

KAM APPLIANCES

Tips to save money and stress buying quality appliances

By Shawn Dinsmore

Choosing the right appliances for your new or remodeled kitchen encompasses many key considerations: the long-term investment in your home, your immediate budget, aesthetics, quality, lifestyle and energy efficiency among the most important.

As a rule of thumb, appliances should account for about 15 percent of your total kitchen remodel budget, which in turn should be based on 15 percent of your home's current market value.

Here are some important factors to keep in mind when you buy your kitchen appliances:

Look for rebates. Every month, manufacturers put a lot of money on the table for you to take advantage of by offering rebates on their products. You can spot these opportunities in advertisements; you can search online; and you can ask retailers when you shop.

Don't fall for a percentage-off sale and think it has to be the best deal. Sales are great. But, check the sale price of a specific appliance offered by one retailer with the final price offered for the same appliance elsewhere. That \$780 price without a sale is still less money than 20 percent off \$1,000.

Be alert for the amounts on extra charges: Cords, water-line kits, washer hoses, etc. How much is a retailer charging you for the extras you need?

What about delivery? Does the store deliver itself, or does it use an outside company? How much does it charge? Most full kitchen orders require more than one delivery; does the price include all the needed deliveries or only one? Is it in-home delivery or curbside? How much for each removal?

After your appliance is installed. Does the store have its own service department? How big is the service department? Are the technicians factory trained? Do they service all the brands you are looking to purchase? A lot of the major brands have decreased or completely cut their service departments. Make sure that you purchase from someone who is going to be able to fix any problems that may arise themselves.

Be aware of energy efficiency. More than 70 percent of the energy used in your home is for appliances, refrigeration, space heating, cooling, and water heating. Replacing old appliances and equipment with those that are ENERGY STAR® labeled can help you save significantly on your utility bills. So it always is a good strategy to comparison shop for energy efficiency, but never more so than right now if you are remodeling your kitchen because of the government's current \$300 million rebate program connected with the federal stimulus bill.

Please visit us at KAM Appliances on the Cape at 201 Yarmouth Rd. or at www.kamonline.com. 800-649-2221