

## Appliance Milestones

- The mid-1850s saw the development of the gas range.
- By the year 1859, over 100 American families owned a gas range.
- William Blackstone built the first clothes washer. It had a box-like tub and hinged lid. This washer, powered by the operator, first appeared in 1874.
- In 1881, the first cooling system was developed. It consisted of a fan that blew over ice. The ice melted at a rate of 436 pounds per hour.
- The Chicago World's Fair of 1893 saw the introduction of the first motor-powered dishwasher.
- A cooling system was developed in 1899 which dehumidified and cooled the air. Located at attic level, rooms were cooled by pipes filled with cold brine solution.
- The electric range and the electric dishwasher made their first appearance in 1908.
- In 1910, George Hughes introduced the "electrified gas stove" at the National Electric Light Association convention.
- The electric refrigerator was introduced in 1914.
- 1921 saw the development of the automatic ironer.
- By the year 1922, air conditioning was being installed in department stores, theaters and industrial plants.
- The all white fully enameled electric range was introduced in 1924.
- The agitator, spinner-type clothes washer was introduced in 1926.
- John Hannes invented the food waste disposer in 1927.
- Room-sized air conditioner units for homes were introduced in 1929.
- In 1930, electric ranges with calrod surface units appeared and J. Ross Moore built the first electronic drying device for clothes.
- The automatic clothes washer was introduced in 1937.
- Microwave energy's effect on food was discovered in the 1940s.
- By 1944, over 85% of American households owned a refrigerator.
- 1947 saw the development of the first successful vertical axis washer.
- The dehumidifier was introduced for home use in 1952.

- 1952 was the development of the first automatic ice maker and the first portable dishwasher featuring a four-gallon water heater tank was introduced.
- In 1953, the combination washer/dryer was introduced to the home laundry product list. That same year, compact (24-inch) clothes washers and dryers appeared.
- 1954 saw the introduction of color choices in appliances.
- The microwave oven was introduced in 1955.
- In 1956, magnetic gaskets were introduced for refrigerator and freezer doors.
- Permanent Press (wash and wear) cycles were featured on new clothes washer models in 1957.
- 1958 was a great year for innovations including the introduction of frost-free refrigerators and freezers; automatic ice makers featured on refrigerators and freezers; forced air refrigeration introduced and refrigerator condenser coils moved from the back to the bottom of the unit. In the home laundry category, clothes dryers began to feature automatic dryness controls; push button programmed cycles introduced on clothes washers along with automatic bleach and fabric softener dispensers.
- Dual level ranges/ovens introduced in 1959.
- In 1960, refrigerators containing foamed-in insulation appeared and semi-conductors were incorporated into automatic clothes washers and dryers.
- By 1962, room air conditioners had a single thermostat control.
- The pyrolytic, self-cleaning oven was introduced in 1963.
- In 1965, in-door ice/water dispensers were introduced in refrigerators.
- Catalytic, continuous-cleaning ovens introduced in 1966.
- Counter-top microwave ovens introduced in 1967.
- 1968 saw the introduction of glass-topped cooking surfaces.
- Household trash compactors introduced in 1969.
- Dishwashers added silverware baskets in the door added in 1969.
- The solid-state electronic touch-controlled washer introduced in 1977.
- Magnetic induction cooking surfaces introduced in 1978 and that same year, microelectronics and microcomputers became an established trend in home appliances.
- In 1983, ice cream makers introduced on refrigerator/freezers.
- In 1984, freezers with the flash-freeze feature introduced.
- In 1985, ice cube maker/storage could keep up to 12-lbs of ice on-hand.
- By 1985, refrigerator/freezers temperatures and automatic defrosting were controlled by computer.
- In the 1990s, microwave ovens come with recipe storage and popcorn settings; refrigerators offer water filtration systems for the ice and water dispensers; front-loading clothes washers were re-introduced to wide acclaim; room air conditioners can now be operated by remote control and have digital temperature settings.