

Warranties

When you make a major purchase, the manufacturer or seller makes an important promise to stand behind the product. It's called a warranty. Federal law requires that warranties be available for you to read before you buy even when you're shopping by catalog or on the Internet. Coverage varies, so you can compare the extent of warranty coverage just as you compare the style, price, and other characteristics of products.

If you are buying a car or major appliance, whether in a retail store, by catalog, or online, you may be offered a service contract. Some consumers, however, may be paying for more protection than they need.

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