



Refrigerator Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

A refrigerator is one of the most important appliances you'll buy for your home, so choosing the right one to meet your needs in size, features, and design is important.

[Scan the QR Code to read the full buying guide](#)

Table of Contents

- Types of refrigerators
- Choosing the right size and dimensions of a refrigerator
- The importance of energy efficiency
- Key features to look for in a refrigerator
- Smart refrigerators with advanced features
- Lifestyle considerations
- Aesthetic considerations



Types of refrigerators

All-fridge refrigerators – These have exclusively refrigerated space without a freezer.

Top freezer refrigerators – The freezer section is at the top third or half while the refrigerated section occupies the bottom.

Bottom freezer refrigerators – The freezer is on the bottom while the fresh refrigerated section occupies the top.

Side-by-side refrigerators – There's an equal amount of refrigeration and freezer space, both of which can be accessed at the same level, on either side. These have larger doors that open both ways.

French door refrigerators – Two doors are side-by-side for the refrigerator space along with a pull-out freezer drawer on the bottom.

Compact/mini refrigerators – With a smaller footprint and basic cooling, these are perfect for dorm rooms, small apartments, single individuals, or as secondary refrigerators.

Built-in refrigerators – If you're doing a kitchen remodel, consider a built-in fridge with matching cabinetry so it's completely hidden for a sleek and seamless look.

Door-in-door refrigerators – A type of French door refrigerator, these have a second door within the door to hold frequently accessed items like condiments and drinks.

5-door refrigerators – Another sub-section of the French door fridge category, 5-door fridges have two-door refrigeration at the top, a bottom freezer drawer, and a middle drawer for items like deli meats and cheeses, fresh meat and poultry, juice boxes, or snacks.

Counter-depth refrigerators – These can be either in French door or side-by-side style and are designed to fit flush to the wall: they don't stick out past the cabinets and counters.

Smart refrigerators – Technologies like built-in Wi-Fi, a touchscreen, interior cameras, speakers,



and voice control make these the most high-tech options around.

Choosing the right size and dimensions of a refrigerator

Measure the space – Measure the dimensions available for the fridge, accounting for ventilation, door clearance, and fixtures. Then, use the tools at [BestBuy.ca](https://www.bestbuy.ca) to find ones that will fit.

Measure the clearance for fridge doors – Doors should be able to swing open freely without hitting objects or fixtures, and with ample room to move around.

Measure your front door – Confirm that the fridge, including its dimensions in the box, will fit through your front or back door before having it delivered.

Make sure to leave space to walk – While a larger fridge can be tempting, there should still be enough free space to move around the kitchen without feeling constricted.

Capacity – The interior space should be large enough to accommodate your typical grocery haul. If you're working with a smaller space, find one that maximizes interior space.

Leave room around the fridge – The fridge requires proper ventilation or else it might not function properly over time.

The importance of energy efficiency

It's important to choose an energy efficient refrigerator, particularly one with the Energy Star label.

Environmental impact – Reduce your personal environmental impact, which is good for the planet.

Cost savings – An efficiently run refrigerator uses less energy, resulting in lower electricity bills over time.

Key features to look for in a refrigerator

Adjustable shelves – You can accommodate larger, taller items and maximize space as needed.

Temperature controls – Always have the right temperature for sections like crispers and middle fifth drawers.

Crispers – Keep food like fresh fruits and vegetables fresher, longer with ample sized crispers.

Ice and water dispensers – Eliminate the need for bottled water and make ice at home. You will need to hook the fridge up to a water line and change the filter a few times per year.

Door alarms – These tell you if someone accidentally left the fridge door open or it's open for too long, letting too much cold air out.

Defrost cycle – Easily defrost the freezer as needed as part of the overall annual cleaning process.

Smart refrigerators with advanced features

Wi-Fi technology – Built in Wi-Fi lets you connect a smart fridge to the home network to serve as



a hub of the home, accessing the Internet right from the appliance.

Touchscreen displays – Leave notes for family members, play videos, see calendar updates, and more using the front display.

Internal cameras – Get an inside view of the fridge from anywhere so you know what you need to pick up at the grocery store.

Smart home integration – Use the fridge as a smart speaker, all controlled by voice commands.

Lifestyle considerations

Dietary habits – If you're vegan or vegetarian, crisper storage might be most important; while meat lovers will appreciate larger freezer drawers and sections.

Cooking frequency – For those who cook often, a larger fridge that can fit and organize lots of fresh ingredients as well as leftovers might be necessary.

Entertainment – Features like adjustable shelves and larger interiors will be valued by those who entertain a lot.

Aesthetic considerations

Finish and colour – The fridge should match the overall kitchen décor, including the finish of other appliances, and be resistant to fingerprints and smudges.

Handle styles – You can choose from either standard protruding or recessed.

Integrating with cabinets – For the most seamless look with a new kitchen remodel, consider going built-in, with a matching finish to your cabinets.