



# ARIC

appliance recycling  
information center

refrigerators ranges ovens freezers clothes washers clothes dryers dishwashers disposers compactors room air conditioners dehumidifiers microwaves refrigerators ranges ovens freezers clothes washers  
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## INFOBulletin #7

### MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE SATURATION AND LENGTH OF FIRST OWNERSHIP ASSOCIATION OF HOME APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS RESEARCH STUDY, 2001

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers conducts a study approximately every five years into the ownership trends of home appliances. This data may assist in recycling program planning as well as showing the trends of appliance use and disposal.

**Home Appliance Saturation** (The percentage of homes that own or have access to each of these appliances.)

Appliance	June 1990	Jan. 1996	May, 2001
Ranges	98.3%	98.3%	97.4%
Microwave Ovens	82.7%	90.5%	82.9%
Dishwashers	53.9%	56.9%	59.3%
In-Sink Disposers	39.5%	43.4%	42.7%
Trash Compactors	4.3%	4.1%	3.3%
Refrigerators	97.7%	97.9%	95.9%
Freezers	45.4%	42.4%	41.0%
Room Air Conditioners	32.4%	30.7%	25.8%
Dehumidifiers	16.7%	14.9%	14.1%
Clothes Washers	87.5%	90.9%	93.0%
Clothes Dryers	87.5%	90.9%	90.9%

**Access to Multiple Appliances** (Of those households that have these appliances, the percentage of households that have access to multiple appliances are shown.)

Appliance	June 1990	Jan. 1996	May, 2001
Ranges	3.7%	3.0%	3.8%
Microwave Ovens	3.7%	4.9%	4.1%
Dishwashers	1.1%	1.2%	0.8%
In-Sink Disposers	1.4%	0.8%	0.9%
Trash Compactors	0.9%	0.9%	2.3%
Refrigerators	18.6%	18.1%	15.7%
Freezers	10.0%	9.4%	10.7%
Room Air Conditioners	36.7%	38.5%	40.7%
Dehumidifiers	6.5%	7.5%	8.4%
Clothes Washers	1.9%	1.7%	1.4%
Clothes Dryers	1.9%	1.6%	2.0%

**Average Length of Ownership of Previously Owned Appliances.** "The average length of first ownership appears to be leveling off. With few exceptions, appliances have a length of first ownership in 2001 that is within one year of what was reported in 1996." This may indicate that consumers are replacing appliances prior to being at the end of its useful life.

Appliance	Years Owned in June 1990	Years Owned in Jan. 1996	Years Owned in May, 2001
Ranges	12.3	14.1	14.0
Microwave Ovens	6.1	9.3	9.1
Dishwashers	9.2	11.0	11.5
In-Sink Disposers	9.2	9.8	10.4
Trash Compactors	7.4	8.6	10.9
Refrigerators (Full Size)	12.8	14.7	14.1
Refrigerators (Compact)	6.2	8.6	9.1
Freezers	13.4	15.6	16.0
Room Air Conditioners	8.9	10.2	9.6
Dehumidifiers	9.9	9.9	10.2
Clothes Washers	11.9	13.1	12.7
Clothes Dryers	12.0	12.5	13.0

**Disposition of Previous Appliances Purchased New (May, 2001)**

"When the decision is made to replace an appliance, there are a number of options available to the owner regarding the disposition of the currently-owned unit. Some of these options involve continued usage of the appliance, such as when the appliance is sold, given away, traded in, or left in a residence being vacated. Another option is to throw the appliance away, thus ending its useful life regardless of whether or not it is still in working condition. Finally, the appliance owner can choose to keep the appliance as a second unit, a backup to the new appliance, or in anticipation of future needs.

"The disposition of appliances varies greatly by type of appliance. Not surprisingly, built-in appliances tend to be left behind in residences rather than being scrapped, kept or conveyed to the new owner."

Appliance	Recycling Facility (%)	Left at Curb for Disposal (%)	Retailer took away(%)	Left with Previous Home(%)	Sold/Gave Away(%)	Kept It(%)
Ranges	13	8	15	37	21	6
Microwave Ovens	12	23	4	11	32	17
Dishwashers	14	11	20	37	15	4
In-Sink Disposers	11	30	11	40	4	3
Trash Compactors	9	12	4	42	16	16
Refrigerators	12	7	19	23	24	15
Freezers	15	8	14	10	37	14
Room Air Conditioners	9	9	4	21	40	16
Dehumidifiers	13	24	4	14	23	18
Clothes Washers	19	11	25	18	23	5
Clothes Dryers	18	10	23	19	25	5

**Incidence of Scrap Processing Previous Appliances That Were Purchased New (1990, 1996, vs. 2001)** (Percentage of homes that sent an older appliance to municipal or other scrap processing facility. For 2001, this includes those who said they sent the appliance to the recycling facility and those who left it at the curb for disposal.)

Appliance	June 1990	Jan. 1996	May, 2001
Ranges	22%	21%	21%
Microwave Ovens	20%	26%	35%
Dishwashers	28%	28%	25%
In-Sink Disposers	45%	44%	41%
Trash Compactors	22%	22%	21%
Refrigerators	25%	23%	19%
Freezers	23%	21%	23%
Room Air Conditioners	21%	17%	18%
Dehumidifiers	31%	32%	37%
Clothes Washers	44%	39%	30%
Clothes Dryers	38%	35%	28%

**The Report**

The full report, entitled "Home Appliance Saturation and Length of First Ownership Study," is available from the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, Washington, DC. The price for one copy is \$295.00 (for shipment in the United States).

If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please telefax a request to: Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, 1111 19<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 402, Washington, DC 20036, Attention: J. Notini. Telephone: 202-872-5955; Telefax: 202-872-9354. Please include street address for shipment.