

Refrigeration Appliance Buying Guide



OVERVIEW

Purchasing a refrigerator seems like it should be a straightforward task, at the end of the day however, there is more to a refrigerator that meets the eye. Understanding the functionality, the new technology and even the brand differences can be overwhelming for the consumer.

For exactly this reason, our Pros have built this Buying Guide to help you navigate the world of refrigeration. We've addressed commonly asked questions and break down the types, brands, categories and commonly found issues within the world of refrigeration.

Use this as your guide to help you determine exactly what product works best for you and your home and drop by to see our Pros anytime to answer any outstanding questions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Click the links for more information

Page 1: Home Page

Page 2: Overview

Page 3: Table of Contents

Page 4: Common Terms

Page 5: Common Terms 2

Page 6: Types of Refrigeration

Page 7: French Door

Page 8: Side-by-Side

Page 9: Top Mount

Page 10: Bottom Mount

Page 11: Built-In

Page 12: Column

Page 13: Under-Counter

Page 14: Wine

Page 15: Things to Consider

Page 16: Kitchen Size

Page 17: Style

Page 18: Feature

Page 19: Refrigerator Size

Page 20: Standout Brands

Page 21: French Door

Page 22: Side-by-Side

Page 23: Top Mount

Page 24: Bottom Mount

Page 25: Built-In

Page 26: Column

Page 27: Beverage Coolers

Page 28: Fridge Problems Uncovered

Page 29: It's Running All The Time

Page 30: It's Leaking Water

Page 31: Not Dispensing Ice or Water

Page 32: Freezer Frost Build Up

Page 33: Prepare To Buy

Page 34: Know Your Kitchen

Page 35: Research

Page 36: Measure

Page 37: Delivery Checklist

Page 38: About Tasco

Page 39: Contact Us

COMMON TERMS

Auto Defrost

This automatically prevents the buildup of ice on the back of the refrigerator by heating the back wall for a short period of time to melt any ice that may have formed.

Manual Defrost

Refrigerators without an auto-defrost feature must be manually defrosted to remove any ice that has built up. The process of manually defrosting a refrigerator requires the user to unplug it from the wall and wait for the ice to melt.

Condenser

The condenser removes the heat from the gas and condenses it into a liquid coolant which, with the help of some other parts, keeps the inside of your refrigerator cold.

Door Gasket

The rubber strip found on the inside of your refrigerator door. The gasket acts as a seal to minimize heat exchange between the inside of the refrigerator and the rest of your kitchen.

COMMON TERMS II

Energy Rating

This is an industry standard rating ranging from A-G which indicates how much energy your refrigerator consumes when operating normally.

Multi-Zone Cooling

This is typically found in wine and beverage refrigerators. Multi-cooling zones have two three or more independent controlled temperature zones in one unit.

Reversible Door

The ability for the hinges on your refrigerator doors to be located on either the left or right side.

Noise Level

This is measured in dBs, which specifies how loud or quiet your refrigerator is. The normal range is from 32-47 dBs, anything quieter than 40 is considered very quiet.



TYPES OF REFRIGERATION





| FRENCH DOOR

You could call this style the 'top trending' refrigerator. There are two smaller doors at the top, with a freezer underneath. They're great for smaller kitchens and energy conservation. Most brands make French-Door, so you can typically find one to fit any budget.



|SIDE-BY-SIDE

The name says it all, this refrigerator has a fridge on one side (top to bottom) and a freezer on the other (top to bottom). This style can be great for narrow kitchens, but for people who need a lot of storage space (think avid meal-preppers, big families, left-over keepers) and provides great aesthetics for the space, since they're usually nicely balanced. Aim for the widest model that fits your space and budget.





| TOP MOUNT

To clarify, this means the freezer sits on top of the fridge area. Likely the most traditional and basic of the fridge models, this one is probably the least appealing aesthetically. It gets the job done for a good price and if you're not vertically challenged or care about the look, top-mount refrigerators can be a great budget-friendly option.

| BOTTOM MOUNT

These are the opposite of Top Mount. This fridge has the freezer on the bottom. It doesn't differ much from Top Mount, but it can save you from always having to lean over to get your food from the fridge. The downside is, you typically have to dig through the freezer to get things, though some brands now make 2-3 drawer freezers, so you can be more organized.





