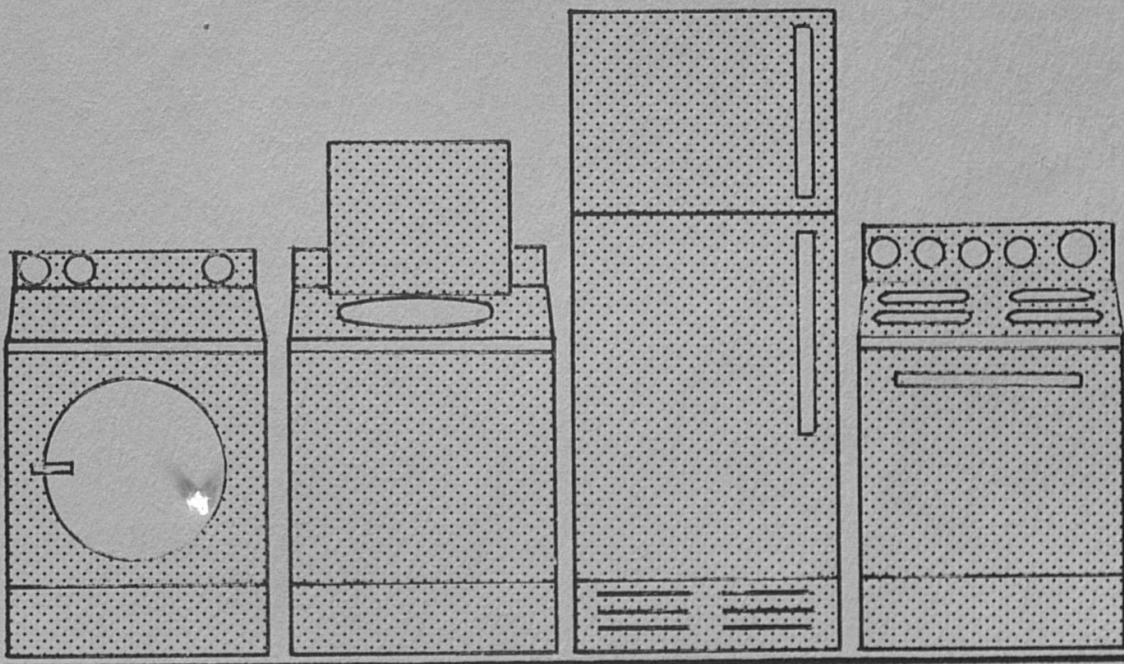


Buyer's Guide for Household Equipment

By

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Circular 623

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

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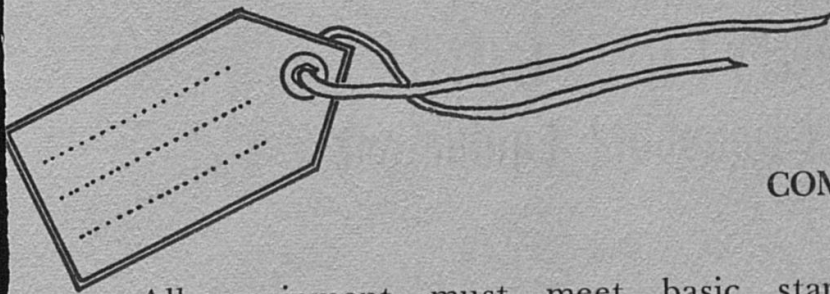
DETERMINE YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS

Every family has equipment needs, and these needs should be considered by the whole family. You, as the homemaker, will need to help your family consider:

- (1) what tasks are to be performed by this piece of equipment,
- (2) who will use it,
- (3) how it will be used,
- (4) where it will be placed.

