

# Counter-Depth Refrigerator Buying Guide

A step-by-step guide to find the right counter-depth refrigerator for your kitchen.

**YALE**  
APPLIANCE





# Overview



There are three types of counter-depth refrigerators: freestanding, professional, and integrated.

Additionally, there are various styles within each type. This guide will help you understand all your options.

# Counter-Depth Refrigerators

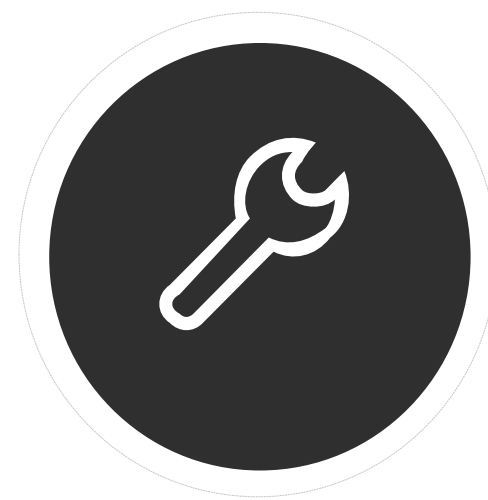
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All you need to know about the most popular standard counter-depth refrigerators

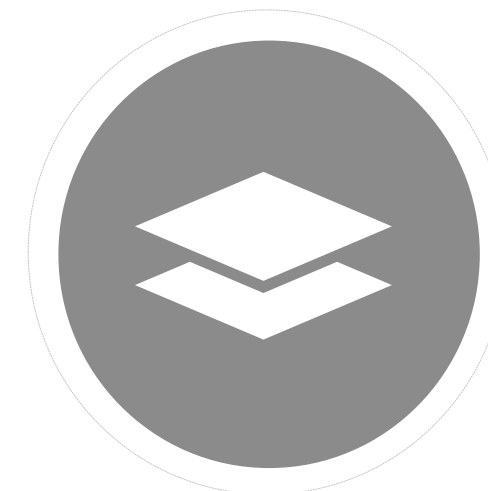
## Professional Counter-Depth

All you need to know about professional style refrigerators



## Integrated Counter-Depth

All you need to know about integrated counter-depth refrigerators



## How to Buy

Tips on how to choose the perfect refrigerator for your home



## About Yale

A little about Yale







# WHAT'S NEW

New technologies and products in the refrigerator world



# LG Counter-Depth MAX Refrigerator



The LG Counter-Depth MAX French door refrigerator is 26.5 cubic feet with six different models.

Choosing between a standard-depth and counter-depth refrigerator is no longer necessary with this larger option.



The LG counter-depth  
MAX French Door  
Refrigerator

What's New?

# Brand New Ideas for Your Kitchen



Customize the look of your LG refrigerator like never before. With the latest update, you can now upload a personal photo or design to display on the front of your fridge.

If you prefer a solid color, the LG app offers a stunning range of 60 hues to choose from, allowing you to match your refrigerator seamlessly with your kitchen décor.







What's New?

# Samsung Bespoke FamilyHub Refrigerator

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The latest Samsung Bespoke FamilyHub refrigerator, available in 2024, will be able to display photos on its front panel.

Instead of displaying a stainless front, you could decorate your refrigerator with things you love, such as pictures of your family, memories of your last vacation, or a bottle of wine.



# Refrigerator Technology



Photo Credit: Beko

Many refrigerators have two evaporators or compressors to keep the warmer air of the refrigerator from commingling with the frozen air of the freezer.

A few have ethylene filters to prevent gasses from spoiling foods to contaminate other foods in your refrigerator.

We tested different refrigerators with fruit and vegetables over four weeks. You can see the results by clicking the link below.



**Which Refrigerator Keeps Food Fresh The Longest?**



What's New?

# Ice, Ice Baby



Photo Credit: LG

You can now buy a refrigerator with different types of ice cubes.