| BUILT-IN

Ah, the beautiful Built-In fridge. These refrigerators come in any style listed above (bottom mount, French door, even column..) and quite literally look like they're built in to your cupboards, so they fit completely flush. They're very customizable in terms of their look – you can make them blend into your décor completely. A popular trend is camouflaging your appliances so you can't tell what was what. These are great if you have a more flexible budget and if your main focus is aesthetics.



| COLUMN

This style of refrigerator is also very customizable. Columns are basically one whole unit that's a fridge and one whole unit that's a freezer, completely independent of each other. You can set these up in any way you can imagine. Have them next to each other as built-ins, put them across the kitchen from each other, put a wine fridge in between... the options are endless. They usually require a larger kitchen and a larger budget.





UNDER-COUNTER

Under counter refrigerators are exactly that; they fit under your counter. Sounds a bit weird, right? Maybe, but they've added another level of flexibility and customizability to kitchen design that fits any heart's desire. You can have a fridge under the kitchen island, secretly store wine and beer or keep things cool in your outdoor kitchen AND you can customize the front so they look like regular drawers and blend in to the décor. There's a ton of flexibility with these ones, but your budget has to be a bit flexible to.

| WINE RESERVE

The perfect fridge for the wine lover in your life. These fridges keep your wine collection expertly cooled and stored. You can buy them in various sizes (if you have a certain amount of bottles) they can also have dual temperatures, to keep red and white together but at their ideal temperatures simultaneously. You can have them as columns as well, which fit side by side with the column refrigerator or freezer. Depending on your needs, they vary in cost from reasonable to quite expensive.



| THINGS TO CONSIDER

There's a lot to take into consideration when purchasing new appliances. Yes, the style is an important factor but other things such as kitchen size, brand, technology are important to think about as well when making your purchase. Each of these items can help contribute to narrowing down which refrigerator is perfect for your needs and the needs of your family.



KITCHEN SIZE

On top of the variety of types of refrigerators that you can buy, there are some important things to consider before you should buy. The first of course, is the size of your kitchen. Is it tight even with one person? Can it fit a family of 30 on Thanksgiving Day? Understanding the maneuverability of your kitchen will help you narrow down your options. You don't shop for a column fridge and freezer if your kitchen is too tight for you and your cat.



THE STYLE OF YOUR KITCHEN

Are building your dream kitchen or in desperate need to replace your 45 year old Maytag? Are you a freezer meal type of person, or do you have to feed a family of 6? Consider the pros and cons of the style of the refrigerators above; do you have trouble leaning over often, or need access to the freezer for each meal? Is the only thing in your freezer ice cream from your 1999 break-up? Consider a Top Mount. Do you have an endless budget, space and looking to redecorate? Consider Built-In. Think about your daily activities when considering style, outside of what looks good. You want to make sure your fridge is functional and works for you and your family.



THE IDEAL FEATURES

With technology moving as quickly as it does, you can get your appliances to do some pretty cool stuff these days. Some come with touch screens or have front glass panels. You can make ice, dispense hot and cold water and even flash freeze your food. All these options can be tempting, but consider that with the more features you have, the more things can break. Sometimes, simplicity is key.

IDEAL REFRIGERATOR SIZE

The size of your fridge goes hand and hand with the size of your kitchen. Do you need something to store a lot of food, or are you just feeding one person? Are you an organizational neat-freak? Do you want your fridge to fit in flush with your counter? There are many fridge size options these days like standard, counter depth and column, but remember to consider where it's going and how you'll use it.



STANDOUT BRANDS

FRENCH DOOR

GE - GFE26JSMSS (\$)

- Large capacity refrigerator
- In-Door ice-maker fits tall bottles
- Spill-proof shelves & LED lighting

FRIGIDAIRE GALLERY - FG4H2272UF (\$\$)

- Four-door refrigerator with storage customization options
- Exterior water pocket easily fills tall pitchers and bottles
- TwinTech Cooling System

LG - LRFVC2406S (\$\$\$)

- Instaview Door-in-Door refrigerator access to favourite food
- Dual Ice Maker with slow melting round Craft Ice
- Print Proof resists fingerprints and smudges



Whirlpool®

SAMSUNG

KitchenAid®



| SIDE-BY-SIDE

WHIRLPOOL - WRS571CIHZ (\$)

