



SHIELDSTAR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE TIPS

(These tips can extend life of appliances and systems in your home)

GENERAL

- _ Change the batteries in your smoke detectors twice a year—choose family birthdays or holidays as reminders.
- _ Unplug small electrical appliances, such as toasters, blenders, etc. after using them.
- _ Inspect appliance hoses and ventilation according to owner's manuals.
- _ Clean small electrical appliances after each use; unplug and cool before cleaning.
- _ Use only distilled water in steam irons to avoid mineral buildup.
- _ Strap the water heater solidly to wall studs to prevent it from movement during an earthquake

COOKTOP/RANGE/HOOD

- _ Keep gas burners free of dirt and debris.
- _ Clean exposed metal of range hoods regularly with sudsy water—do not use abrasive pads or scouring powders, as they may scratch the finish.
- _ Occasionally clean the metal filter in warm, sudsy water. Charcoal filters should be replaced once a year.
- _ Never spray cleaners directly onto the control panel. Put some cleaner on a soft, damp rag, and then wipe the surface

DISHWASHER

Use soap specifically for dishwashers. Dry detergents are recommended by most technicians, since liquids and gels tend to leave behind residue on the dishwasher interior, heating elements, and may clog the spray arm. To help ensure clean dishes, it is best to run the faucet at the kitchen sink until the water flowing is hot to the touch. Then immediately turn on the dishwasher for hot water in ALL cycles. Even if the dishwasher comes with a soft food disposer, solid food particles should still be removed from dishes before loading. To clean and deodorize dishwasher components, pour one small bottle of white vinegar into the bottom of unit, close and latch door, and allow to set overnight. The next day, run the unit through a full cycle.

DISPOSAL

Always use lots of cold water before, during and for a full minute afterward to clear the drain line of food particles. Disposals are not intended to grind bones, fibrous vegetables, such as celery and artichoke leaves, or citrus rinds. These damage the disposal and clog drain lines.

FURNACE

Change filters twice a year. Turn furnace on 15 minutes per month throughout the summer to keep the unit lubricated and problem-free when winter arrives

PLUMBING STOPPAGES

Plumbing stoppages can be an expensive item in warranty repair costs, the most common causes being from foreign objects such as toys, pencils, diapers, tissues, hair, and even over-rim type bowl deodorants. Materials most detrimental to kitchen sinks are grease and coffee grounds, which should be discarded with regular household garbage.

WASHER/DRYER

- _ Do not overload washing machine and choose appropriate level for size of load.
- _ Heavy clothing such as jeans and towels should be spread out over two or more loads to avoid added strain to the machine.
- _ Do not spill laundry products on exterior of washer or dryer: porcelain can be damaged by the chemicals.
- _ Do not spray stain removers onto garments on top of washer or dryer: it can corrode painted or plastic parts.
- _ Clean dryer lint filter before each load.
- _ Clean out exhaust vent system at least once a year. Be sure to vent dryer outside—never into the house.
- _ Clean the washer and dryer exterior regularly. Wipe the dryer door opening occasionally. Never clean the dryer drum with flammable solvents.

HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING

- _ Have the heating/cooling systems serviced annually.
- _ Check the filters on your heating/cooling unit—clean or replace as needed.
- _ Do not operate an air conditioner unit or furnace on an extension cord! The compressor draws a lot of current and can be damaged if insufficient voltage is continually supplied.

POOLS/SPAS/HOT TUB

- _ Keep a proper water level at all times.
- _ Maintain chemical balance.
- _ Clean basket strainers regularly.

PLUMBING

- _ Repair minor drips and leaks as they occur.
- _ Avoid flushing anything but toilet paper down the toilet.

GARBAGE DISPOSAL

- _ Run a strong flow of cold water through garbage disposal throughout grinding and for at least 30 seconds after turning off grinder.
- _ To freshen your disposal, occasionally grind a half lemon or lime while running cold water.
- _ Do not put fibrous foods down the disposal, including celery, corn husks, and potato skins. Never put rice (uncooked or cooked) down the garbage disposal.

REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER

- _ Clean refrigerator compartment regularly, even though it does not require defrosting.
- _ Wipe up spills in the refrigerator promptly to avoid staining and odors.
- _ Clean coils with a condenser coil brush
- _ Once a year slide the refrigerator out and vacuum around and beneath it.
- _ Defrost freezers about once a year, before frost is 1/2 inch thick on inside walls and clean. Use a plastic or wooden scraper, not a sharp instrument.
- _ When storing items in the door, place the heaviest items closest to the hinge side; this will reduce stress on the door and inner door panel when it is opened and shut.

OVEN

- _ Clean the interior of your oven regularly.
- _ If you have a self-cleaning oven, do not use any other method to clean it.

MICROWAVE OVEN

- _ Do not use metal pans or containers with metal trim.
- _ Clean microwave oven and removable glass shelves regularly; food residue keeps reheating and can cause the glass shelves to break.
- _ Clean around microwave door to prevent soil buildup which could keep the door from closing tightly.
- _ Only use mild soap and/or baking soda mixture to clean the interior to avoid damaging the lining.