

# Refrigerator Buying Guide

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

**YALE**  
APPLIANCE



Refrigerators

# Overview



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

In this guide, you will about new products, how to size a refrigerator, and the many different refrigerator configurations and styles. .



Refrigerators

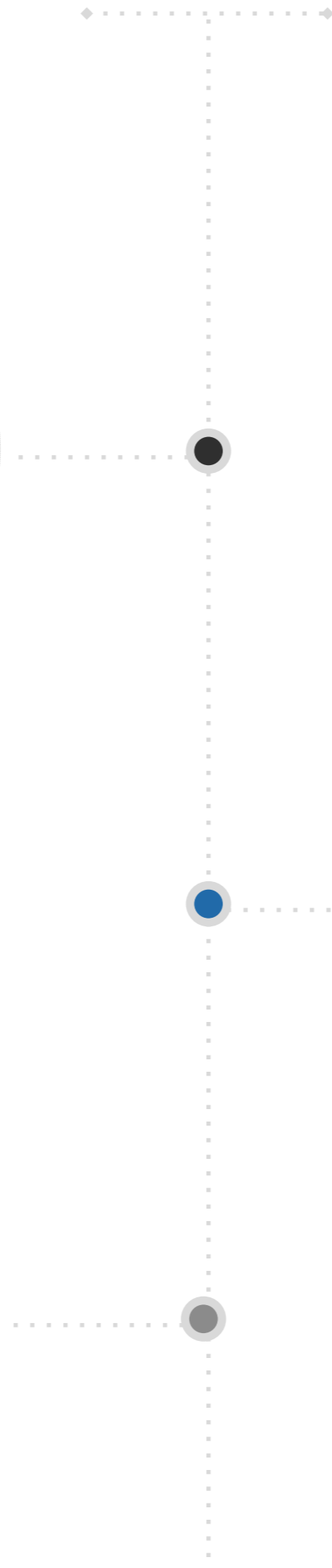
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## What's New

New technologies and products in the refrigerator world



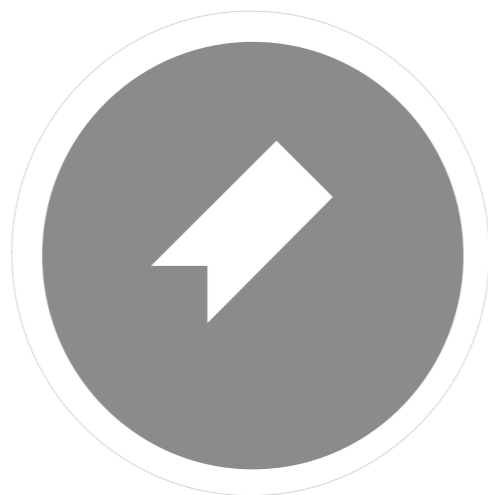
## Terms

Everything you need to know to discuss refrigerators confidently



## Styles

We highlight the most common refrigerator styles



# Top Refrigerator Brands

We cover the best refrigerator brands



# How to Buy

Tips on how to choose the perfect refrigerator



# About Yale

A little about Yale





# Project Produce

We tested Sub-Zero, Thermador, Beko, Bosch, and Samsung to see which refrigerator kept food fresh the longest. [Click here to see our results.](#)



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



# New Technology to Keep Food Fresh Longer



## Twin Compressors & Evaporators:

Keeps the moist warmer air of the refrigerator separate from the dry, cold air of the freezer resulting in less frost in your freezer and better tasting food.

**Ethylene Gas Filters & Scrubbers:** Spoiling foods emit ethylene gasses. Filters can slow the spoiling process and reduce cross contamination to other foods. (These filters are found in Sub-Zero and Bosch refrigeration).

**Active Fresh Blue Light:** Blue lighting emulates the sun extending photosynthesis and prolonging the freshness of your fruit and vegetables (This feature is found in Beko refrigeration).

# New Technology to Keep Food Fresh Longer



**EverFresh+ Technology:** Specially gasketed crispers to keep air and moisture out. (Also found in Beko refrigeration).

**IonGuard:** Negative ion charger to eliminate the positive ions of odors in your refrigerator. (These feature is found in Beko refrigeration).

**Designated Fruit & Vegetable Bins:** Specially designed bins on the refrigerator door. (Found in Thermador refrigeration).

**Vacuum Seal Door:** Keeps air out of the refrigerator. (Found in Sub-Zero refrigeration).





What's New?





# LG Studio 26 Cu. Ft. Built-In Refrigerator



The new LG Studio SRSXB2622S Side-by-Side Refrigerator is available in a French door style with an impressive 48-inch depth.

