In today’s society, it is very common for families to own at least one [refrigerator](http://www.ebay.com/bhp/refrigerator) in their homes. Household refrigerators replaced the ice box long ago, but they are considered somewhat of a modern invention as they did not hit the market until the early twentieth century. They typically run between 37 and 41 degrees Fahrenheit, which is just a few degrees above the freezing point of water. This temperature range allows for optimal storage of perishable foods, keeping items that would normally go bad in just a few hours good for days and even weeks on end. When planning on investing in a new refrigerator, consumers must consider how much the appliance will affect the electricity bill, as well as its storage capacity, size, and ease of layout. All of these aspects are not always thought of right off the bat, but will make a big difference in the level of happiness one has with a new refrigerator. Important decisions to make before investing in a new refrigerator include selecting a proper refrigerator style as well as any additional features to be incorporated with the unit upon purchase.

**Types of Refrigerators**

When choosing a [refrigerator](http://www.ebay.com/bhp/refrigerator), there are many different styles from which to choose. How much room is available in one’s kitchen, as well as one’s personal taste and budget will all factor into finding the right refrigerator.

**Top Freezer**

The [top freezer refrigerator](http://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_trksid=p5197.m570.l1313&_nkw=top+freezer+refrigerator&_sacat=0) is one of the most popular models available on the market today. This has been the basic model since the refrigerator’s early conception in the 1940s, and is one of the most economically priced units. It is designed so that the freezer sits on top of the refrigerated compartment, and the freezer takes up about a third of the entire unit. This style of refrigerator is best for a person who may be shopping on a budget but still needs a large amount of storage space as well. While top freezer refrigerators have been the most popular style for decades, it is important to note that it can sometimes be difficult to reach items in the back of the refrigerator or freezer area because of the typically large depth size. Also, a home must have wide doors to get the unit inside as well as a large amount of space to open the freezer and refrigerator doors within the kitchen area itself.

**Bottom Freezer**

Many people prefer to own a [bottom freezer refrigerator](http://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_trksid=p5197.m570.l1313&_nkw=bottom+freezer+refrigerator&_sacat=0) when they want to be able to see their fresh food options at an eye’s level. Not only does this make grabbing one’s most often sought items much easier, it limits the amount of bending over a person has to do to get into the fresh food area.

Bottom freezer refrigerators will contain either a swinging door or a drawer that will allow the user to gain access to the freezer portion of the unit. The design allows the refrigerator to use less energy to keep food frozen, and the actual cooling process is more consistent throughout the unit than other refrigerator models. The bottom freezer style works best for many households because it is common to need more space for the fresh food area than the freezer portion of a refrigerator.

These styles of refrigerators are economically priced along with the top freezer styles, making them affordable to many different types of consumers. This model will be somewhat inconvenient to a person who regularly inserts and removes items from the freezer portion, and will require a large amount of kitchen space to open and close the door properly.

**Side-By-Side Refrigerators**

[Side-by-side refrigerators](http://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_trksid=p5197.m570.l1313&_nkw=side-by-side+refrigerator&_sacat=0) allow for easy and convenient access to both the fresh food and frozen portions of the unit, as the doors run parallel to each other and offer equal spacing for both sides. Considering the refrigerator is split in half vertically, the shelving areas are narrower for both the fresh food and frozen sides and may not accommodate bigger items that other refrigerator styles may be able to hold. As a result, many manufacturers build the side-by-side refrigerator model with adjustable shelves in order to hold these larger items.

Unlike the top freezer or bottom freezer styles of refrigerators, some designers build ice and water dispensers directly into one of the doors of the side-by-side model. The side-by-side refrigerator is a good choice for people who have a smaller kitchen and do not need as much clearance space for the doors, as the doors on this style are not as large as other refrigerator models. Since the space is more narrow, it makes for more convenient accessibility to items in both the fresh food and freezer portions. These styles are typically more expensive than top freezer and bottom freezer refrigerator models as well.

**French Door**

The French door style is quickly gaining popularity with consumers, and is the newest model of refrigerators to be introduced to today’s market. It combines the convenience of side-by-side refrigerator doors with a pull-out bottom freezer for maximum frozen food capacity. The [French door refrigerator](http://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_trksid=p5197.m570.l1313&_nkw=french+door+refrigerator&_sacat=0) allows for a large portion of the unit to be devoted to the fresh food section, with plenty of space available for larger items.

