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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE - UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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UM Home Economist Says:

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Consider the fuel efficiency when buying a new range. University home equipment specialist Wanda Olson says gas is about 50 percent efficient and electricity is about 80 percent efficient.

Gas ranges usually cost less to buy than comparable electric models. The cost of operation will vary with the costs of gas and electricity in any location.

Be sure to check the safety seal of the Underwriters' Laboratories for fire, electrical shock and related accident hazards. On gas models, check the certification seal of the American Gas Association for safety, performance and durability.

If you wish to compare performance or capacity characteristics, look for the certification seal of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers.

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Buying Small Appliances

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Portable appliances are popular wedding gifts. Remember --something that is just right for you may be too big, too heavy or unusable for someone else.

Storage space can be a problem. Most portable appliances are large and many are quite heavy.

Make sure that coffee pots, fondue pots or anything that could possibly tip over with hot liquid in it has good support. Check the controls to make sure they are easy to read and easy to clean.

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