

REFRIGERATOR

BUYING GUIDE

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

Published by 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. .



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Refrigerator Problems

Info about a refrigerators lifespan and potential issues

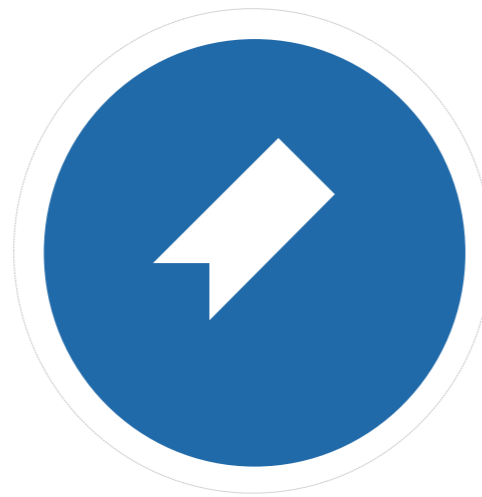


Terms

Everything you need to know to discuss refrigerators confidently

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





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?



Inverter Compressors



LG's refrigerators feature inverter compressors with nine sensors and two evaporators to maintain temperature.

After some problems, LG's inverters are quieter and now have a 10-year warranty.



Smart Functionality



Samsung FamilyHub

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.



The Samsung Family Hub Refrigerator
[Video]



Smart Functionality



LG, GE, and Samsung refrigerators can be monitored remotely through your phone.

With their smart apps, you can receive alerts when the door is left open or when your refrigerator needs service.



4 Best Smart Refrigerators

Wi-Fi-Enabled Coffee System



Café Appliances

The Café Appliances offers Wi-Fi and Keurig coffee through the dispenser.



Café Appliances vs. Samsung Family Hub Smart Refrigerators



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



True

True allows you to add glass to look into your refrigerator plus it's available in 10 colors with six options for the hinges.

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**



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.

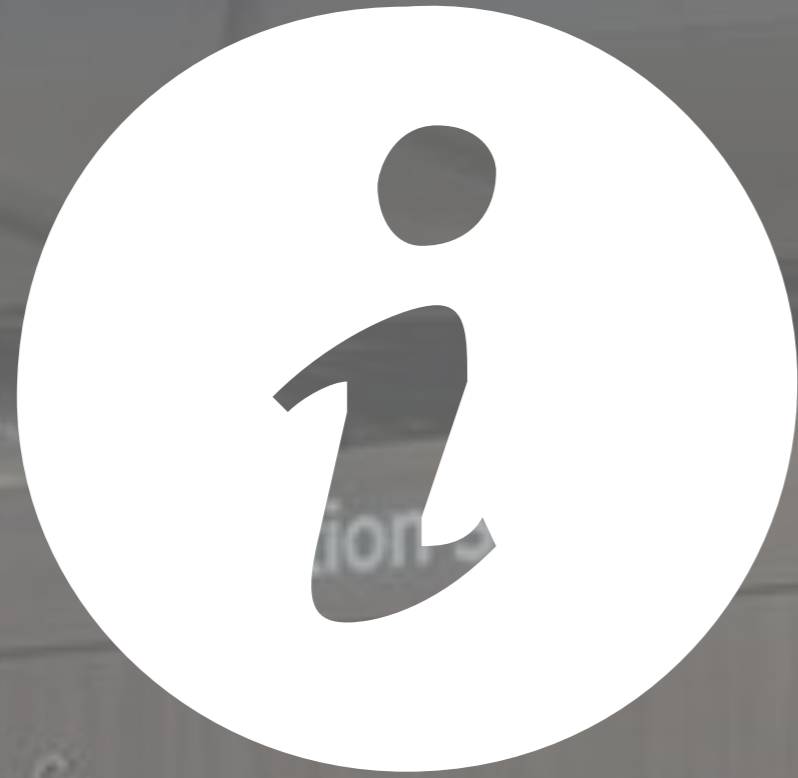
From over 37,000 completed service calls recorded last year, our number one complaint is a French door refrigerator with an ice dispenser. **Ice in the door can defrost and leak causing an issue.** It's an easy repair and usually happens within 5 years of having the refrigerator.



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



**The Most Reliable
Counter Depth
Refrigerators**



REFRIGERATOR TERMS

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



PROFESSIONAL



Integrated



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 offer the best 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.



The 5 Best Integrated Refrigerators



INTEGRATED

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.