This refrigerator offers the largest capacity for storage and organization.



[See Product Details >](#)



# Samsung Bespoke



The new Bespoke refrigerator, available in late 2023-2024, will allow you to customize its front with pictures from your phone.

Now, you can have images of things you love, such as your children, your dog, or maybe even a favorite bottle of wine, right in your kitchen.



**Samsung Bespoke Appliances: Why It's a Problem [Video]**

# LG MoodUp Refrigerator

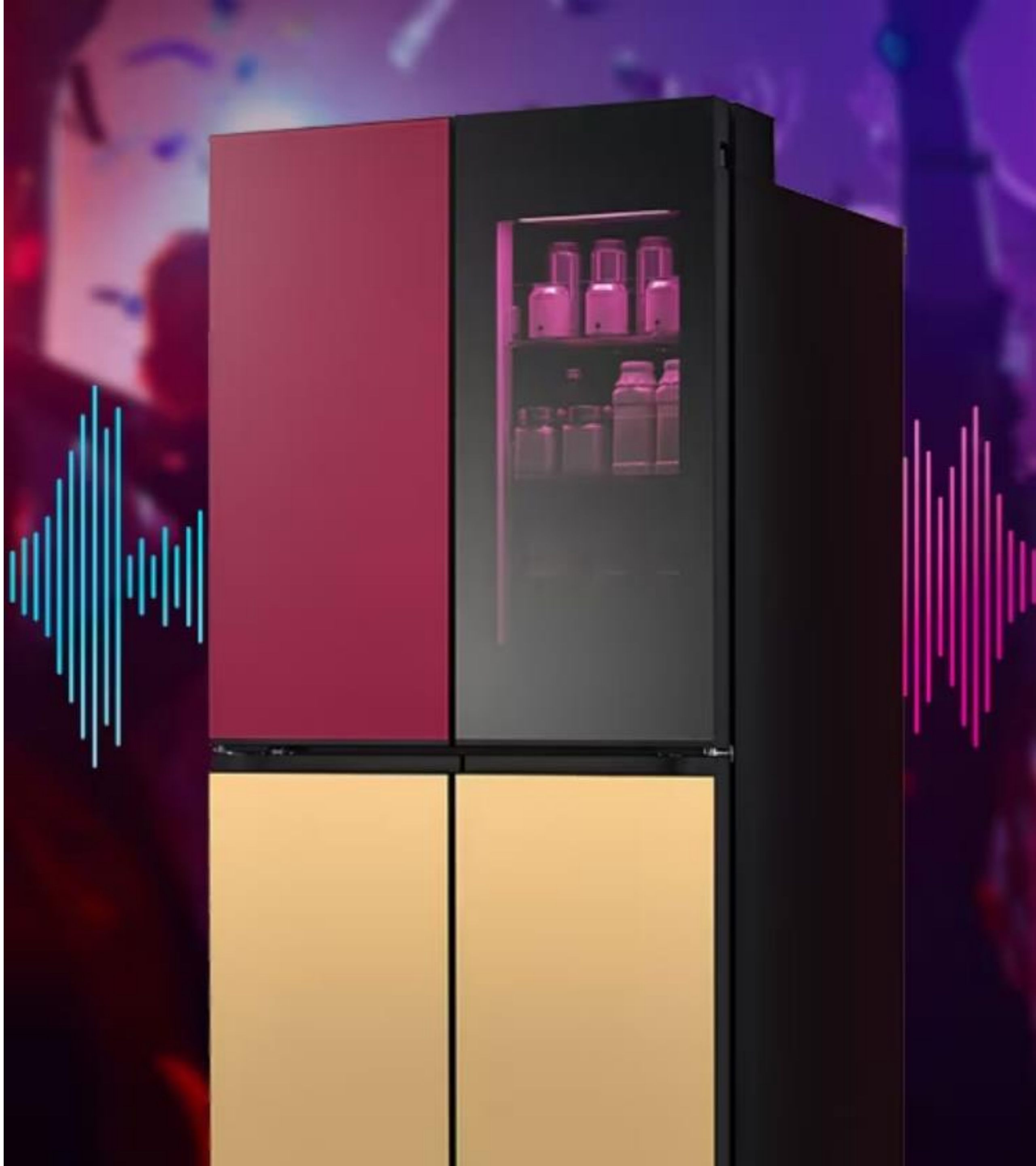


The new LG Studio MoodUp refrigerator is available in late 2023-2024.

This innovative refrigerator allows you to personalize its front with a selection of 60 different colors, adding a unique touch to your kitchen decor.