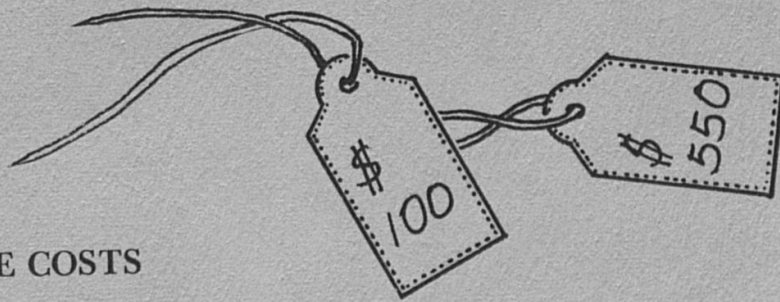
BUY--DON'T BE "SOLD"

Shop around for equipment before you settle on any certain piece. Make comparisons of the equipment at several stores. Look for information on price, performance, materials, and workmanship. Check size, shape, and both regular and special features. Ask questions of salesmen, homemakers, and other informed persons. Look for answers to your questions and needs in magazines, bulletins, and other printed material.



COMPARE FEATURES

All equipment must meet basic standards for general construction. Many pieces will have their own special features added to attract the buyer. Some of these are valuable, but some are largely for show and are not worth the extra cost. Consider the value of each special feature in relation to your money, time, and energy to be spent on it. Do you really need that special feature?



CONSIDER THE COSTS

There are four main kinds of costs involved in buying equipment:

- (1) the cost of the equipment itself,
- (2) the cost of installation,
- (3) the cost of operation, and
- (4) the cost of upkeep.

When considering costs, divide the original cost by the number of years you expect to use the equipment. Consider cost in time and energy. Don't choose equipment which takes a great deal of time and energy to keep in good condition or that takes a great deal of time to learn to use properly.

CONSIDER INSTALLATION NEEDS

Before you shop for a piece of equipment, measure the space where it is to be placed and the door through which the appliance must be moved. Don't forget to include space for the person using the equipment.

Check your supplies of water, fuel, and power. Is your supply of gas or electricity adequate and dependable? Will this equipment require special wiring? Will it cause water and disposal problems for you?

KNOW YOUR DEALER

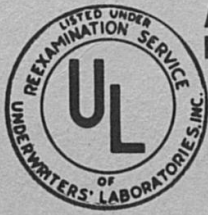
Your dealer should have a thorough knowledge of the construction, installation, operation, and care of each appliance he sells. He should be an established businessman who has a reputation for honesty and dependability.

Ask your dealer about the availability of service for the appliances. As equipment becomes more complicated and more automatic, there will be greater need of periodical services.

KNOW THE MANUFACTURER

A dependable manufacturer is interested in the user's satisfaction. He is willing to stand behind the dealer in giving this satisfaction.

A well-known brand name will assure you that this manufacturer has produced a satisfactory product over a period of years.



Approved by Underwriters
Laboratories, Inc.

LOOK FOR SAFETY

The UL seal represents the Fire Underwriters Laboratories approval of safety against fire hazards in electric, gas, and oil equipment.

The AGA star means that gas equipment meets the requirements of the American Gas Association and the American Standards Association for construction and performance.

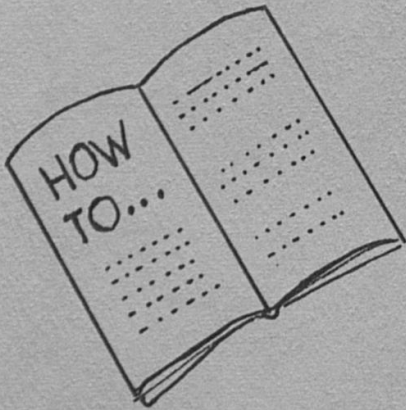
Neither of these seals will protect you if you use the equipment improperly.



READ THE GUARANTEE

Know what protection the guarantee of warranty offers. If you don't understand what it promises, get the dealer or some trusted person to explain the meaning. Be sure to fill out the warranty card and mail it to the company; otherwise, the warranty may not be in effect.

Remember that guarantees mean nothing unless you report failures in equipment.



