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Three purchases needed - immediately

Thursday, June 02, 2016

Tomorrow DH & I will be married for 49 years. There isn't much we NEED to buy anymore. You acquire a lot of stuff over a half century. In the beginning all our worldly possessions fit into the back of a 1961 station wagon. We didn't downsize after retirement. Actually our lake house has more space than we once raised 3 children in. This works out well since where we once were only 2, over time we grew to 5 then 8 and finally 14. All except my son and the oldest grandson live nearby.

Purchase #1 - A new kayak



A few growth spurts in the last year and we need a bigger kayak to accommodate long legs. Research needed - another "sit on top?" - something built for speed? comfort? both? It's been awhile since we bought one. The grandkids in the photo are 14 - 20. They like to paddle fast.

Purchase #2 - a long sleeve black top.

I just got the requirements for the Carnegie Hall performance in 19 days. Long sleeve? It's June! Stages are usually hot and I assume that will be the case here too. My closet is full of options for concert dress, but not that. I do have a "moisture wicking" long sleeve running shirt in a nice black material, but it says "Fleet Feet" across the chest. That won't do. Maybe I can find something at Goodwill?

Purchase #3 - a new washing machine

My 13 year old Whirlpool chose last Friday to die. It's not totally dead, but it refuses to spin. I can wash clothes, wring them out by hand, hang them on my little clothesline outside and hope they dry before the afternoon thunderstorms common in the south in the summer come rolling in. I would not have made a good pioneer woman.

Reading the reviews of the new "high efficiency" models that dominate the inventory has been most disheartening. I've checked most major manufacturers and found lots of these comments. Leaves clothes dirty - tears up your clothes - shakes the whole house - sounds like a lawn mower - needs

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special detergent - takes over an hour for a small to medium load - breaks down all the time.
DH the engineer has the old one apart right now. Maybe he can fix the spin cycle? If so, it will only buy me more time for research. If you have a suggestion for a good machine, please send it along.

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LOSING4LIVING

Consumer Reports.org says Speed Queen rules washing machines. Lasts 20 years plus. I don't know anyone who personally has one though.

1817 days ago



PHHHISC

Enjoy shopping.

1818 days ago



JOYCRN

I need a new washer and dryer soon. Reading all the reviews was helpful!

1820 days ago



SWEDE_SU

we bought an LG set for the house in molokai.

and all of our worldly belonging fit in a saab 99 back in 1972 when we were first married...

1830 days ago



PRNCSCUP1-2FULL

Oh! Christopher & Banks too! they have nice satin trimmed long sleeve tees or 3/4 length satin trimmed tees. Very pretty and simple.

1830 days ago



PRNCSCUP1-2FULL

I was also going to suggest Land's End for your shirt as someone else did! I have no idea regarding your other needs!

1830 days ago



A_NEW_JAN

Happy, Happy Anniversary! 49 years is something to be proud of! So many people give up at the first bump in the road. HaHa, we know there are/will be many bumps along the way!

I do hope your husband was able to fix the spin cycle on your washer because the new ones are awful! I have a Whirlpool Cabriole - top load, no agitator. I have no trouble with odors like the front loaders have (they don't dry out, so they get a musty, moldy odor, but, unless I do an added rinse cycle or physically pour more water into the tub, my clothes are dingy looking. I have stopped the cycle to look snide & it is obvious that there is not enough water to get anything clean! Just clothes sitting in gross, gray water! Also, as someone else mentioned, the tub is very deep. I am 5 ft 5" tall & have to stand on my tip toes to get clothes out of the bottom. A small step stool would be advised. A co-worker told me that some of the newer models offer an "added water" or "deep water" option, that I would highly advise. Let us know what you decide on!

1831 days ago



BEESHELL8

Happy anniversary and ugh on the washing machine. We ended up getting a Sears set that is like the LG - we actually wanted the LG but it was backordered - not crazy about it, agree that I don't think they get clothes as clean but they are water efficient which has been good for us in CA with the drought. I personally think all the bells and whistles are useless. I pretty much use 2-3 settings and there are about 15.