The Best Appliances  
from KBIS 2023





# LG Counter-Depth MAX Refrigerator



The LG Counter-Depth MAX French door refrigerator is stylish, akin to a counter-depth refrigerator, but impressively large at 26.5 cubic feet.

Now, you no longer have to choose between size and style, as the Counter-Depth MAX refrigerator offers you the best of both worlds, delivering ample storage and elegant design in one appliance.



**The LG Counter Depth  
MAX French Door  
Refrigerator**



# New Finishes



**Best:** Stainless steel is the most popular finish.

**Popular Custom Color Finishes:** Black and white sell in economy models.

**Cabinet/ Panel Fronts:** Panel-ready refrigerators are common for premium refrigerators.

**Other Finishes Include:** Black Stainless Steel, Premium White, and Tuscan Bronze



**Best Color Alternatives  
To Stainless Steel For  
Kitchen Appliances**

# New Finishes



With **True**, you can customize your refrigerator with a glass panel to see inside. It comes in 13 different colors and offers six hinge options to choose from.

With **BlueStar**, you have the option to customize your refrigerator with 1000 different colors and 10 trim options, or even create your own unique color.

If you want to add color, glass or an accent color to your refrigerator, click the link below to check out our most recent webinar and blog.



**5 Ways to Make Your Kitchen Unique With Appliances**

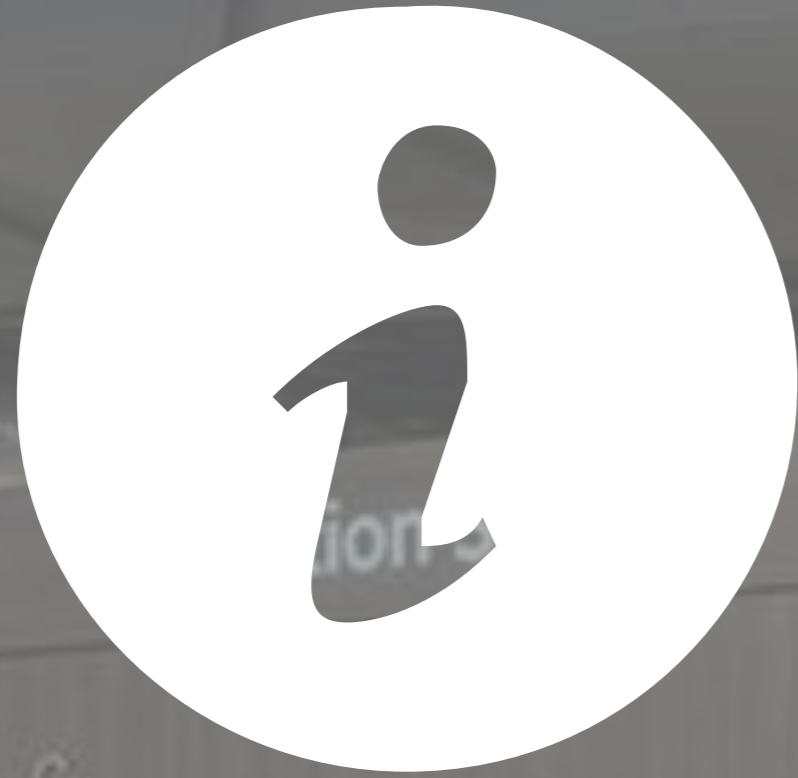


# Twin Evaporators



By utilizing twin evaporators, the refrigerator and freezer maintain separate air systems, reducing the need for defrosting and preventing any mixing of tastes between the compartments.

Additionally, this system helps to maintain a more consistent temperature throughout both sections.



# REFRIGERATOR TERMS

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







# Measurement



Cubic feet are the standard unit of measurement for the space within a refrigerator (height, width and depth).

Refrigerators can vary from 2 to 31 cubic feet. The average refrigerator size for a family of four is 20-26 cu. ft. The average apartment size is 14-18 cu. ft.

# Dimensions



95% of refrigerators are designed to fit within conventional kitchen cabinets. Cabinet sizes are 18", 24", 30", 33", 36" 42" and 48" widths, so look at the corresponding refrigerator.

Heights and depths have changed over the years, so it is important to measure before you buy. The most common refrigerator size is 36 inches.

**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.

In side-by-side, bottom mount, and French door styles only.



**The Best Counter  
Depth Refrigerators**



# Professional



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, JennAir, BlueStar, Liebherr and Thermador have multiple products in this category



**27" Deep**  
This unit is the perfect choice for a professional kitchen. It features a 27" depth, which allows for easy access to the interior. The unit is also equipped with a digital display, which provides real-time information on the temperature and humidity levels. This unit is ideal for a professional kitchen that requires a large amount of storage space.