There are different styles of French door refrigerators available, and they can either consist of three or four different doors. The more standard three-door style has two doors that open wide for the fresh foods area and a single freezer drawer on the bottom. Other more advanced four-door models include two separate freezer area spaces, with some even allowing for both the temperature and humidity to be adjusted depending on the changing needs of the stored foods. Not only are french door refrigerators versatile enough to store foods at a number of different temperatures, they are also good at conserving energy as well. French door refrigerators are a versatile and stylish option, and typically run at a higher cost than other refrigerator styles on the market.

**Additional Styles**

While not as commonly used as the four styles mentioned above, there are other refrigerator models available for purchase on the market. Compact or [" mini " refrigerators](http://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_trksid=p5197.m570.l1313&_nkw=mini+fridge&_sacat=0) are popular for college students, office spaces, or just for an additional space to store refrigerated goods in a household. Mini fridges may have a small freezer area or no freezer at all, depending on the make and model. There are freezerless refrigerators available for purchase as well, which are made up entirely of refrigerated space to keep fresh foods cold. This is ideal for people who already own a separate freezer unit or just choose to not freeze foods at all. Lastly, many people own refrigerators meant specifically for wine and other beverages. Typical [wine refrigerators](http://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_trksid=p5197.m570.l1313&_nkw=wine+refrigerator&_sacat=0) (also known as wine coolers or wine cellars) are compact in size and are built to regulate the temperature to the appropriate levels at which wine is generally enjoyed.

**Final Considerations**

When choosing a new refrigerator, it is important to consider the capacity space one will need. Larger families or people who love to entertain often fare better with a refrigerator that offers large amounts of storage space such as a French door model, while those who live with less people or have a smaller kitchen may lean towards the side-by-side model. Additional options such as adjustable shelves, temperature controlled drawers, and internal water dispensers are becoming increasingly available in refrigerators as well. Depending on the kitchen decor and user’s personal taste, refrigerators are typically sold in black, white, and stainless steel versions. Some higher end brands can make a refrigerator seem as if it is built into the kitchen decor as well, adding an additional touch of elegance and class to this standard kitchen device.

Chances are you haven't shopped for a refrigerator in a while, so you may be surprised to discover many different styles and features. Check out this article and get more information below to help you find the perfect fridge.

So it is time to buy a new refrigerator, maybe you just want a new one, or your old one finally broke down either way here are 5 things you should think about before purchasing a new one:

**1.      Style:**

Your most basic option has a Freezer on the top and a fresh food section on the bottom or you could have the fresh food at eye level, so that you can spot those leftovers a lot faster. Side by side gives you more freezer space so that you can store everything from pizzas, to popsicles. A French door has a lot of space for fresh food and you get the freezer on the bottom. Don’t forget about the outside the most popular finishes are White, Black, and Stainless Steel.

**2.     Capacity:**

Think about capacity, not only about how much you want, but will it fit in your space. It’s a great idea to measure your space, including your front door before you start shopping.

**3.     Features:**

Features like adjustable shelves, temperature controlled drawers, ice maker, Energy saving models, or even dual cooling systems which allows freezers to circulate cool air separately from the fridge to help keep your ice from tasting like garlic bread.

**4.   Brand:**

If you like one over another, then it best that you lean towards purchasing that appliance. If you want to know more about specific brands they each have a website with extensive information about their newest models, features, prices, and what their brand is doing to make their appliances better. If all that just seems too complicated then ask your local appliance tech or salesperson.

**5.     Delivery:**

Ask questions about delivery, since not all stores policies are the same. Are your delivery and / or set-up included with a purchase? Are all the accessories included with the purchase or do you have to purchase it separately?

Why is all this important? Because the sooner you plan all this, the sooner you can get your perfect fridge.

**Conclusion**

In today’s market there are many different types of refrigerators from which to choose. Each has its own advantages and disadvantages, which will vary depending on what an individual is specifically looking for in a refrigerator. Many people choose to go with a classic top freezer model that is economically reasonable, while others with a larger budget choose to invest in higher end refrigerators that include special features such as interior LED lighting or dual evaporators designed to maintain optimal humidity levels within the device. Before purchasing a refrigerator, it is very important to not only choose the proper style but also make sure the unit will fit within the kitchen. There must be ample space to open the door(s) as well. Other factors to take into consideration include how much it will cost to run the device, its ability to manage a certain temperature properly, and its ease of use. If it is too hard to reach items in the back of the refrigerator, or if the door is too heavy for older individuals, it may not be the right choice. Consider all options, and make sure to choose a refrigerator that meets all expectations.