1831 days ago



MARYJEANSL

I concur with the washing machine comments you posted. A few years back my old one died. I had gotten it in 1997 and it lasted till 2013. The new one I replaced it with may not make it five years, partly because I may take a sledgehammer to it! I had wanted to get a similar model to my old one, with the post in the center. I was highly discouraged from doing so - at the time they only sold one model like that, because 'water-saving' was the order of the day. So I got one of the water-saving models. Yuck! It is *really* hard on clothing, even on the supposed gentle cycle, if I wash bedding - and it has a cycle designed for bedding - invariably it is unbalanced, thus, cuts the cycle short with no spin, and I have to throw dripping wet sheets into my dryer.



Congratulations on your anniversary!! May God grant you many happy years. (Something I remember well from the Byzantine liturgy.)
1832 days ago



BBEAGAN

Congratulations! Re kayaks... Personally I hate sit on top ones. I don't actually consider them kayaks. They are more like toys. (Sorry to those who love them!) They are great for people with mobility issues that prevent getting in and out of a cockpit, and at least you can get out on the water. But the beauty of a kayak is you are sitting below the water line... That's why they are so maneuverable, and so fun!

Apart from that, price and use matter. The 16-18 foot ones, usually with a rudder, are necessary for sea kayaking (or carrying camping gear). For lakes, you can go 10-15 foot or even smaller. They typically have adjustable foot pegs, for varying paddler heights. The longer and narrower the boat, the better it 'tracks', or stays on course. The short boats weave side to side with each stroke, and can feel like a cork. However, the smaller the boat, the more maneuverable. They turn fast. So they are better for dodging rocky areas or rivers with any rocks or Rapids. (Serious rapids and you want an even smaller white water kayak, with a small cockpit and a sharp up-turned nose.)

All 'recreational' class kayaks have fairly open cockpits, so easy to get in and out. Narrow, and sharp keeled, means less stable, which only matters getting in and out (like launching from a beach.) Short and wide, with a flatter keel, means more stable, but slower, clunkier, bobbing around more like a cork. We have a 10 foot and a 13 foot, and paddle a lot of lakes. I'd love to have a 15 foot, narrower and faster... But we also do some rivers, so the 13 foot is a good compromise. We'd also love to get a couple 8 foot ones for rivers... But not right now...

Have fun shopping!
1833 days ago



LIVEDAILY

Congratulations on your anniversary!!
Black shirt: try Lands' End if you can't find anything at Goodwill.
Kayak: I'd go with the sit on top model. So much more comfortable than the kind you have to slide into.
Washing Machine: We have a Whirlpool that we've had for 27 years and only needed service once. DH was thinking of getting new ones, so I researched. Automatically ruled out front loaders. DS and BIL have a Bosch, and their clothes always have a musty odor. I also didn't want a top loading high efficiency model. I LIKE the agitator! Call me old fashioned. They DO still make them, too! You just have to spend some time looking around on the internet to find them.
1833 days ago



TUTUNAN

Happy 49th to you and your DH! May you have many,many more to celebrate together.
1833 days ago



SPARKNB

Congrats! Maybe something lacy, or gauzy in black, a lovely peasant blouse? The kayak looks like great fun! Yep, my mom had the same thoughts on the newer machines, found a new 'old style' one somewhere.
1833 days ago



CD12068097

HAPPY 49 ANNIVERSARY TO YOU.

Years ago we took our kids to New York . Among the many places we visited was Carnegie Hall where our tour guide asked us to sing a song (I forget what it was) which we did. Then he said now you all can say you performed at Carnegie Hall. WE laughed and clapped ... thanks for reminding me of this nice memory. and have a wonderful trip !!!
1833 days ago



PHOENIX1949

Happy 49th Anniversary tomorrow!

Our 30ish-year-old Maytag washer/dryer needed replacing two years ago after very few repairs in their lifetime. After listening to family members with front load washer woes, that was crossed off the potential list. I miss the almond color but have gotten used to the new white ones. Went with Kenmore, Series 500, Auto Load Sensing, High Efficiency washer is top loading and has no agitator -- no missing socks. The matching Kenmore, Series 500, Auto Moisture Sensing dryer has the filter on the top which is easier to clean than the one previously located below the dryer drum. I'm an on/off, hi-med-low type person whereas spouse an IT techie and who enjoys the maximum bells and whistles -- this set came around in the middle of our two extremes.

Kayaks look like a lot of fun.

Good luck with the top shopping. Your appearance at Carnegie Hall will be here fairly quick.



