

# Repair vs Replace: A High-End Appliance Decision Guide

South Florida 2026 - Sub-Zero, Wolf, Miele, Viking, and Thermador

## The 60% rule

If a quoted repair costs less than 60% of a comparable new replacement, repair almost always wins on luxury brands. The cabinets, compressors, and trim of a Sub-Zero or Wolf are built to last 20 years or more, and replacement units run \$9,000 to \$25,000. The math is rarely close.

## Five questions to ask before you decide

### 1 What is the age of the unit?

Under 10 years: lean toward repair. 10 to 15: weigh the part cost. Over 15: ask about parts availability and ongoing reliability.

### 2 Is the part still in production?

Sub-Zero, Wolf, and Miele keep parts available for 15 to 20 years. If a tech tells you a part is discontinued and a swap is required, get the model and date confirmed in writing.

### 3 What is the underlying failure?

Compressor and sealed-system failures on a 15-year-old fridge are different from a \$400 control board on a 6-year-old one. Repairs that touch the compressor on a unit older than 15 years deserve a second opinion.

### 4 Has the brand been recalled or had known defect issues?

Check the model number against [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls) and the manufacturer's service bulletins. Some Sub-Zero and Viking model years have published service campaigns for free or reduced-cost fixes.

### 5 Will the new unit fit the same opening?

Built-in luxury units are sized to your cabinetry. Replacing a 36-inch built-in Sub-Zero with anything else can cost \$2,000 to \$6,000 in millwork. That is a hidden cost most homeowners miss.

## Typical Miami service costs in 2026

\$ Sub-Zero refrigerator compressor: \$900 to \$2,400

\$ Wolf range igniter or burner: \$350 to \$850

\$ Miele dishwasher control board: \$450 to \$1,100

\$ Viking oven thermostat or sensor: \$300 to \$750

\$ Diagnostic call (waived with repair): \$95 to \$145

**Need help? Call (786) 733-9343 for same-day Miami appliance service.**

Free service call with any completed repair. 3-month warranty on parts and labor.