- Counter depth design allows for more kitchen space
- LED Lighting & LED night light for water and ice dispenser
- Adjustable gallon door bins & accu-chill system

SAMSUNG - RH22H9010SR/AA (\$\$)

- ShowCase design allows for fast access to foods while keeping foods fresher longer
- Timeless design with premium styling
- Adjustable storage for extra flexibility

KITCHENAID - KRSF705HPS (\$\$\$)

- PrintShield protects your fridge from smudges & fingerprints
- Exterior Ice and Water Dispenser
- LED Lighting in refrigerator and freezer

TOP MOUNT

FRIGIDAIRE - FFTR1821TS (\$)

- Humidity controlled crisper drawers keeps food fresher longer
- Store-More gallon door shelf gives more room for large items
- Reversible door can be adjusted to open right or left based on your needs

WHIRLPOOL - WRT318FZDM (\$\$)

- Optional icemaker allows for convenient ice accessibility
- Quiet cooling helps keep noise down
- Ideal control over temperature in fridge and freezer

SAMSUNG - RT18M6213SR/AA (\$\$\$)

- FlexZone provides ultimate storage flexibility
- TwinCooling Plus cools refrigerator and freezer separately
- Contemporary look & directional door change

FRIGIDAIRE

Whirlpool™

SAMSUNG





| BOTTOM MOUNT

LG - LBNC12231V (\$)

- Slim design fits tight spaces, perfect for condos
- LED panel provides bright interior and save energy
- Door cooling+ keeps door contents fresher longer

WHIRLPOOL - WRB329RFBM (\$\$)

- FreshFlow preserver extends the life of produce
- Spill Guard shelves contains spills and leaks
- Built in sensors to manage ideal temperature

LIEBHERR - CS1400PC (\$\$\$)

- SmartSteel reduces fingerprint visibility
- SuperQuiet helps reduce noise to an almost silent level
- DuoCooling provides superior cooking and better food preservation

BUILT-IN

FISHER & PAYKEL - RS36A72J1N (\$)

- ActiveSmart technology keeps food fresher by maintaining ideal temperatures
- Customizable to match your own kitchen cabinetry
- Internal icemaker with 'boost' option for busy times

JENNAIR - JF42NXFXDE (\$\$)

- Obsidian interior makes food items pop
- Completely flush, completely integrated design
- Add stainless panel kits to match other Jenn-Air appliances

SUB ZERO - Bi-48S/O (\$\$\$)

- Keeps food fresher longer with advanced preservation technology
- Air purification system inspired by NASA scrubs air of gasses, bacteria and viruses
- Magnetic door systems lock in cold air and utilize climate control

FISHER & PAYKEL

JENNAIR

SUBZERO



FISHER & PAYKEL



dacor



Thermador



COLUMN

FISHER & PAYKEL - RS3084SRK1 (\$)

- Variable temperature zones allow for custom cooling
- Adapts to daily use by cooling and defrosting
- LED lighting illuminates ceiling, shelves, bins and trays with an inviting glow

DACOR - DRR30980RAP (\$\$)

- Wifi enabled iQ Connect allows you to remotely monitor food, temperature and lighting
- 40% more efficiency with R600z refrigerant
- SteelCool interior 3D lighting

THERMADOR - T36IR900SP (\$\$\$)

- ThermoFresh System will assist with extending the life of your fruits and vegetables
- Star-K Sabbath compliant
- Auto opening door auto opens with slight push or pull

BEVERAGE COOLERS

AVANTI - BCA516SS (\$)

- Stainless steel doorframe and handle
- Double pane glass reversible door
- Long life and interior LED display

SILHOUETTE - DBC047D2B5SPR (\$\$)

- Dual temperature zones cool both wine and regular beverages
- CovetedCold technology keeps beverages consistently cold
- Low e-glass seals in cold similar to a thermostat lining

WHIRLPOOL - WUB50X24HZ (\$\$\$)

- Hide fingerprints and smudges with steel that easily wipes clean
- Dual temperature system so you can store drinks in two separate temperature zones
- Door installs on either side to accommodate unique spaces.

