

AEL&P's Comparison Shopping for a Refrigerator

What makes this model more efficient than other similar models? ● How do I maintain it to maximize the efficiency over its life? ● Can optional features that increase energy use be eliminated? ● What about style, color, safety, ease of cleaning, construction and capacity? ● Will a more expensive but energy saving model be cheaper in the long run? ● What do I need to know about this appliance to use it most effectively?

Brand/Model			
Appearance			
Interior Dimensions			
Refrigerator (cu. ft.)			
Shelf Area (cu. ft.)			
Freezer (cu. ft.)			
Exterior Dimensions			
H x W x D			
Cubic Feet – Name Plate			
Coil Location			
Configuration			
Defrost System			
Controls			
Features			
Door Seals			
Bottle Storage			
Shelf Type			
Shelf Adjustment			
Reversible Door Hinges			
Castors			
Noise Reduction? Y/N			
Reputation of Dealer/Rep. of Brand			
Repair History			
Warranty			
Other Observations/Energy Star?			
Price			
Delivery/Installation			
Disposal of Old			
EnergyGuide Annual kWh			
Energy Cost (kWh x \$.098 x 18 yrs)			
Total Cost			



Appearance 1 = Pebbled Texture, 2 = Smooth Texture, 3 = Stainless, 4 = White, 5 = Bisque, 6 = Black, 7 = Almond, 8 = Cobalt Blue, 9 = Flat, 10 = Curved Contour, 11 = Handles match, 12 = Left Hand Door Opening, 13 = Right Hand Door Opening, 14 = Custom Panel Options

Custom Panels? Note special options

Coil Location 1 = Back, 2 = Underneath

Configuration 1 = 2 Door, Top Freezer, 2 = Side-By-Side, 3 = 2 Door, Bottom Freezer, 4 = Other, 5 = Ice Maker in Door, 6 = Ice Maker in Freezer Compartment

Defrost System 1 = Manual, 2 = Manual Defrost Freezer, Automatic Defrost Fridge, 3 = Automatic for All

Controls 1 = Accessible, 2 = Meat Keeper Temp. Control, 3 = Vegetable Crisper Control, 4 = Energy Saver Switch, 5 = Butter Conditioner Switch, 6 = Dairy/Beverage Chiller

Features 1 = Ice Maker, 2 = Water Dispenser, 3 = Filter, 4 = Butter Conditioner, 5 = Egg Storage, 6 = Beverage Storage, 7 = Clear Bins, 8 = Separate Refreshment Center

Door Seals 1 = Tight, 2 = Solid Hinges, 3 = So-so

Bottle Storage 1 = Gallon, 2 = Wine, 3 = Shelf Snuggers/Sliding Door Brackets

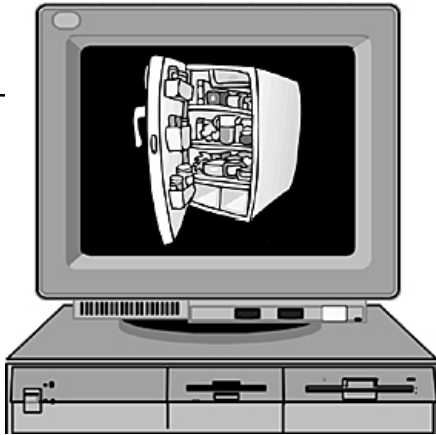
Shelf Type 1 = Glass with Raised Edges, 2 = Glass Without Raised Edges, 3 = Plastic Covered Wire

Shelf Adjustment 1 = Multiple Levels, 2 = Crank for Level Adjustment, 3 = Independent Split Shelves, 4 = Door Shelves Adjust, 5 = Roll-Back Shelves, 6 = Shelves Roll-Forward

Reversible Door Hinges Y/N

Castors Y/N

AELP's Energy Cost: \$.098 assumes the annualized rate, taxes and other components of the bill.



Check the web for more info

Energy Star website
www.energystar.gov

Energy Savers, Dept. of Energy
[www.eren.doe.gov/consumerinfo/
energy_savers/](http://www.eren.doe.gov/consumerinfo/energy_savers/)

Top-Rated Energy Efficient Appliances
www.aceee.org/consumerguide

Rocky Mountain Institute, Home Energy Brief
www.greendesign.net/rmi/heb

Energy Solution Resources – and Links
www.energyideas.org/energy_solutions
www.appliance.com

Appliance ratings and repair history for a small
fee and other free consumer advice.
www.consumerreports.org

Most major brands have websites –
brandname.com

Why buy Energy Efficiency Appliances? Also an Energy Cost Calculator for Refrigerators — DOE, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Network
www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/consumer_information/index.html

Guide to Refrigerator Features

Meat Keeper – longer storage for fresh meats – up to seven days.**

Vegetable Crisper – allows vegetables and fruit to remain “garden fresh.”

Butter Conditioner – keeps butter at a spreadable temperature (also uses a little extra energy).

Egg Storage Basket – provides a convenient storage area for eggs.

Bottle Storage – a special space for storing large bottles, especially larger sizes and tall wine bottles.

Types of Shelves – plastic coated wire, or glass. Glass shelves are considered easier to clean. Most glass shelves have raised rims to keep spills from dripping over. Some shelves will slide out, for easier cleaning.

Adjustable Shelves – makes storage space more flexible, both in the cabinet and on the door. Some models have split systems, allowing different heights on each side of the cabinet. Some shelves can be adjusted by cranking them without needing to remove the contents, others will roll forward. Still other shelves work with the front half of the shelf sliding under the rear portion to provide clearance.

Door Opening and Panel Choices. Most offer left or right opening. Some brands offer decorative panels.

Castors – make refrigerators mobile for easy cleaning beneath and behind the unit.

Shelf-snuggers – sliding brackets on door shelves, secure bottles and jars.

Refreshment Center – a small fold-out door in the main door for access to bottles in a chiller.

Accessible Controls – nice to have, though once set, there should be little reason for adjustment.

**According to Consumer Reports, temperature-controlled drawers can be set several degrees cooler than the rest of the interior and are more effective than plain drawers. Results for humidity controlled crispers, were less easy to determine.

In Juneau, proper disposal will cost \$75.00 and needs to be figured in to the cost of a new one.