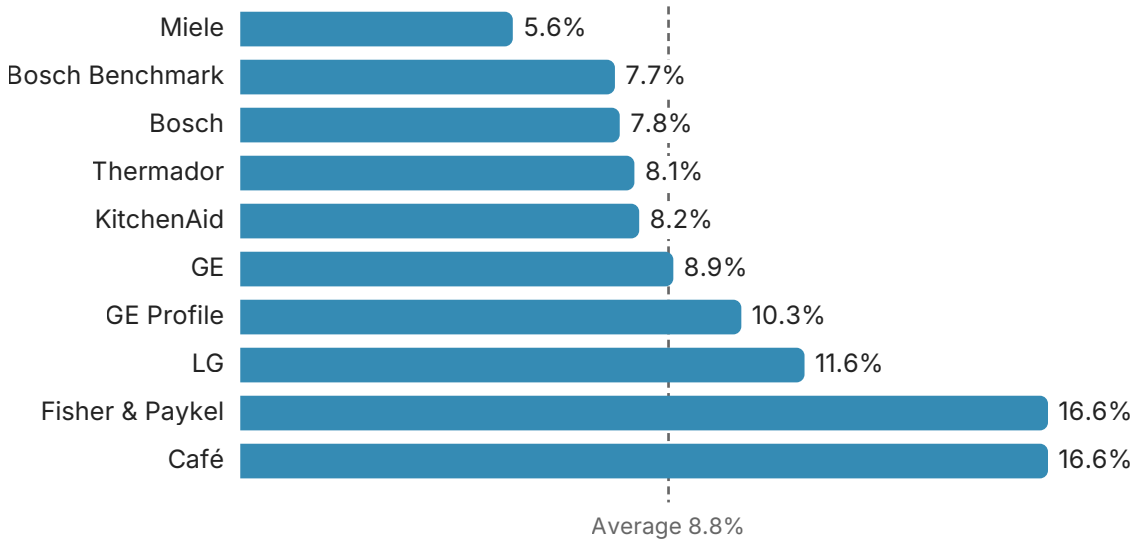
Before it's installed

Counter-depth models leave little room for error. Check the space behind and above for airflow, make sure the doors can open fully past nearby cabinets, and make sure the fridge is level.

Dishwashers

Bosch is Consumer Reports' best dishwasher brand of 2026, and Bosch models took the top 10 spots among 139 dishwashers it rated. In Yale's service data, Miele had the lowest first-year service rate.

Dishwashers: first-year service rate (Yale, 2026)



Yale reports LG's rate rose from under 4% in past years, mostly from top-rack repairs on one high-volume model, the LDPH7972S.

Lowest repair risk: Miele, though most models start above $2,500.

Quiet and good drying: Bosch, with most models running 38 to 44 decibels. Yale cautions that the entry-level 100 Series uses more plastic.

Best value under $1,000: KitchenAid. Yale recommends the KDTE224KPS and KDTM424KPS.

Keep it running

- Clean the filter monthly and don't overload the racks.
- Use the detergent the manufacturer recommends.
- Account for hard water. Along the Wasatch Front, it matters (see the Utah page).

Before it's installed

In a remodel, run the new flooring under the dishwasher so it can be pulled out later without damaging the floor or cabinets. The drain hose needs a high loop or an air gap so dirty sink water can't flow back into the dishwasher.

Ranges

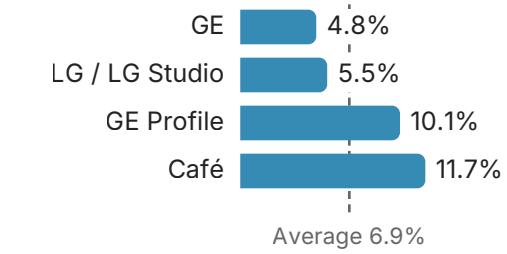
Gas, electric or induction?