# PROFESSIONAL

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# Integrated



Integrated refrigerators perfectly fit within a standard 24-inch cabinet depth, creating a seamless look with adjoining cabinets. Unlike other counter-depth products, their doors don't protrude.

Top brands like Miele, Bosch, Thermador, Gaggenau, Liebherr, and Sub-Zero excel in offering the finest products within this category.

With integrated units typically sold as all-refrigerator or all-freezer, you have the freedom to place them anywhere in your kitchen.



**The 5 Best Integrated Refrigerators**



**INTEGRATED**

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# Professional Vs. Integrated Refrigeration



Professional refrigeration is about 10% larger than comparable integrated refrigeration.

Stylistically, its designed to be more of a focal point.

Integrated refrigeration has more sizes and configurations. You can customize to whatever you need or will use.

It's also designed to be hidden and looks great with a cabinet front to match your kitchen.



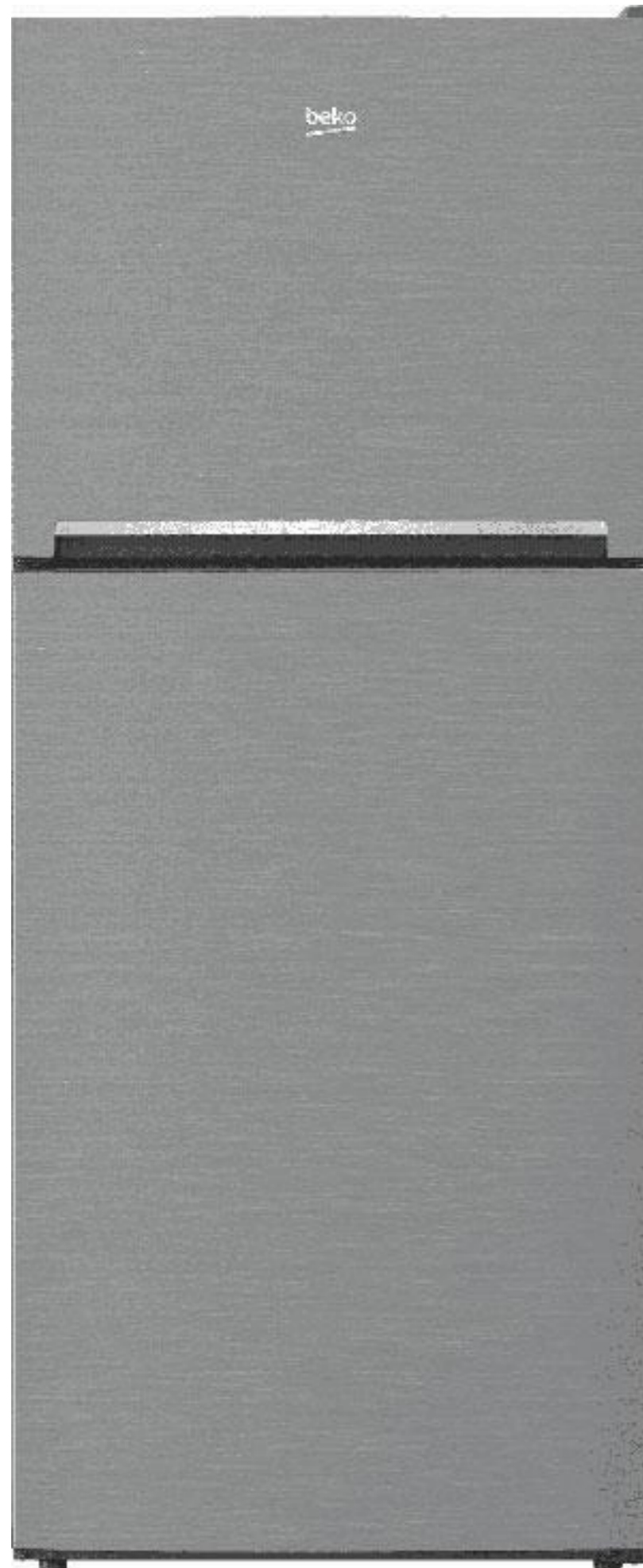


# REFRIGERATOR STYLES

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We highlight the most common refrigerator styles



# Top Mount



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.