Avanti



Silhouette



Whirlpool





| REFRIGERATOR PROBLEMS UNCOVERED

We're not sure about you, but we feel like there's not many things you can buy these days that come problem free. The same goes for appliances. We stand behind the brands we carry, but we also know that in this day and age, products can break down. It's a reality we are all familiar with, despite whatever quality product we buy. Below, we've broken down (no pun intended) the common refrigerator problems you can encounter and the solutions you can put in place to have them resolved.

IT WON'T STOP RUNNING

Believe it or not, but refrigerators are not supposed to constantly run. If they do, not only can it cause a problem mechanically, but it can also cause a problem financially. Usually this issue is caused by a build-up of dust or debris around the condenser coils.

Condenser coils are the part of the fridge that cool and condense the refrigerators refrigerant. If there's buildup around the coils, they can effectively release the heat within them, causing the fridge to run constantly.

This thankfully has an easier fix that you can try yourself before calling in the repair technician. Your best bet here is to un-plug your fridge from its power source, find out where the coils are located (usually the back, bottom or

front) and remove the cover. Once you remove the cover you can use a broom or vacuum to remove the dust and build up around the coils, just be sure to be gentle when cleaning. Once doing that if you cover the coils and plug the fridge back in, give it a some-time and it should start running properly again

If this doesn't help, check to make sure the temperature control is set on the recommended temperature. Sometimes, if you set this colder than it should be, it can cause your fridge to try and constantly cool the inside (especially if the door is open a lot) and break down.

If all these options fail, it sounds like it's time to call a technician.





IT'S LEAKING

This is usually super frustrating and a bit scary when this happens, but a good thing to remember here, is that it happens more often than you think. When a fridge leaks like this, it typically is caused by a couple of things.

Firstly, the defrost drain can be clogged. The best way to check for this first, is to adjust the level of your fridge as you want to make sure it's not leaning too far forward. Sometimes, if the leveling of the fridge is off, it can prevent the water to drain improperly which causes overflow. To check if the level is correct, the fridge door should close by itself after opening.

If this doesn't fix the problem, you should likely check that the defrost drain isn't clogged. This can happen easily by a buildup of bits of food that have managed to sneak their way down the drain. If you're relatively handy, you can locate the drain tubes and flush them with some warm water, which should release the clog.

Bad Installation can be another cause of your fridge leaking. Depending on how the fridge was installed the water filter can cause leaks as well. In this case, it would be best to contact the company that installed the fridge and have them correct it.

| NOT DISPENSING ICE OR WATER

This is a very common problem for many refrigerators that have ice and water dispensers. A big cause of this issue is caused by the water tube freezing. If you can locate the tube, try to disconnect it gently and blow air through it. If it's frozen no air will escape and that should indicate that it's frozen and blocked. If you use a hair dryer on the tube to warm it, while it's disconnected of course, you can typically fix the issue yourself.

Another reason for your fridge not dispensing water/ice, is that the valve inside is faulty. This sometimes can be simply caused by the water pressure being too low (should be at 20psi) or that the part is faulty or broken. If the water pressure is at 20psi, call your refrigerator manufacturer to re-order the part or have a technician come in to take a look at what's wrong.





| FREEZER FROST BUILD UP

It seems like frost in the freezer should be a positive thing, but it's not. Frost build up in your freezer can be a result of a few things. Firstly, it can be caused by the door not closing properly. If the alignment of the door or the seal is off, the frost build up can wreak havoc on the inside of your freezer and ruin a lot of your food as well. Usually you can tell if the seal is broken by running your fingers along it while the door is closed, if you can fit your fingers between the seal and the metal.

You'll be able to tell easily if the door alignment is off by checking to see if the freezer door and fridge door are

aligned or at the same level. If the door isn't aligned it would be sticking out and would need to be re-adjusted.

Make sure your freezer isn't kept open often as well, to allow warm air inside which can also contribute to frost build up in the freezer. If you find you've checked all of these things, it might be a good idea to have a service technician come in to check the appliance as bigger things, such as the air vents are blocked or something hasn't broken.

PREPARE TO BUY

When making a large purchase, it's always a good idea to prepare yourself, so you know exactly what to expect and what to ask. With appliances there's a few key things we recommend you consider and prepare for, before you walk into the store to purchase.

A modern kitchen with dark wood cabinetry, a marble island, and a dining table. The kitchen features a large island with a marble countertop and a built-in sink. To the left, there is a dining table with four chairs. The background shows a glass wall and a city view.

