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

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Refrigerators have changed dramatically in the last 5 years in style, brand, and technology.

In this guide, you will learn about new products, how to size a refrigerator, the different configurations, and potential issues your refrigerator may have.
New Products

Samsung Family Hub

The Samsung is an internet-ready refrigerator. You can look into this refrigerator remotely from an app on your phone while you shop for groceries. It can be a TV, message center, or internet computer. Click the link below to learn more about the Samsung Family Hub refrigerator with our blog and video.
LG InstaView

The LG InstaView has a new opaque class panel. Touch the glass and you can see within the refrigerator. Click the link below to read about Samsung’s Family Hub vs. LG’s InstaView Refrigerator.
Black Stainless Steel

Many have touted Black Steel has the new finish. However, black stainless steel is an oxide coating applied to stainless steel. It can scratch easily exposing the shinier stainless steel underneath. Before you buy black stainless steel appliances, check out our scratch test below. One manufacturer outperforms all the other brands.
Styles
We highlight the most common refrigerator styles

How to Buy
Tips on how to choose the perfect refrigerator

About Yale
A little about Yale
Important information about a refrigerator's lifespan and potential issues
Refrigerators are now more efficient due to government regulations. However, they are now more service prone and last 6-10 years on average, according to the American Servicers Association.

From our 20,000 completed service calls, our number one complaint is a French door refrigerator with an ice dispenser. Ice in the door can defrost and leak causing an issue. It's an easy repair and usually happens within 5 years of having the refrigerator.
REFRIGERATOR TERMS

Everything you need to know to be able to discuss a refrigerator purchase confidently

Photo credit: Vogt Design Studio / Houzz
Unit of measurement for the space within a refrigerator (height, width and depth).

Refrigerators can range from 2 to 31 cubic feet. It is important to realize the average family refrigerator is 18-26 cu. ft. The average apartment size is 14-18 cu. ft.

Refrigerator Terms

Cubic Foot

Photo credit: Margeaux Interiors via Houzz
95% of refrigerators are designed to fit within conventional kitchen cabinets. Cabinet sizes are 30”, 33”, 36” 42” and 48”, so look at the corresponding refrigerator.

Heights and depths have changed over the years, so it is important to measure before you buy.

Here is a tip: For people living in Boston, check all your hallways leading up to your kitchen and all points of degrees to ensure the fit.
Counter Depth

Less depth so the sides of the refrigerator do not protrude into the kitchen. The counter depth refrigerator has become popular for better kitchens and narrow islands.

Available in side by side, bottom mount and French door styles only.
A professional refrigerator can be purchased in stainless steel or finished with a custom panel. It is a shallow depth, commercially styled refrigerator with the compressor on top.

This style was popularized by Sub-Zero but now Viking, KitchenAid, Jenn-Air, Liebherr and Thermador have multiple products in this category.
The whole refrigerator fits within a standard 24-inch cabinet depth. Thus, the product is seamless from adjoining cabinets, whereas the doors protrude in other counter depth products. Miele, Bosch, Thermador, Gaggenau, Liebherr and Sub-Zero are the only products within this niche.

You can also place the refrigerator and freezer wherever you want in your kitchen as most integrated units are sold as all-refrigerator or all-freezer. Because they use less energy, integrated refrigerators will be more popular as energy standards increase.
INTEGRATED

Photo credit: Carolina Design Associates/ Houzz
We highlight the most common refrigerator styles.

Photo credit: Mahoney Architects & Designers/ Houzz
Freezer on the top, refrigerator on the bottom. The top freezer is the most economical, but is not available as a shallow depth or in sizes over 21 cu. ft.

Most companies exited this category in 2007 due to energy requirements. Look at Frigidaire for the best value.

The Frigidaire Custom Flex series allows you to customize the door bins to accommodate cans, bottles and sundries. Samsung has economical top mount refrigerators. The freezer can be converted to a refrigerator based on need. It is really the first improvement to refrigerator door storage in almost 20 years.

**Here is a tip:** Top mount refrigerators have the most cubic feet within a 30" cabinet space.
Freezer on the bottom, refrigerator on top. The main benefits are availability in larger sizes and easy access to fruits and vegetables. Bottom freezers have waned in popularity due to the French door.

This segment is owned by Whirlpool and its subsidiaries Amana and Maytag. GE, LG and Blomberg are also options for smaller spaces.
Refrigerator and freezer are side by side. This style will have a slightly larger freezer and less refrigerator space.

The advantages are more organized storage, ice and water through the door and an upscale appearance.
Same as the Bottom Mount with side by side doors on the refrigerator only. Cool looks and the latest styling are its hallmark. The split doors are better for kitchen islands and other tight spaces.

French door is the most competitive segment with GE, Bosch, LG, Samsung, Maytag, Electrolux and Frigidaire competing for sales.

Look at the LG Door in a Door for an innovative introduction for accessibility to juices, milk and other commonly used items.
These refrigerators have an extra pull-out shelf in addition to the bottom drawer.