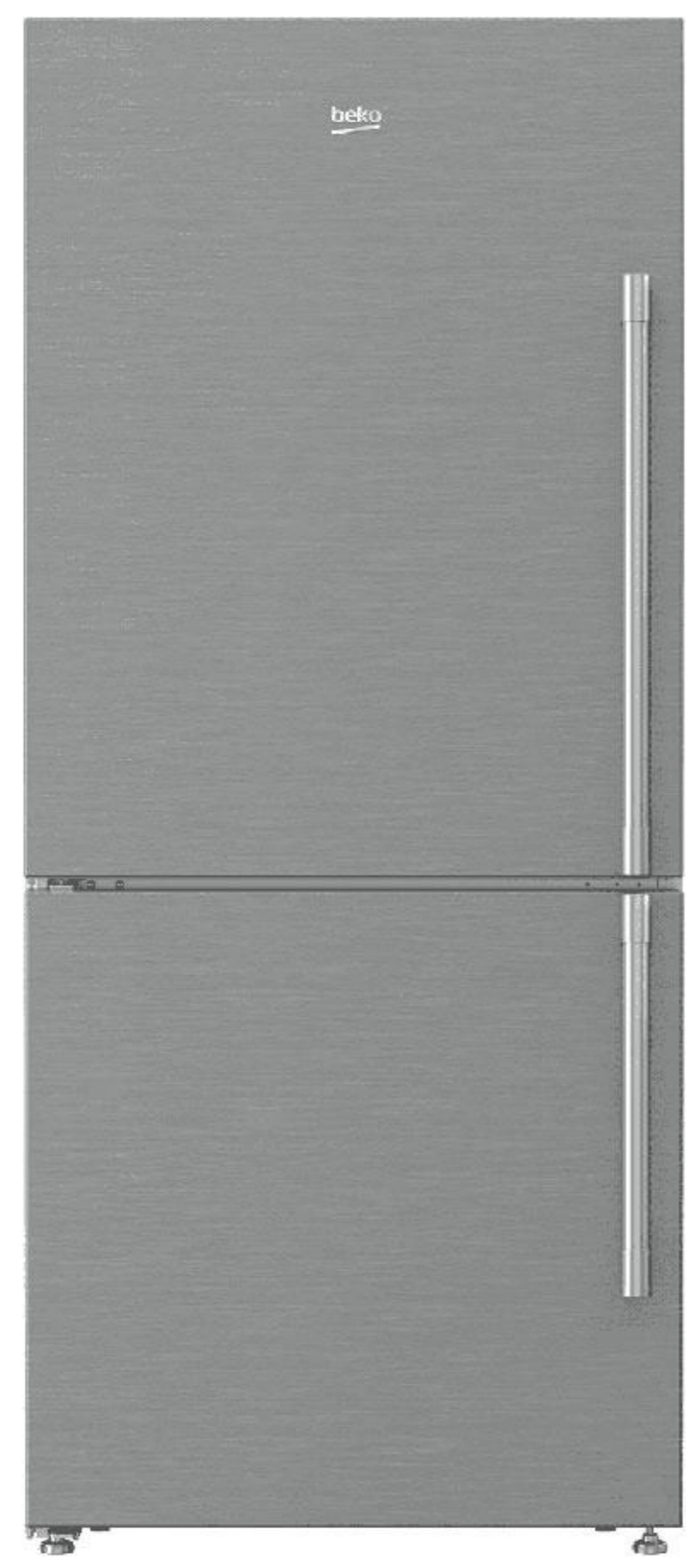
Most companies exited this category in 2007 due to energy requirements. Look at Samsung for the best value.

Look at Beko (shown), LG, Samsung, and Whirlpool for top mount refrigerators.

**Here is a tip:** Top mount refrigerators have the most cubic feet within a 30" cabinet space.

# Refrigerator Styles

## Bottom Mount



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 Styles

# Side by Side

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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.

Refrigerator Styles  
**French Door**



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 Samsung's or LG's Door-in-Door style for an innovative introduction for accessibility to juices, milk and other commonly used items.



**Side by Side vs. French Door Refrigerators**

# Side-By-Side Vs. French Door Refrigerators



Side-by-side refrigerators have regained popularity during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic because freezers are larger.

French doors have larger refrigerators, more options and features, as well as better lateral storage for platters and odd shaped dishes.

Beko, LG, and BlueStar have 4 doors.



Side by Side vs. French Door Refrigerators



Refrigerator Styles

# Double Drawer French Door



These refrigerators have an extra pull-out shelf in addition to the bottom drawer.

The extra drawer can be a refrigerator in Samsung and JennAir or a freezer in GE and LG.

# Four-Door French Door



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, LG, and Dacor also offer four door refrigerators.



# Best Refrigerator Brands to Consider



The best refrigerator brands to consider are LG, Beko, and Samsung.