LG has their slow dissolving Craft Ice idea for fine spirits and cocktails.



What's New?

# New Finishes



You have several options for a custom look or color. For example, a True refrigerator offers 14 finishes, six hinge options, and glass doors for a modern look. BlueStar has 1,000 color options to choose from.

Café Appliances offers five finishes and four handle options for a personalized touch at a lower cost.



**Best Alternatives to  
Stainless Steel For  
Kitchen Appliances**





# Refrigerator Problems

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# Ice Makers Problems



While refrigerators have become more efficient, they are also more prone to failure.

One common issue with French door counter-depth refrigerators is their ice makers, which can cause leaks.

Sending a frozen cube through a French-door refrigerator is still an issue.

Over time, impurities in water can build up in an ice maker, reducing water flow and scaling up on integral components



**Most Reliable Counter-Depth Refrigerators**





# Standard Counter-Depth

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Counter-Depth Refrigerators

# What is Regular counter-depth?



Regular counter-depth is quite simply a shallow refrigerator. It is also much less expensive than the professional or integrated types.

A regular counter-depth is available in many different configurations such as bottom freezer, side-by-side, and French door typically between 20 to 26.5 Cu. Ft. capacity.

The refrigerator should be purchased in stainless steel. Because the door on the refrigerator is so thick, panels do not look sharp on this unit.

**Widths:** 24", 30", 33" and 36"

**Brands:** LG Studio, Bosch, GE, KitchenAid, Whirlpool, Samsung, LG, Electrolux, SKS, Blomberg, Fisher & Paykel, Maytag, and Frigidaire

**Price:** \$1,700 - \$3,800



# Side-by-Side Refrigerators



Side-by-side refrigerators used to be the standard luxury style until French-door refrigerators became more popular.

Side-by-side refrigerators have made a minor comeback because of the larger freezer space.



Counter-Depth Refrigerators

# French Door Refrigerators



A French door is a side-by-side refrigerator with a pull-out bottom freezer.

It has proportionally more refrigerator space and has better lateral storage for bigger trays and platters.

Many French door refrigerators have a door within the door to easily access milk, juice, and condiments.



**The Best Counter-Depth Refrigerators**



# Double Drawer French Door Refrigerators



to the French door, just with another drawer, and is the newest refrigerator style available.

The second drawer will be either freezer or refrigerator depending on the brand.

The best-selling counter-depth refrigerator brands are Samsung, GE, and LG.



# 4-Door Refrigerators



You can buy many four-door refrigerators in many brands like Samsung, LG, Beko, Whirlpool, and Haier.

You can choose refrigerator or freezer in the right-hand freezer compartment and swap as needed.



# Bottom Mount



Bottom mount counter-depth refrigerators have been replaced with the French door style. It's still a popular option for professional refrigeration.

Available in larger capacities and easy access to fruits and vegetables are the main benefits.



# Side-by-Side vs. French Door



Photo credit: Houzz

French doors currently outsell side-by-sides and other bottom mounts by about 15 to 1. Better refrigeration space and a trendy appearance would be the main reasons. However, side-by-side refrigerators have more freezer space.





# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

Bosch French Door counter-depth Refrigerator at Yale Appliance Hanover





# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

Samsung counter-depth Refrigerator at Yale Appliance Hanover





# Professional Counter-Depth

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Counter-Depth Refrigeration at Yale Appliance in Hanover





# What is Professional counter-depth?



Professional counter-depths are characterized by their restaurant appearance and 84" height with the compressors on the top of the unit.

The Pro looks good in stainless or can be covered with custom panels.

**Widths:** 30", 36", 42" and 48". 36" is the most popular size.

**Brands:** Sub-Zero, Monogram, Viking, BlueStar, JennAir, and KitchenAid

**Price:** \$6,000 to \$15,000.



# Sub-Zero



Sub-Zero was the first counter-depth manufacturer with features like a vacuum seal to lock air out of the refrigerator and two compressors to manage temperature consistently.