1833 days ago



PHEBESS

Happy anniversary!!!!



No clue about a good washing machine - my parents always bought Sears products because the warranty was so great. (We had kitchen appliance problems three years running on Thanksgiving - promptly repaired!)

Long sleeves in NYC in June is insane!!!! Try to find cotton, especially a gauze, or even eyelet or mesh - something definitely breathable!

1833 days ago



GARDENCHRIS

had maytags for a long time then they needed repairs and the repairman said to buy Sears basic models they work fine



1833 days ago



KRISSY82

Happy (early) anniversary! Perhaps for the black top you could find something with sheer sleeves. Would that be appropriate?



1833 days ago



SUBMOM2

Happy Anniversary!



We've had a Whirlpool Cabrio for close to a year. It's a top loader. (My previous washer was a front loader and I spent way too much time cleaning it to avoid the odor issue. It died an early death.)

I love my washer. We are a family of 6 so it is a workhorse. It is deep, though, and that could be a problem if you are short or have issues bending.

Good luck with the black shirt!

1833 days ago



JEANKNEE

Happy 49th Anniversary!



Good luck with the purchases. We managed to keep our washer / dryer set operating for close to 30 years. DH & I are like your hubby. We repair when we can and did a few times.

1834 days ago



POINDEXTRA

Happy Anniversary!



We had to buy a washer/dryer when we bought our first home in 2004. I had wanted a front-loader, but they were so expensive! The salesman at Bray and Scarff (Our local appliance chain) steered me toward a Fischer Paykel High Efficiency top loader. It spins so fast the clothes end up almost dry, so they need very little time in the (very large) dryer. The set has only required one service call, and that was due to user error - I had been washing/drying our bathroom rugs at home, and the rubber backing had started to deteriorate and clogged something in the washer. The repairman removed the giant "hairball," and it's been running fine ever since. I like the set so much that when we moved into our current home, we brought the set with us, and had the movers put the new home's washer/dryer back in our old house:). It also has a "wool washables" setting that only agitates once in a while - I use that for all our delicates.

Please let us know what you do buy - I'd like to know!

1834 days ago



WILSONWR

Picking the right kayak depends on what the kids want to do. If speed is most important, than go with the sleek, long ones. I, myself, prefer one that is a little more stable - that way I can fish from it and can also paddling down streams with minor rapids. You don't have to worry about flooding the kayak in a sit-on-top model, but do realize that your center of gravity moves upward, and it may take a little time to get used to it. I adjusted, though, and love it!

As far as your washing machine, I did the same research and decided to stay away from front-loading, high efficient models. I ended up with an LG top-loading, high efficiency model. While it encourages you to use the new detergent, it allows you to use the regular clothes soap that you are used to. I've had it for over a year now, and I love it!

1834 days ago



CD8113065

Happy Anniversary! Our 48th is coming up this November.



1834 days ago



CAROLCRC

I will never buy a front-loader again - the energy savings were off-set by the cost of special cleaners, and the time to do 'shock treatments' to get rid of musty smell in the clothes.



The kayak is way more fun to think about!
1834 days ago



CD13396003

Happy Anniversary! And enjoy your shopping.
1834 days ago



DOVESEYES

LG direct drive is our latest purchase, we are in Australia so not sure if it available to you. It's great, the door opens wide, it has pre programmed settings and finally a small load button and I'm able to go out and the washing is finishing it's final cycle just as I get back. Mine also has a little tune at the end of the cycle, so I really want to go empty it :)

Happy Anniversary for the 3rd, ours is on the 4th :) 33 years together !!

Happy shopping too :)
1834 days ago



WATERMELLEN

Huge congrats on 49!! We're hitting 37 this month!

And love your celebration purchases: I'm wanting a "sit on" kayak (or two) myself! Would most definitely hit the thrift store for the black top (LONG SLEEVES??? WHAT ARE THEY THINKING????)

And as for a washing machine that is great? Our giant Samsung has been just great: has the energy saver type features, isn't noisy, great spin to near-dry . . . no complaints at all.
1834 days ago



JAMIRBLAZE

Our Samsung has done us well. I have been eyeing some of the HE top loaders for when ours dies, but the front loaders are rated highest in Consumer Reports (by just a little) and Samsung seems to be the highest rated brand overall. I don't recommend Maytag - parents have had nothing but trouble with theirs.