GET TO KNOW YOUR KITCHEN

Before shopping, you should have a good idea of your kitchen and how it serves you and your family. Is it large and doesn't get much use, or is it filled with kids after soccer practice? Do you like to entertain or does space not matter much to you? It's important to really understand what use your kitchen will have and how your appliances will serve you. Our point is... there's no point in buying a professional stove, if you only know how to make Kraft dinner.

RESEARCH

Make sure that you do your research. If you're prepared overall, you'll know what the sales person is talking about on all levels. You'll be able to ask the important questions about BTU's, warranties, repairs, functionality, purposes of exhaust fans etc. You can also ask your sales person to clarify something for you that you research, if you're not totally certain it will work or if you can't find a lot of information.



A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a checkered shirt and a backpack, is measuring a light-colored wall with a yellow tape measure. He is looking intently at the measurement. The background shows a dark door and a light-colored wall.

MEASURE AGAIN

Of course, the next step to knowing your space is measuring your space. Know the ins and outs of where your appliances will go. The width, height, length are great places to start, making sure you don't order a range that won't fit into the space your old range was or making sure the hood over the oven is wide enough and fits within your backsplash area.

DELIVERY CHECKLIST

This is probably one of the most important things to be prepared for when buying new appliances. Delivery seems like it could be easy, and it should be. It's even easier when you and your house are prepared for delivery – this will help make the whole process smooth and simple.

1 The first rule, that we can't emphasize enough, is to measure at LEAST twice and if anything, measure as many times as you can. This doesn't just apply to the appliances themselves, it should apply to the space they are being installed in, the doors the appliances have to go through, the staircases they might have to be carried up etc. Ensure that the appliances you order fit in your space, your house, the doorways and the hallways.

2 Make sure you've covered everything with the company that's installing your appliances in terms of hook up information. If you've never had a gas stove and having one delivered, make sure you have a gas line hook up, or that will be involved in the installation. Anything in regards to the hook-up and ventilation of the appliances you buy is essential to cover off before delivery.

3 Ensure you protect your floors, delivery staff will do their very best to avoid any scratches or issues but it's always helpful to be extra prepared and cover the carpet and floors yourself to ensure nothing happens.

4 An important thing to remember as well, is to not accept an item if it's the wrong one or damaged. Be sure to unpack, inspect and photo your appliances upon delivery as you have a right to refuse delivery and have the product sent back to the company. You want to do this at the time of delivery as once it's delivered and installed, it will be a longer process to get it removed or exchanged.

5 Makes sure you mention to the company you're purchasing appliances through, if you need your old appliances removed or moved. At Tasco, we can move your old appliances to another room in your house if needed, but we need to be aware of this before time of delivery, so our delivery team can be prepared.

At Tasco Appliances we know appliances are an important part of your life. That's why we offer our professional delivery services six days a week across southern Ontario, including cottage country.



| ABOUT TASCO

What started out in a small corner of Richardson's Furniture Store back in 1954, soon became the foundation for the Tasco Appliances you know today. By the 1960s, our founders of Tasco purchased the furniture store, located at 3041 Dufferin Street in Toronto, (we still have a showroom there) and ten years later, our team decided that appliances was our biggest opportunity.

Tasco Appliances quickly became Toronto's appliance retailer of choice, specializing in high-quality, well-made appliances. Tasco was able to expand their largely builder-based clientele and evolve into a retail outlet for Toronto's discerning homeowners.

With a main focus on appliances, Tasco Appliances quickly became Ontario's appliance retailer of choice, specializing

in high-end appliances. We were able to expand upon our largely builder-based clientele evolving into a retail outlet for Toronto's discerning homeowners.

By the 1980s and 1990s, Tasco had become the destination shop for high-end, luxury appliances. Retail sales continued to grow, and so did our influence within the condominium and home renovation markets. A passion for design, and a significant amount of growth led Tasco to establish the Kitchen Design Division – a place where Toronto's best designers, and their clients, could go to get real advice and the tools necessary to design their dream kitchen. This newfound partnership with top designers inspired further growth and opportunities for Tasco to make a lasting impact on the housing industry – and we did just that!



The GTA's appliance professionals since 1954

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