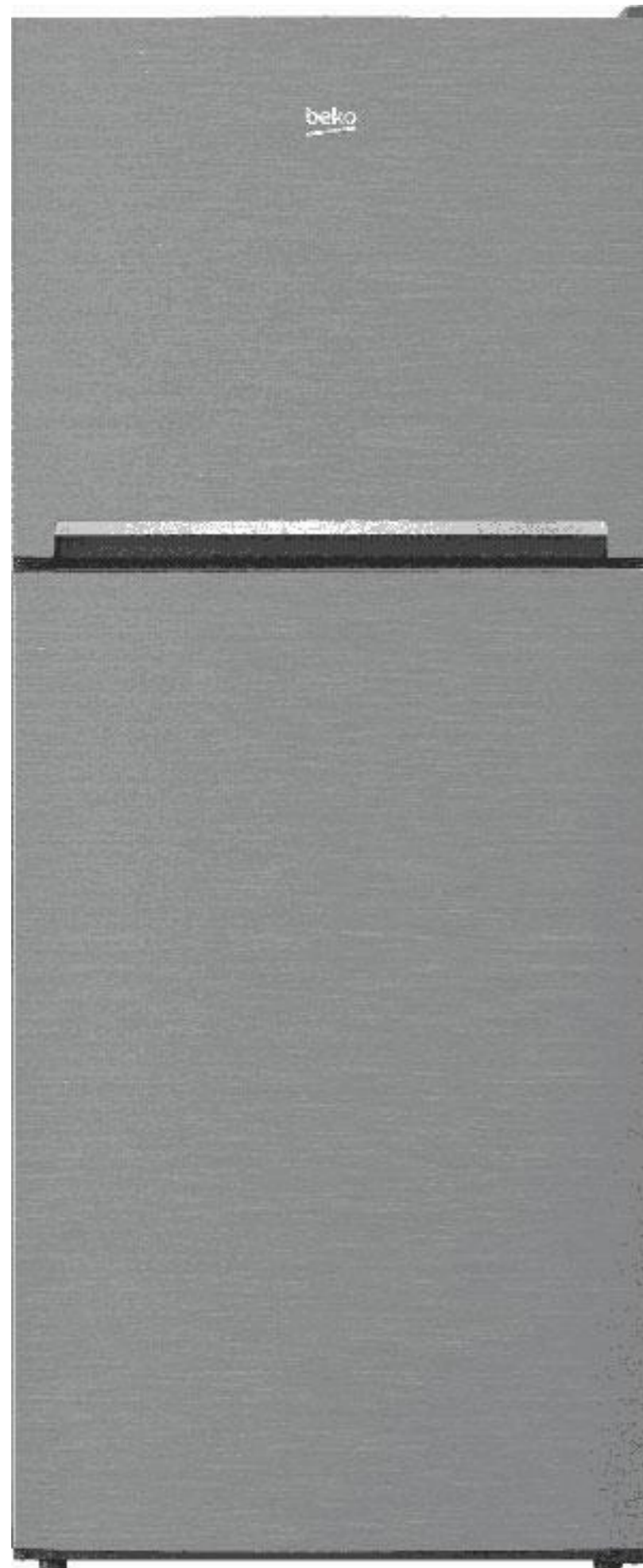


REFRIGERATOR STYLES

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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.