Samsung has its FamilyHub system to see inside the refrigerator remotely from an app on your phone.

Beko has their Active Fresh Blue Light and EverFresh+ drawers to keep food fresh longer.

LG has its twin compressors, nine sensors, and craft ice models.

Refrigerator Styles

# Undercounter



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.



Best Undercounter Refrigerators



Free Undercounter Refrigerator Buying Guide



Refrigerator Styles  
**Ice Makers**



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.



Benefits of Clear Ice Makers Video

# Refrigerator Styles


## Wine Storage

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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.



**Sub-Zero vs. U-Line vs. Marvel Wine Storage**

Refrigerator Styles

# Specs at a Glance



Style	Height	Width	Depth
Top Mount	57-68"	28-32.5"	30-33"
Bottom Mount	65-68.5"	29-36"	30-34"
Side by Side	66-70"	31-36"	32-35"
Professional	84"	30", 36", 42", 48"	24" plus door
Wine Storage	34" (counter height)	15" or 24"	24"
Undercounter	34" (counter height)	15" or 24"	24"
Counter Depth	67-72"	33-35.75"	24" plus door



# Top Refrigerator Brands

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LG is one of the most reliable refrigerator brands available, and they continually push the boundaries with recent innovations:

- **Counter-Depth MAX:** Spacious 26.5 cubic foot counter-depth refrigerator
- **Craft Ice:** Slow-dissolving ice cubes specially crafted for premium cocktails
- **InstaView:** A simple touch on the glass lets you peer inside the refrigerator, and with another touch, the glass darkens
- **Smart Cooling Plus:** Strategically placed vents at the top of the refrigerator blast cold air from the top to the bottom, ensuring consistent temperatures with each door opening.

# Bosch



Bosch stands out as one of the newest and most popular refrigerator brands, offering cutting-edge innovations:

- **Two Compressors:** Bosch's system, akin to Sub-Zero's, ensures the most even temperatures throughout the refrigerator.
- **Metal Back:** Designed to absorb cold air, contributing to better temperature regulation and efficiency.
- **Ethylene Filter:** This innovative filter helps remove gasses from spoiling foods, extending the freshness of your food for longer periods.



# Samsung



Samsung leads as the most innovative company in the industry, boasting recent groundbreaking innovations:

- **FamilyHub:** A cutting-edge Android tablet integrated on the refrigerator's front, serving as a central communication point for your family.
- **Bespoke:** Enjoy the flexibility to customize the front with various panel options, adding a personalized touch to your refrigerator.
- **4-Door Models:** Samsung offers the largest array of four-door refrigerators, featuring convertible refrigerator/freezer compartments for enhanced storage versatility.

# GE, GE Profile, & Café Appliances



The GE brand stands out for its innovation, top-notch service, and exceptional support.

- **Built-In Keurig Coffee Dispenser:** The Café line introduces a unique feature with Keurig coffee built right into the refrigerator.
- **Customization Options:** Choose from three colors and six handle styles, with even more options in the pipeline.
- **Express Chill/Thaw:** Effortlessly thaw or chill items in the crisper bin using the convenient Express settings.

# Fisher & Paykel



Fisher Paykel stands as the most unique refrigerator in the industry, showcasing recent groundbreaking innovations.

- **Active Smart Technology:** This advanced feature employs sensors and a microprocessor to ensure precise temperature regulation throughout the refrigerator.

# Beko



Beko shines as the most intriguing refrigerator brand, showcasing recent captivating innovations.

- **Blue Light Technology:** Emulating the sun's rays, the blue lighting tricks plants into extended photosynthesis, preserving their freshness for longer periods.
- **EverFresh+:** With a gasketed crisper bin and direct access to the compressor, this feature ensures optimal freshness maintenance.
- **IonGuard:** The Ion generator pulsates negative ions to neutralize the positive ions of odors, keeping your refrigerator smelling clean and pleasant.



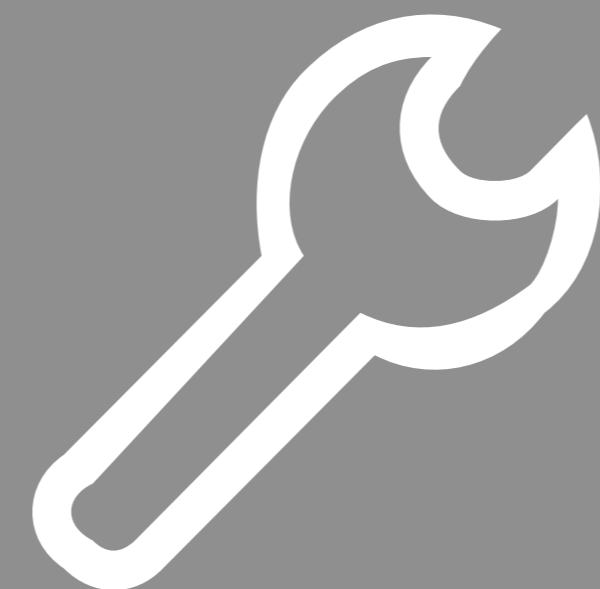
# REFRIGERATOR PROBLEMS

Ice dispensers are the number one service call for refrigerators.

