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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE - UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

DOCUMENTS

(0:24)

Appliances

University extension home economists warn consumers:  
Secondhand appliances are a definite risk. So if you're thinking  
of buying one, be very selective.

Make certain you know what you're getting. Look for broken  
parts and marred finishes. Try to get a written guarantee and  
shop to compare. The service life of a secondhand appliance  
usually is about half that of a new one.

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Bait And Switch

(0:25)

Bait and switch is one of the most often used consumer  
frauds. The "bait" is an advertised low-priced item. The  
"switch" is when you are encouraged to buy something else that's  
more expensive.

Bait and switch tactics can occur anywhere. This practice  
is common in the sale of carpeting, furniture, swimming pools,  
used cars, sides of beef, automobile transmission repairs, lawn  
mowers, television sets and home improvements.

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Health Hoaxes

(0:35)

Concern over health has enabled tricksters and shysters to  
fleece the public for hundreds of millions of dollars. Many people  
with aching backs have been taken in by claims for "orthopedic"  
mattresses allegedly approved by medical authorities. The  
Arthritis Foundation cautions consumers against wasting money  
on diets, bracelets, medicines and machines guaranteed to cure  
arthritis. Doctors say "sauna belts" and inflatable shorts are  
not effective for long-term weight loss.

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