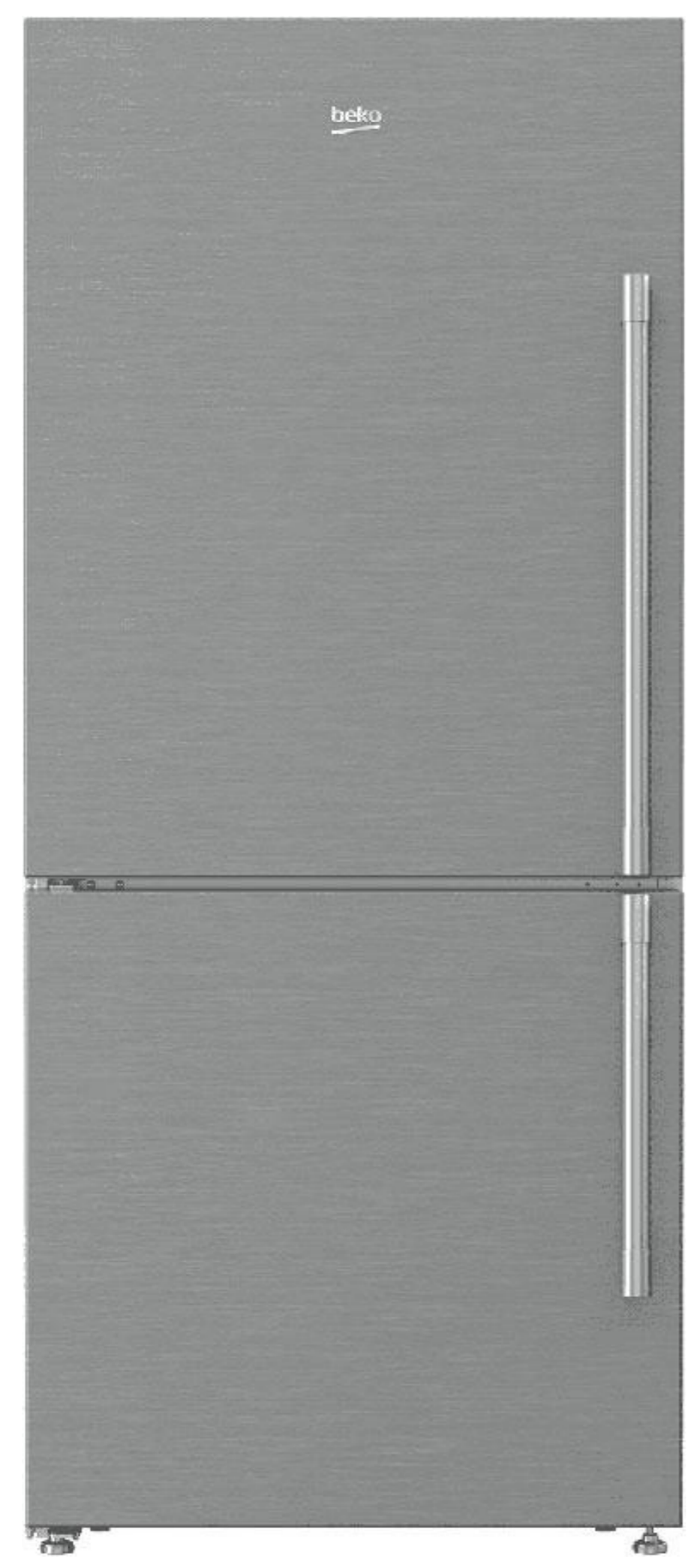
Most companies exited this category in 2007 due to energy requirements. Look at Samsung for the best value.

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



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



HOW TO BUY

How to choose the perfect refrigerator for your kitchen





Refrigerators

How to Buy

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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.

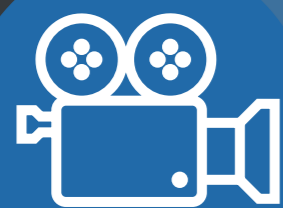


Our FREE Delivery Checklist

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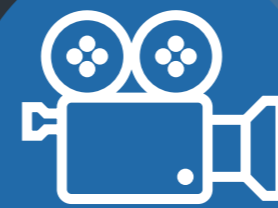