The crispers are also magnetic, keeping the right temperature and humidity for fruits and veggies.

Sub-Zero is the only refrigerator with an ethylene scrubber to reduce food spoilage.

Last year, their new split climate system guaranteed better temperature and humidity control in the crispers.





True is the largest family-owned commercial refrigeration company based in St Louis.

Most of the components are made by True in their 1,000,000-square-foot factory.

True is a solid refrigerator in all stainless with heavy glass bins.

True offers 14 color options and six hinge styles for a unique kitchen look, but custom panel fronts are not available for True refrigerators.



# BlueStar



BlueStar is another American, family-owned company based in Pennsylvania.

All BlueStar refrigerators are solid metal and are designed to fit a commercial cookie sheet.

BlueStar has 1,000 colors and ten trims to choose from in a BlueStar refrigerator.






Viking is the other marquee name in professional refrigerators. 15 years ago they bought the tooling to build refrigeration from Amana.

The early Viking products were problematic, and they have struggled to improve quality recently. In 2013, Viking was purchased by Middleby Corp.

Viking has its “Plasmacluster” which uses ions to kill bacteria and mold inside the fridge and also features a 3-year warranty.



**Sub-Zero vs. Viking  
Counter-Depth  
Refrigerators**



# JennAir



JennAir is the upscale appliance division of Whirlpool Corp. They have pumped \$300 million into this brand over the last several years, all in cooking.

They have become incredibly promotional with their refrigerators, giving away dishwashers and rebates with qualifying purchases.

Their best piece is the 42” French door, pictured left.





# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

Sub-Zero kitchen with professional refrigeration at Yale Appliance in Hanover





# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

True kitchen with professional refrigeration at Yale Appliance in Hanover





# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

BlueStar kitchen with professional refrigeration at Yale Appliance in Hanover





# Integrated Counter-Depth

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# What Is Integrated Counter-Depth Refrigerator?



An integrated refrigerator fits flush the cabinet and becomes indistinguishable from the cabinet itself. This style needs a minimum of 25" depth.

In contrast, both the doors of regular cabinet depth and professional counter-depth will protrude outside the cabinet.

Although you can buy stainless inserts, the integrated looks best with custom panels.

**Widths:** 18", 24", 27", 30" and 36".

**Brands:** Thermador, Gaggenau, Sub-Zero, Miele, Liebherr, JennAir, and Bosch.

**Price:** \$5,000 to \$12,000 (but you may need two units).



# Integrated: Columns vs. Regular



VS

Image credit: Thermador

Image credit: Sub-Zero

## Regular

You can buy a regular unit with refrigerator and freezer, typically at 30" and 36" widths.

## Columns

Columns, or separate all freezers and all refrigerators, can be purchased at 18", 24", and 30" widths. You would typically buy two columns to complete a kitchen.



# Thermador / Bosch / Gaggenau



These three brands are part of the BSH appliance group.

Thermador has the most variety with columns and the only French door integrated at 36" wide.

They also have new stainless-steel interiors, shelving, and better filters.

Gaggenau has stainless on the inside and is more expensive.

The Bosch label is less expensive and more limited in selection.

This group sells the most integrated refrigerators because they were first to aggressively market columns and market rebates to the customer.