	Gas	Electric	Induction
First-year service rate (Yale avg.)	6.9%	6.2% to 6.9%	8.7%
Hookup	Gas line and a standard outlet	240-volt circuit	240-volt circuit drawing close to 50 amps; some need more
Cookware	Any	Any	Magnetic pans only

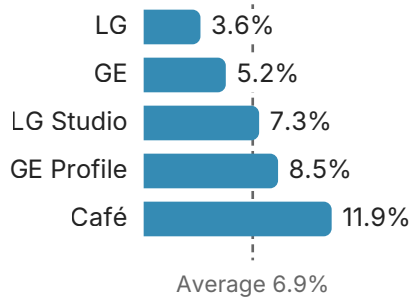
Yale gives two electric figures in two reports. In Yale's test, induction boiled water in 3½ minutes versus 13½ on a 23,000 BTU gas burner. Switching to induction can require an electrical panel upgrade, which Yale puts at $2,500 to $3,500.

First-year service rate by brand (Yale, 2026)

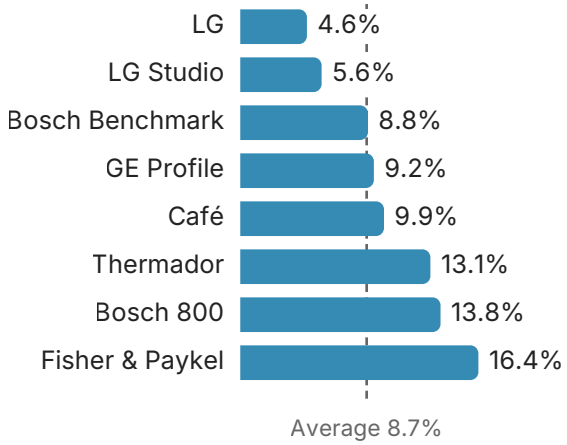
Gas ranges



Electric ranges



Induction ranges



Gas: GE JGB735SPSS, a 30-inch freestanding range, about $1,199. Most common repair: igniters.

Electric: LG LREL6323S, a 30-inch freestanding convection range. Yale's best overall pick.

Induction: LG LSIL6336XE ($1,899 to $3,299), the lowest breakdown risk in Yale's data.

Yale finds repair rates rise as features are added. Every freestanding range needs its anti-tip bracket installed.

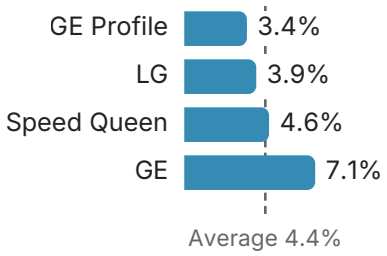
Washers and Dryers

Top-load or front-load?

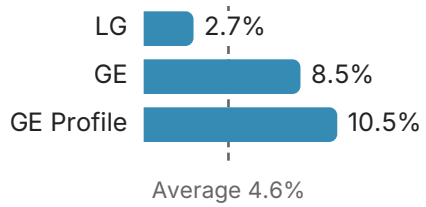
	Top-load	Front-load
First-year service rate	4.4%	4.6%
Water per load	About 30 to 40 gallons	About 10 to 14 gallons
Spin speed	About 700 to 850 RPM	About 1,100 to 1,300 RPM (drier clothes)
Mold risk	Low; no door gasket	Higher; gasket and dispenser hold moisture
Repairs	Usually simpler and cheaper	Often more expensive

Source: Yale Appliance. Yale finds the brand matters more than the type.

Top-load washers



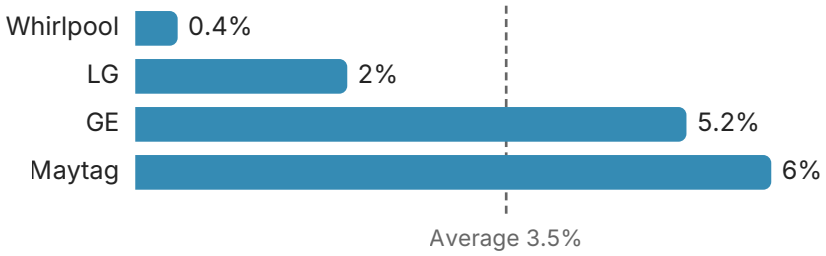
Front-load washers



Top-load: GE Profile PTW605BSRWS or LG WT8405CW. For the longest warranty, Speed Queen TR7003WN (7 years).