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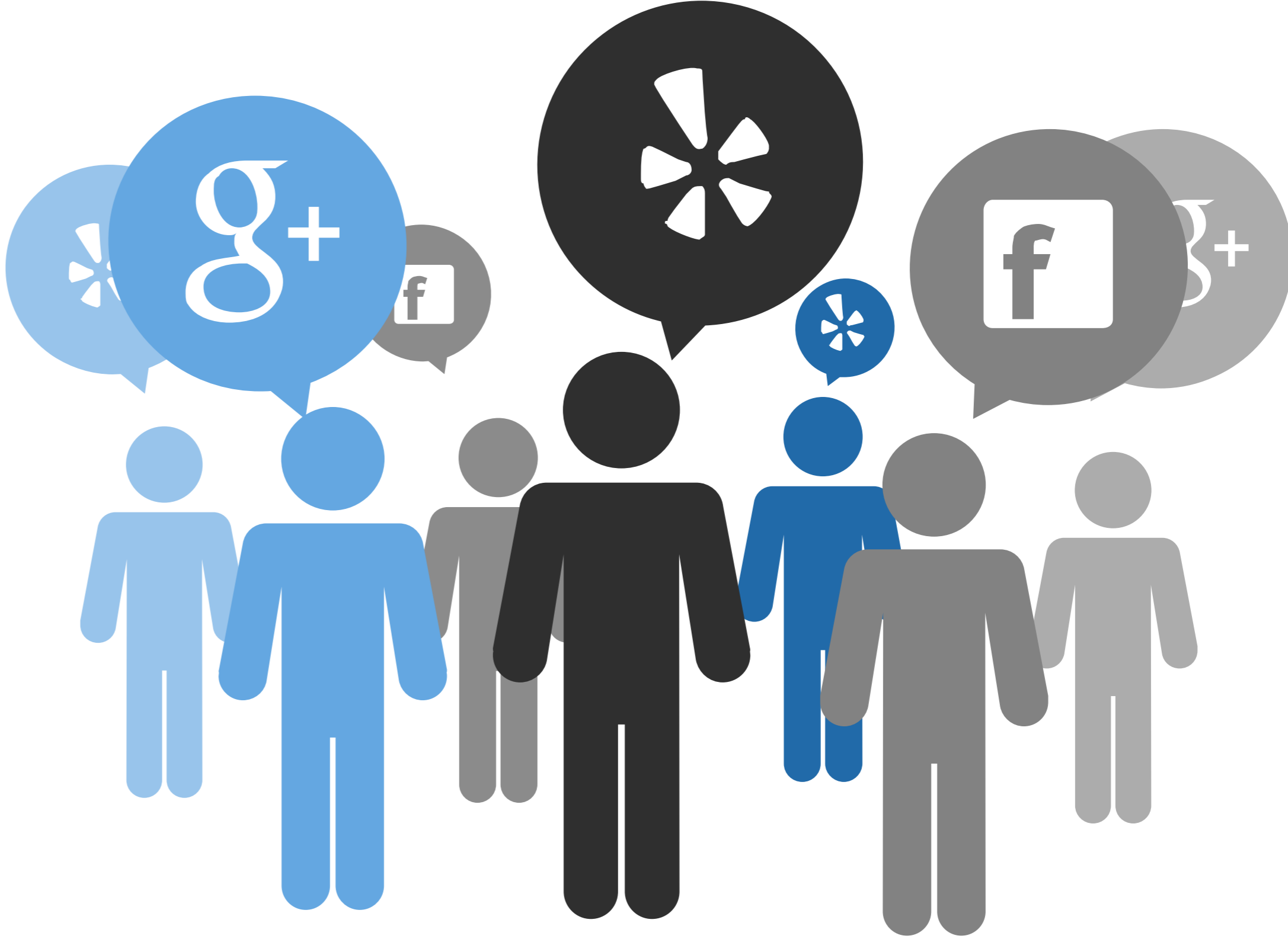
Buying Strategies
Wisdom of Crowds



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.

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- Which questions to ask to spot a quality delivery team
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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

Refrigerators

About Us



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

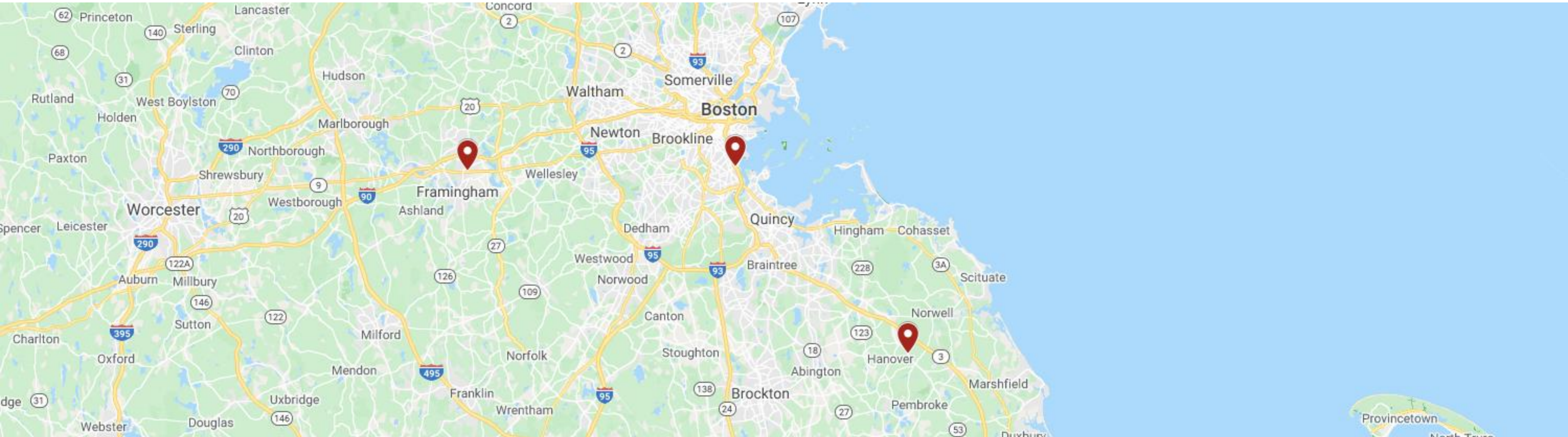
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