The extra drawer can be a refrigerator in Samsung and Jenn-Air or a freezer in GE and LG.
Samsung has a few four door "flex" refrigerators ranging from the basic, to their app connected family hub refrigerator. The 4th door can either be a refrigerator or freezer.

Their refrigerator also has dual fuel evaporation so the moist air of the refrigerator does not transfer to the dryer, colder air of the freezer. Your food will taste better as tastes and odors do not commingled.

Blomberg and Dacor also offer four door refrigerators.
With 5 doors, including 2 external drawers, this refrigerator offers customized temperature control to promote long lasting freshness. Adjustable shelves and a 3-tier freezer drawer keeps items organized.
Smaller refrigerators designed to fit within an 18-24” wide space. Undercounter is very different from freestanding refrigerators.

These refrigerators have the compressors below so they can be placed between cabinets without malfunctioning. They are made with an all metal cabinet instead of the normal plastic.

Freestanding refrigerators have the compressor on the back and cannot be placed under a counter.

Undercounter models can be refrigerator, freezer, wine storage, icemaker or combination. The best brands are Sub-Zero, True, U-Line, and Yale.
Separate ice makers for entertaining, etc. Units are rated for poundage, producing anywhere from 15-50 pounds in a 24-hour period. There are two types, regular and clear ice makers.

Clear icemakers filter the impurities for a longer lasting, slow dissolving ice cube.
Wine is unique to store because it is a living grape. The taste and texture can be altered with light, humidity, vibration and temperature change.

Sub-Zero is designed to address these concerns better than other competitor brands. For lesser expense look at Yale and U-Line.
## Refrigerator Styles

### Specs at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Width</th>
<th>Depth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top Mount</td>
<td>57-68”</td>
<td>28-32.5”</td>
<td>30-33”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom Mount</td>
<td>65-68.5”</td>
<td>29-36”</td>
<td>30-34”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side by Side</td>
<td>66-70”</td>
<td>31-36”</td>
<td>32-35”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>84”</td>
<td>30”, 36”, 42”, 48”</td>
<td>24” plus door</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine Storage</td>
<td>34” (counter height)</td>
<td>15” or 24”</td>
<td>24”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undercounter</td>
<td>34” (counter height)</td>
<td>15” or 24”</td>
<td>24”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counter Depth</td>
<td>67-72”</td>
<td>33-35.75”</td>
<td>24” plus door</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOW TO BUY

How to choose the perfect refrigerator for your kitchen

Photo credit: Sutro Architects/ Houzz
Unlike most appliances, you have to measure your space and all access points into your kitchen. Refrigerators have different specifications than 10-20 years ago and the products are not interchangeable and may not fit.

**In terms of price (cheapest to most expensive): Top Mount, Bottom Mount, French Door, Counter Depth, Professional Counter Depth, Integrated.**

Counter depth should be considered in any kitchen remodeling project because they will accentuate the cabinets and the look of the kitchen. Counter depth has been falling in price. Look at Jenn-Air for the best models under $2,000.

After size, buying a refrigerator depends on the upgrades on features. How many doors do you want and how much technology do you need?

Sub-Zero is still the most popular refrigerator in the super premium, professional category with many proprietary features like an air scrubber, vacuum seal and twin compressors. However, many manufacturers will produce a professional refrigerator at a cheaper price. With unique cabinets, consider an integrated option like Samsung, Thermador, Miele, and Gaggenau.

**Most important:** Always consider rebates and time your purchases accordingly. Holidays have become a prime time for great deals on appliances.
Most Importantly, always time your buying around the holidays as rebates and promotions can be up to 35% off.

Service is an issue in refrigeration with support needed 30% of the time within the first year. You need to know who will fix your new refrigerator before you buy one.

Refrigerators have become heavier while new flooring has become softer. Having the right delivery service can save you time and aggravation from damage as well as install issues. Prepare yourself with the right information. Download our delivery checklist with solutions to every potential delivery problem.

Not to mention, extended warranties are a good idea but NEVER buy one from any dealer who does not actually fix the problems.

Our FREE Delivery Checklist

What Appliances Should You Buy Warranties For?
Buy where you’re comfortable

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

Remember, any store can sell a refrigerator; the biggest issues are shipping and service.
Exclusive Offer
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

Get the Free Appliance Delivery Checklist
ABOUT US

Proud to be family owned and operated since 1923.

Photo credit: Genesis Architecture / Houzz
About Us

The Yale Difference

Sales
Browse our two 15,000 sq. ft. showrooms guided by our sales staff with 269 years of combined experience.

Delivery
We bring the products right into your home, not just to the curb. Every delivery includes removal of the old appliance.

Install
Our professional install team can hook up your new dishwasher or re-configure your cabinets to accept a new wall oven.

Repair
20 service techs on the road every day backed by our Yale Warranty. Service is the largest department at Yale.
Yale has been based in Boston for over 90 years and operates two showrooms; in Boston and Framingham. We operate the largest independent service and repair department in New England with 50 people and 25 service technicians. Call us for a free site check to confirm measurements of a new refrigerator.
VISIT OUR STORES

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