In certain refrigerators, you now have two ice makers plus a dispenser.

LG has their new ball-shaped craft ice designed to dissolve slowly for premium cocktails and spirits.





# REFRIGERATOR PROBLEMS

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 over 33,000 completed service calls recorded last year, 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.



**How to Maintain Your Refrigerator's Ice Maker**

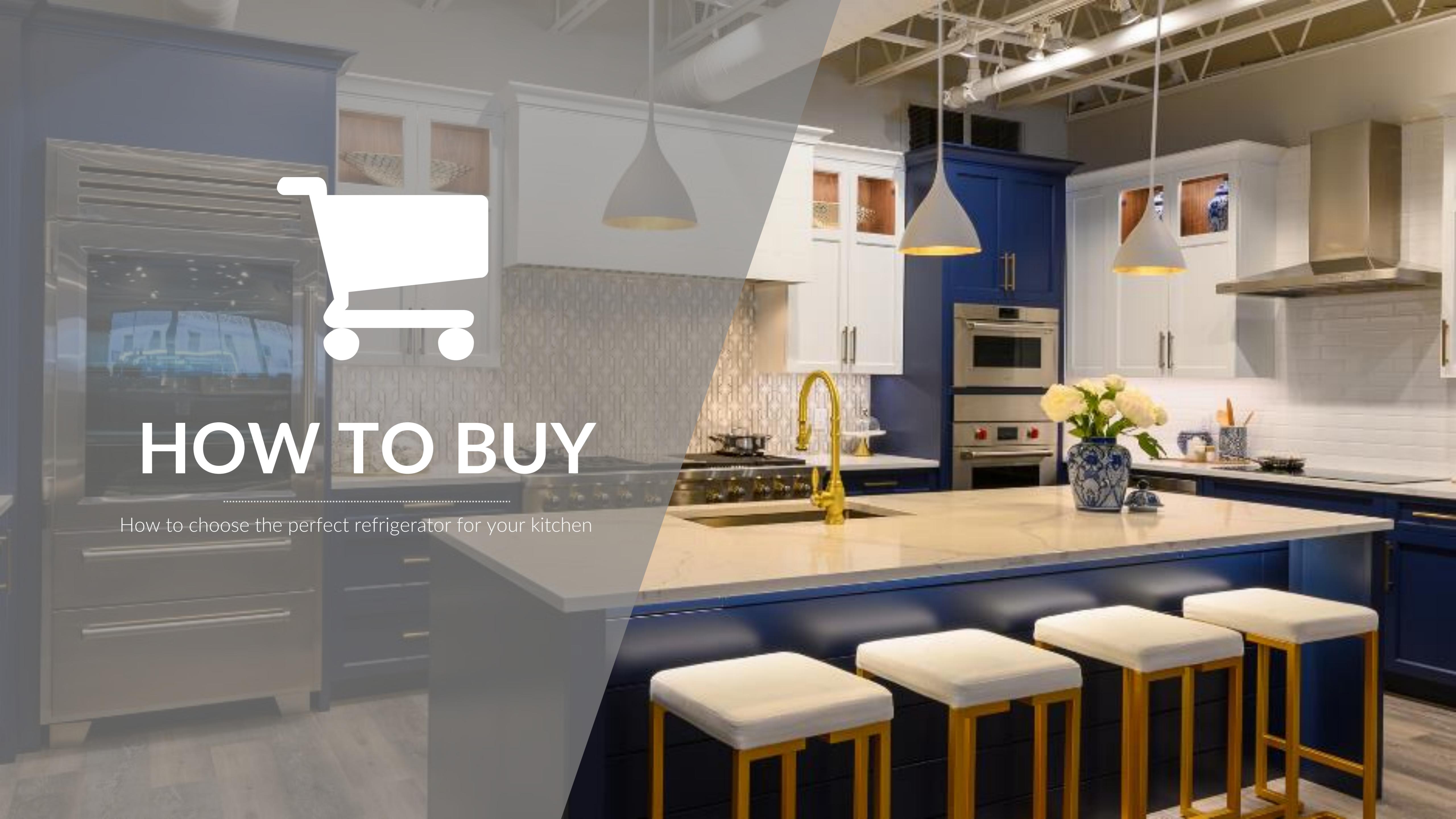


**The Most Reliable Counter Depth Refrigerators**



# HOW TO BUY

How to choose the perfect refrigerator for your kitchen





## Refrigerators

# How to Buy



First, cover the basics. What size will fit? If you live in Boston, what will also fit through your hallways, winding staircases as well the spot in your kitchen?

