

# Consumer Wise: Are extended warranties worth the extra cost?



Consumer Wise: Should you spend a little extra for the extended warranty?

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**TAMPA** -- If you're in the market for a big ticket item, you'll probably get asked if you want to buy an extended warranty at the checkout.

Kim and Larry Wiezycki opted not to spend the extra money when they bought the appliances for their newly remodeled kitchen.

The couple noticed big problems with their new appliances once they got home, especially with the dishwasher.

"It would start beeping in the middle of the night and the control panel was showing an error code. Or we would come out in the morning and there was water all over the floor," Kim said. "We didn't get the extended warranties on those appliances because it was such a huge cost."

After the manufacturer's one-year warranty expired, the couple ended up paying out of pocket for multiple repairs.

Most consumer experts agree: You usually come out ahead if you pass on the extended warranties and pay for repairs when needed. But there are some cases where the investment might be worth it, according to Bill Webber,

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the Director of Retail Operations at Famous Tate Appliance and Bedding Centers.

“Refrigeration is by far the No. 1 category. Refrigerator with dispensers,” Webber said.

And extended warranties can pay off for other high-wear and tear items like tablets, smart phones or used cars.

### **Other Extended Warranty Tips:**

- Research a product’s reliability. Those with good track records are less likely to need longer warranties.
- Use a credit card. Many automatically extend the manufacturer’s warranty.
- Don’t just buy one on a whim on the spot. Think it over and buy later if you still want it.