# Sub-Zero



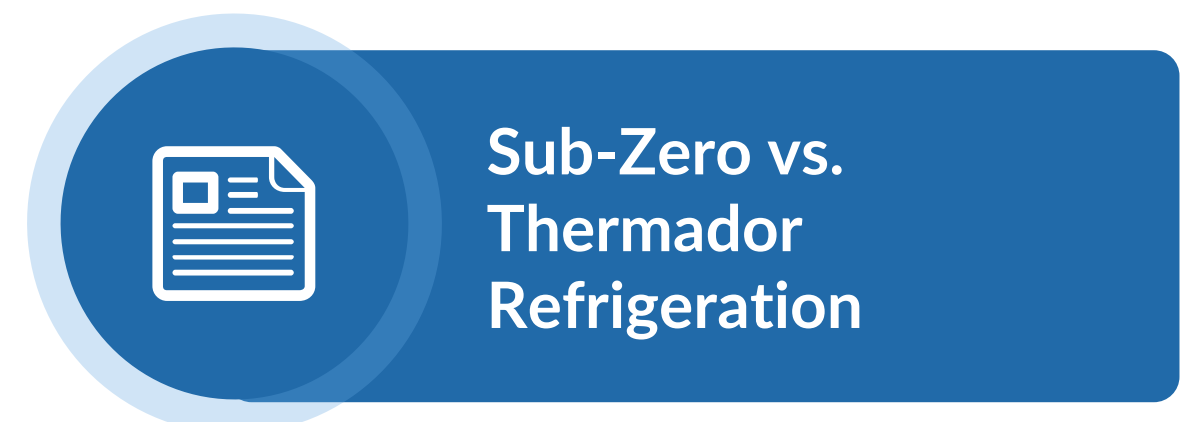
Sub-Zero has launched a new series of built-in refrigerators in different sizes ranging from 18" to 36".

The new series comes with air purification, filtering, and internal water dispensing, similar to the professional series.

Their new touch screen control panel will maintain temperature to less than 1 degree of setting.

They have integrated air and water purifying systems in their refrigerators as well.

The shelving is coated with nanotechnology to stop spills from spreading.





# Miele



Miele is another family-owned company. Miele is like Bosch and Thermador. The product is a joint venture between Miele and BSH.

However, Miele adds different lighting, controls, and the MasterChef temperature system for maintaining fruits and vegetables.



# JennAir



JennAir was the first with Wi-Fi and now offers the most zones of cooling with three zones in the refrigerator and two in the freezer.



# Signature Kitchen Suite (SKS)



SKS is the premium brand of LG. It features the largest capacity for integrated refrigerators.

Check out their 48-inch or 36-inch refrigerators with multiple drawers for a unique design.



# Fisher & Paykel



Fisher & Paykel offers a range of affordable 36-inch integrated refrigerators.

ActiveSmart technology is their hallmark, with sensors and a microprocessor ensuring even temperatures.





# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

Sub-Zero and Wolf Kitchen at Yale Appliance Hanover





# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

Gaggenau Kitchen at Yale Appliance in Hanover





# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

Fisher & Paykel Kitchen at Yale Appliance Hanover





# HOW TO BUY

Choosing between these products can be difficult, but you can't go wrong if you choose what you'll use



# How to Buy



To buy a counter-depth refrigerator, consider budget-friendly regular models over pricier integrated or professional types.

Popular brands like GE, LG, and Bosch offer good options, with LG's Counter-Depth MAX French door model being a notable choice.

Professional refrigerators offer a distinct look contrasting with cabinetry, often in stainless-steel finishes, with brands like Sub-Zero, True, and BlueStar being top choices.

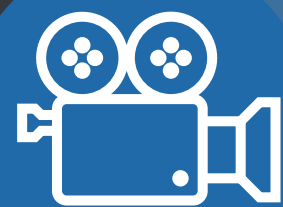
Integrated refrigerators, designed to blend with cabinetry, are best sourced from Thermador, Miele, Bosch, SKS, or Sub-Zero.



Video and Podcast Series

# APPLIANCE 101

Check out our [video and podcast series](#) to gain insight into the best brands, new trends, and emerging technology that will help you achieve the renovation of your dreams.