Front-load: LG, with the lowest front-load rate in Yale's data (2.7%).

Dryers: first-year service rate (Yale, older data: units sold Dec 2020 to Oct 2021)



Gas, electric or heat pump dryer?

Match your laundry room's gas line or 240-volt outlet. A heat pump dryer needs no outside vent and qualifies for a utility rebate (see the Utah page). Vent any other dryer with rigid or semi-rigid metal duct, never plastic or foil.

Buying in Utah

Hard water

Salt Lake area water is very hard. Plumbers in the valley report about 13 grains per gallon, and city water reports range from about 9 to 14. Anything above 10.5 counts as very hard. Hard water leaves mineral scale wherever water is heated or held.

Appliance	What to do
Dishwasher	Clean the filter monthly and set the unit's water hardness setting if it has one.
Refrigerator	Change the water filter on schedule; scale affects ice makers and dispensers.
Water heater	Flush sediment from the tank as the manufacturer recommends.
Whole home	Consider a water softener. Check your city's annual water quality report for your exact hardness.

Rebates

Rocky Mountain Power's Wattsmart program has offered rebates on ENERGY STAR appliances:

Appliance	Rebate
Clothes washer (ENERGY STAR)	$25
Dishwasher (ENERGY STAR)	$20
Heat pump clothes dryer	$150
Heat pump water heater (replacing a gas water heater)	$350

Amounts as published in 2025. The program changed its offerings in February 2026, so confirm current amounts at wattsmarthomes.com before you buy. Enbridge Gas's ThermWise program offers rebates on qualifying gas furnaces and smart thermostats.

Checklists

Before you buy

Measure twice	Measure the space, and every doorway, hallway and stair the appliance must pass through.
Match your hookups	Gas or electric, the outlet type, a water line for an ice maker, and where the dryer vent exits.
Choose fewer features	Skip dispensers, touchscreens and Wi-Fi you won't use.
Check local service	Confirm someone near you services the brand and can get its parts.
Be careful with extended warranties	Buy one only if the provider has its own technicians.

At installation

Range	Anti-tip bracket installed; new gas connector for gas models.
Dishwasher	High loop or air gap on the drain hose.
Washer	Shipping bolts removed (front-load) and the washer leveled.
Dryer	Rigid or semi-rigid metal vent, short and not kinked; new gas connector for gas models.
Refrigerator	Leveled, with airflow clearance and room for the doors to open fully.

After installation

Register the warranty and write down the model and serial number of each appliance.

Sources

Consumer Reports: Best Kitchen Appliance Brands of 2026; Most and Least Reliable Refrigerator Brands of 2026; Best French-Door Refrigerators; Best Refrigerator Brands of 2026 (reprint, May 2026); best dishwashers and fridges without dispensers as reported by Hunker and Quartz, 2026.

Yale Appliance (blog.yaleappliance.com), 2026 reports: Most Reliable Appliance Brands; Most Reliable Dishwashers; Most Reliable Top-Load and Front-Load Washers; Most Reliable Counter-Depth French Door Refrigerators; Most Reliable Gas, Electric and Induction Ranges. Most Reliable Clothes Dryers (2022, updated 2023).

Utah water hardness: Beehive Plumbing; Roto-Rooter Salt Lake City; summary of Salt Lake City Public Utilities and Jordan Valley Water reports. Rebates: Utah Clean Energy utility rebates flyer (2025); Rocky Mountain Power Wattsmart filing with the Utah Public Service Commission (January 2026).