

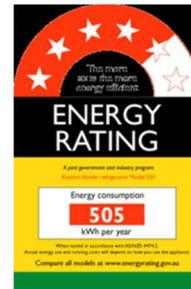
Appliances for Green Kitchens

By Danielle King



Our kitchens house some of the most used appliances in the home (think refrigerator, dishwasher, and cooking equipment), so it's worth giving thought to how to minimise their impact without detracting from their purpose.

Efficiency ratings are important but there are other things to consider. Here's a few of the key items to think about when purchasing kitchen appliances.



1. **Fit for purpose/ appropriated sized appliances.** You won't need a large dishwasher if you are a retired couple in a small home. A smaller drawer type dishwasher would be more efficient (and useable) in this situation. If you have a large family living at home, then a larger one would be more appropriate. Don't forget to check for 'eco' cycles that enable short wash programs.
2. **Opt for the most efficient model you can.** Read the Energy Rating label on the appliance or look it up on the Federal Government's website at <http://reg.energyrating.gov.au>. Give some thought to how often the appliance is on for. For example if it's a refrigerator it's always on so you'll want the most energy efficient model you can afford. Refrigerators can cost anywhere from \$80 a year, to over \$900 a year to run, so choose carefully.
3. **Consider cooking equipment.** Unfortunately there is currently no energy rating system for cookers, but gas has a lower greenhouse gas emissions factor than electricity so is a cleaner fuel choice (if you're not running on renewable energy that is). Induction cook tops are generally more efficient than other electric cook top models if you have to go that route. For ovens, fan forced ovens are around 30% more efficient than conventional units. Look for ovens with high levels of insulation and triple glazed windows for safety. Keep in mind that portable convection ovens are very efficient for cooking, they use 2/3 of the power and cook in half the time, there's also no pre-heating required!
4. **Range hoods** should be externally vented, be self-closing, have easily cleanable filters and provide a good air-extraction rate.
5. **Quality's important** as it relates to the longevity of the appliance. This minimises having to replace the appliance regularly therefore saving money and reducing waste in the longer term. There are several main stream brands available these days that have good warranties, have 'eco' cycles and some manufacturers are now mindful of creating products that have a lighter environmental footprint during the manufacturing process.

So if you remember nothing else, remember to always opt for the right size appliance for the job, purchase the most efficient model you can, go for quality and get an efficient refrigerator!

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