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Appliance 101  
Video Series



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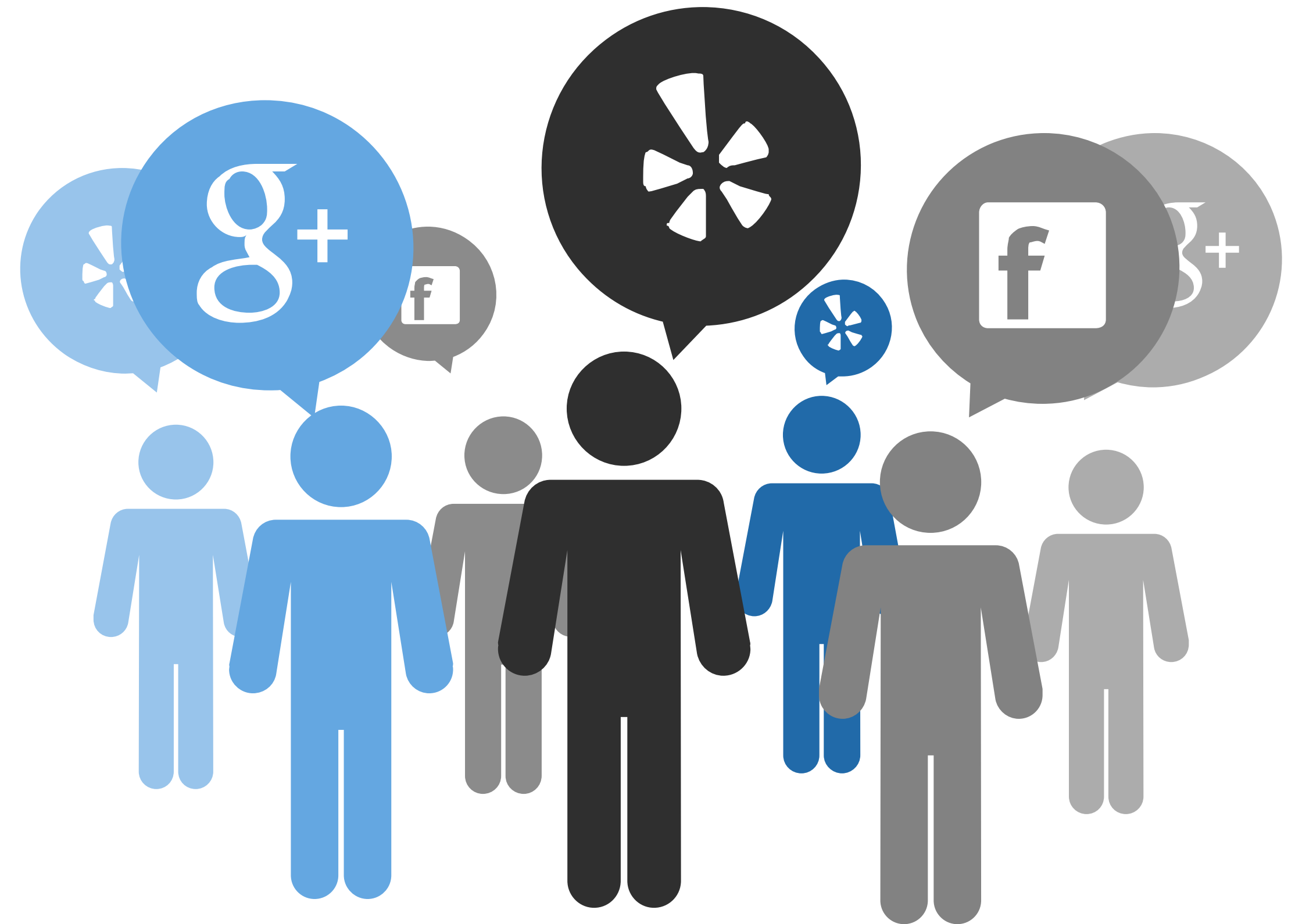
# Wisdom of Crowds



## Buy where you're comfortable

There are tons of stores and products, but a limited number of consumers. Check review sites like Yelp, CitySearch, Google and the Better Business Bureau before you purchase.