I like my sit on top model kayak though I'm not a serious paddler. The guy has a sit in one that cuts through the water much better. There are some beautiful ones at this outdoor store near us, but I can't justify \$1000+ for something that I don't use that often. Have fun hunting for one!
1834 days ago



GINIEMIE

I have a Whirlpool Duet, the washer sometimes goes off balance and shakes the laundry room-not much further because we are on a slab. I bought mine in 2006 and have learned to keep the front loader clean to avoid nasty smells and mold build up. Good luck, after complaining about the short life of a fridge (appliances) my sister was told that her fridge that lasted 8 years was about normal. There are no more appliances that last 15-25 years.

I know nothing about Kayaks, enjoy.
Get a top with sheer sleeves.

Have a Happy 49th Anniversary! I pray you enjoy many more.



1834 days ago



CD4114015

Congrats tomorrow on 49 years! AWESOME! You will find just the RIGHT thing I know! Agree on the CAREMONSTER!
1834 days ago



HELEN_BRU

Happy Anniversary tomorrow! May your best years still be in the future!!
1834 days ago



TORTOISE110

Have fun on your shopping 'spree!
1834 days ago



CYCLE3815

Congratulations Happy Anniversary. Have a blessed day.
1834 days ago



**50YEARSAWIFE**

Congrats on the upcoming anniversary. Hope your hubby can fix your washing machine.
1834 days ago

**ONEKIDSMOM**

At least ONE of the three is a "this will be fun" kind of shopping! I would classify the washing machine and the shirt as "ugh!" shopping (for me... hate trying to find clothing... and yikes, all the research about technology of washing machines)... but a new kayak? Sounds like playground shopping, and makes me wonder if *I* might like to take up a new sport... see how my brain



works? It's all about second childhood, friend!
1834 days ago

**TERI-RIFIC**

When we moved last October I had to get a washer and dryer. I ran into the same problem- everything had bad comments. I wound up getting a Samsung and I love it. I compare it to the Whirlpool Duet washer and dryer that was furnished in our old condo- it is light years better. It is much faster and spins clothes much dryer. I guess you don't need a dryer, but what I also like is that the matching dryer holds as much as the washer and gets it all dry. With the whirlpool set a full wash load was equal to two dryer loads. This washer has many features that I haven't used yet! (Steam, for e ample) So I can't say anything about that. What sold me on this one was the speed and it has proved to be as speedy as they say.



We bought an expensive Bosch dishwasher because my SIL and BIL raved about theirs. I loathed it so much that I actually gave it away to a church. So I absolve myself of all culpability in my washer review- I'm just sayin' -not recommendin'.

Our new house-hilariously- has a Bosch dishwasher. It was a selling feature! I will say that it is the quietest DW I ever had. Which is why I haven't given it away. It still doesn't have heated drying and no matter what the Bosch maniacs say-the dishes don't dry well.

PS. The new washer plays me a song to tell me it is finished.
1834 days ago

**ELRIDICK**

I have a front load machine I purchased 9 yrs ago. Very energy efficient, cleans well, Whirlpool Duet. My biggest advise is if you get a front load, get one without the filter that you pull out somewhere on the lower front panel. My Whirlpool flushes debris directly into the out-take so a filter like that is not necessary. Everyone I know that has that kind complain of a musty smell that they can't seem to get rid of no matter how frequently they clean said filter. The tumbling action cleans clothes very well while also using less water and has a steam heating feature to enhance cleaning. Once a month I run our whites through a "whitest whites" setting (steam feature) otherwise I just wash them normally. I can also clean a king sized bedspread with no problem in my front load washer. Fantastic. Just helped my daughter get a new model.
1834 days ago

**CHRISTYIANNONE**

Happy Anniversary! I agree with CARBMONSTER.
1834 days ago

**CARBMONSTERI**

First of all, congrats on your upcoming anniversary! Secondly, yay for Kayaks! (just tried this for the first time last summer & loved it). And thirdly, consider a used appliance store for replacing your washing machine. You can find the style machine you are used to, it won't cost an arm and a leg, and will likely last several years. Where I live, there is a store that I am able to get a great washer for about \$200, and that included delivery and them taking away the old one.
1834 days ago

**HMBROWN1**

Good luck with the new washing machine!
1834 days ago



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