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.





## Refrigerators

# How to Buy



Refrigerators have different technical features, from keeping food fresh to devices like coffee makers and tablets to improve your life.

Basically, after size, buying a refrigerator depends on the upgrades on features. How many doors do you want and how many elements will you actually use?

Always consider rebates and time your purchases accordingly. Holidays have become a prime time for great deals on appliances. Refrigerators have issues. You want to buy from a place to help you with icemakers and other problems. Use Google, Yelp, and BBB as resources to help.

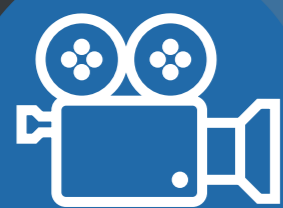


Our FREE Delivery Checklist

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.



Click here for our  
Appliance 101  
Video Series

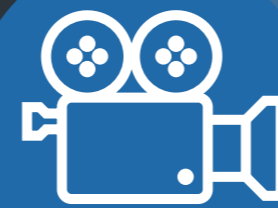


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# Yale Appliance Webinars

Want to know how to start your kitchen? How about learning from others' mistakes or about appliances you shouldn't buy. Check out a Yale Webinar for deep dives on appliances, design, mistakes, and more. Over 100,000 people have watched a Yale Webinar.



Check out the Yale  
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Buying Strategies  
**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 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**

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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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Yale has been based in Boston for over 90 years and operates three showrooms; in Boston, Framingham, and Hanover. We operate the largest independent service and repair department in New England with 60 people and 35 service technicians. Our sales staff has an average of 7 years experience, and our staff chef can help you learn to use your new appliances.



# VISIT OUR STORES

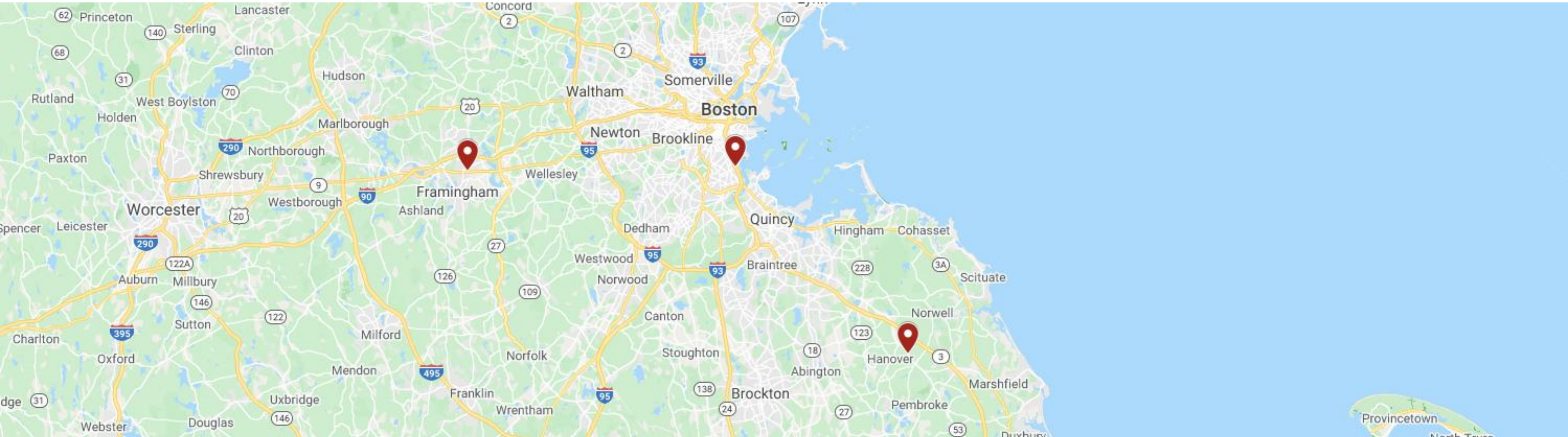
Now you can schedule a free, private showroom visit to go over the needs of your project. Choose a time that works for your schedule to visit our Boston, Framingham, or Hanover, MA showrooms.



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