Remember, any store can sell an appliance; the biggest issues are shipping and service.





# Appliance Delivery Checklist



Our free checklist will help you avoid a delivery nightmare. At the end, you will know what to ask from your local, national, or box store appliance dealer.

Delivery is one of the biggest causes for your dissatisfaction. You need to be prepared.

In the Delivery Checklist you'll learn:

- How to choose a dealer with a first class delivery experience
- Which questions to ask to spot a quality delivery team
- The importance of online reviews to help your appliance search





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# ABOUT US

Proud to be family owned and operated since 1923.

Photo credit: Genesis Architecture / Houzz



Appliances

# About Us

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For over 100 years, Yale Appliance has proudly served the Boston area, with convenient showrooms in Boston, Framingham, Hanover, and Norton.

We understand that finding reliable appliance service can be challenging, which is why we have the largest independent service and repair department in New England, staffed by over 40 experts.

Our experienced sales team, with an average of 10 years in the industry, is here to guide you in selecting the perfect appliances for your home, ensuring a seamless and satisfying experience. Visit us and discover why generations of customers have trusted Yale Appliance for their home appliance needs.



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Now you can schedule a free, private showroom visit to discuss the needs of your project. Choose a time that works for your schedule to visit our showrooms in Boston, Framingham, Hanover, or Norton, MA.

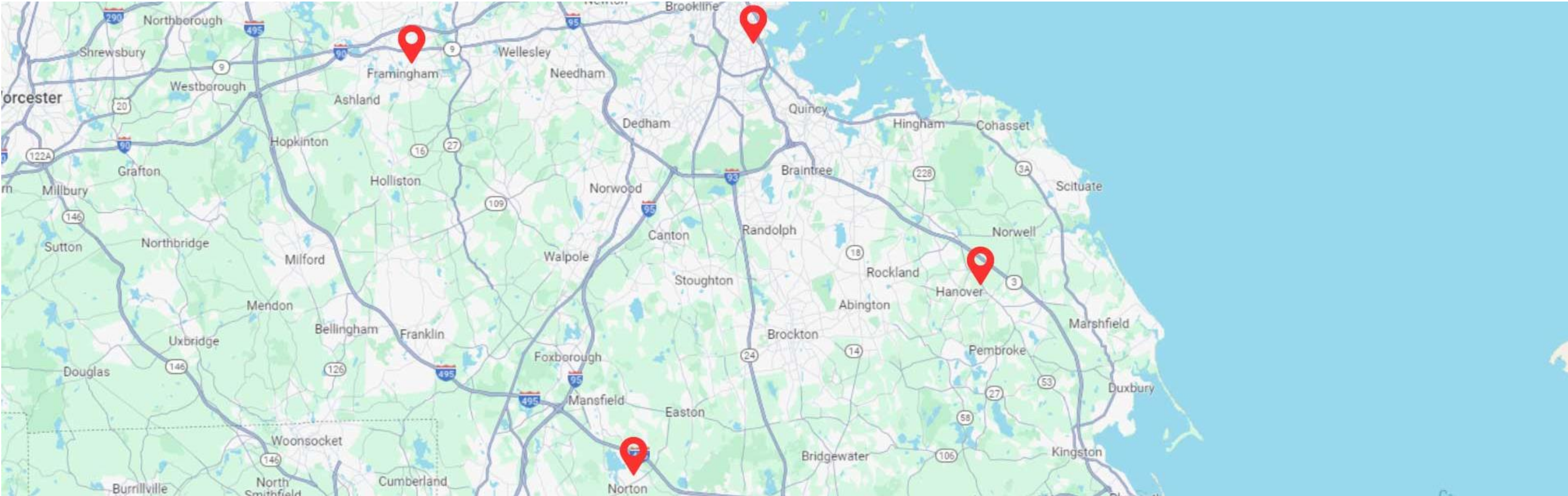


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