GET INSTRUCTION BOOK

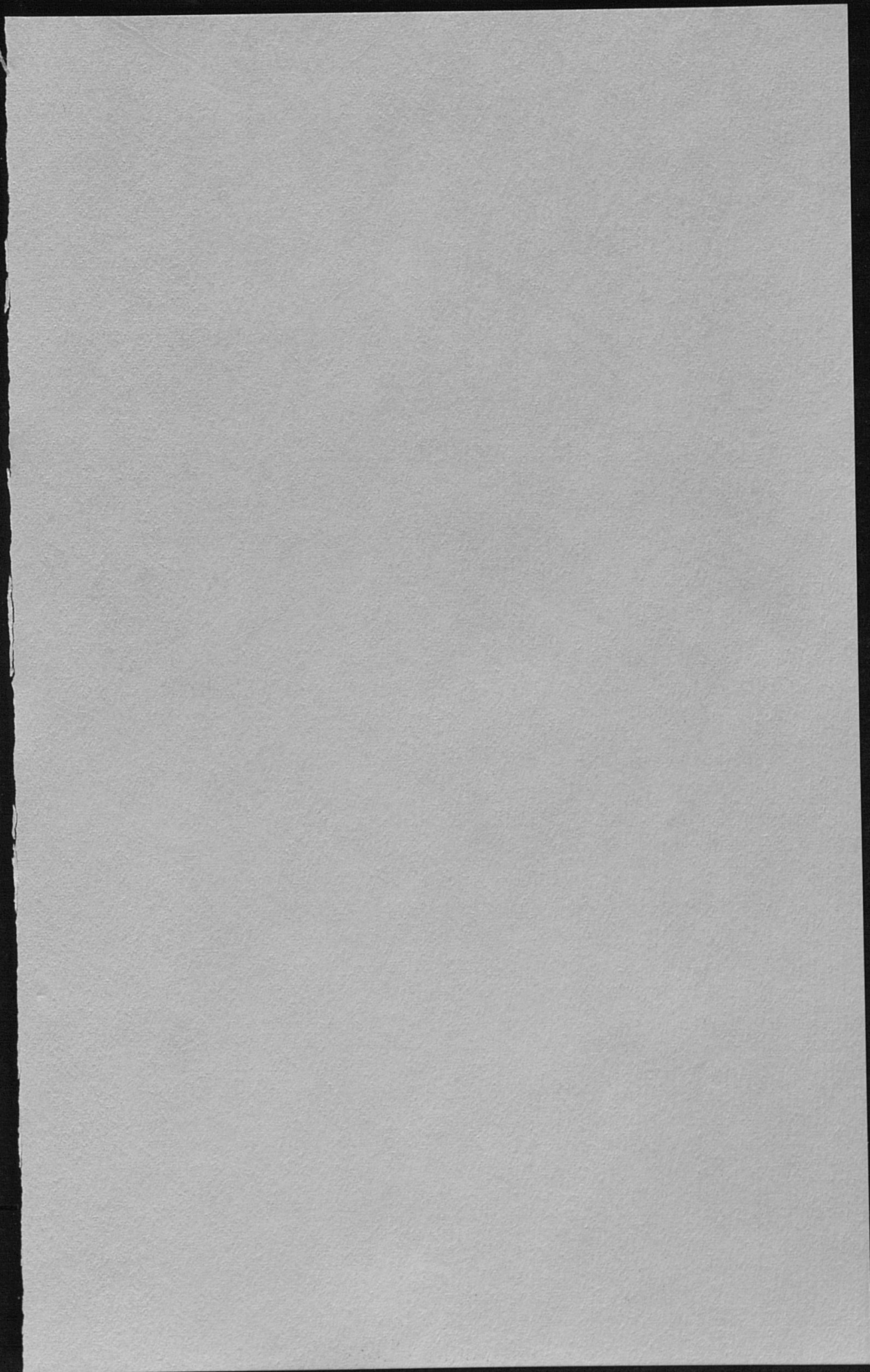
Instructions for operation and care should come with all equipment. Check to see that you receive yours. Read the instructions carefully and keep your book handy for easy reference.

DECIDE

- Is this the time to buy?
- Can we afford the appliance?
- Would we be satisfied with used equipment?
- Is there a commercial service available which would be more economical than ownership?
- Will this purchase make us happy?



(Replaces H.E. 5-710, Guideposts in Buying Equipment)



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