

New Refrigerator Checklist



SO YOU'VE BOUGHT A NEW REFRIGERATOR... NOW WHAT?

Questions to Ask About the Delivery Process

Delivery services and pricing vary depending on the retailer, and may or may not include installation and testing of the new appliance and removal of the old appliance. Another consideration is whether the delivery service will take away the packaging for the new appliance.

- What is included in the delivery? Depending on the retailer, their delivery might mean:
 - The package is dropped off at doorstep; OR
 - The appliance is brought inside, unboxed, installed, and leveled; OR
 - All of the above, plus the old appliance is hauled away; OR
 - Some other combination of services
- What tiers of delivery are there, if any, and how much do they cost?
- What is the delivery window, and can they contact you before they expect to arrive?
 - Some retailers offer the option to pay extra to get a more specific delivery window at a time of day of your choice
- What parts do I need to have? What are the current codes for refrigerator installation?
 - Parts wear out (such as water shutoff valves), and you will need to have a braided stainless steel water line for an icemaker/water dispenser (flexible plastic tubing and copper water lines should be replaced)
 - Codes change - for example, if the water shutoff valve is too far from the refrigerator, you may need a plumber to help with the installation.

At Bellingham Electric, we deliver your refrigerator unboxed and install it for you. We also remove your old refrigerator and dispose of it. Our charge is \$69.00 for this service.

New Refrigerator Checklist



Preparation

- ☐ Measure the space where the refrigerator will be installed one last time to ensure a perfect fit - including the width, depth, and height - with room for an air gap and for the door to open
 - Refer to the "depth without doors" measurement for your model for whether you can get the model through the door of the house (this number is the minimum clearance you will need)
 - Widths are generally 30"/33"/36" with some variation
 - "Height to the top of the case/cabinet" is the important height measurement if you have cabinets built over the refrigerator cavity
 - Homes with built-in cabinets that overlap the front of the refrigerator should check the "height to the top of the hinge" measurement
- ☐ Measure doorways, stairways, and hallways that the refrigerator will need to pass through on its way to your kitchen
 - Most delivery services will remove the refrigerator's handles or doors as needed and reattach them once installed, which is often necessary with larger models
 - Retailers are generally willing to remove pins from doors and remove pumps on sliding glass doors if needed
- ☐ Know your delivery window and set aside time for the installation process - at most a single piece refrigerator will take an hour to bring in and install, but it is generally 45 minutes on average which includes removing the doors. If refrigerator doors don't need to be removed the process could take as little as 30 minutes
- ☐ Make sure that an adult (18+ years old) who is authorized to make decisions will be there for the delivery
- ☐ Check that you have the correct water connections
- ☐ Clear the pathway to the installation area of furniture and other obstacles (and consider blocking pets and children from the delivery pathway as well, if applicable)

New Refrigerator Checklist



- ☐ Have floor protection on hand if needed - many companies will have a floor runner or slider pads with them, but check with your retailer about that (at Bellingham Electric, we use a neoprene runner to protect your floors)
- ☐ Avoid going grocery shopping the day before or day of delivery - food and beverages will have to sit in a cooler for several hours, so you don't want to risk spoilage

Preparing Your Old Refrigerator

- ☐ Empty it out – Have coolers ready to keep food and beverages, and keep in mind that your new refrigerator will not get up to temperature for at least 2 hours
 - Plan to pack in the food right away once the new one is installed – the quickest way to cool down a fridge is to fill it with food!
- ☐ Unplug it and shut off the water line (if there is one)
- ☐ If you are able to move it out of the cavity, sweep out and/or mop the area

Inspecting Your New Refrigerator: Before You Sign

This is your opportunity to make sure that you received the correct model and that it has arrived undamaged. Although you can call the retailer later if something's wrong, it can save you a headache to take these steps while the installers are still there.

- ☐ Check that the model number matches the numbers on your bill and receipt, and that you received the correct color
- ☐ Look for scratches or dents to the exterior
- ☐ Check the interior shelving, making sure each sliding shelf and drawer glides smoothly and is fully intact
- ☐ Wait a few minutes after hooking it up to the water line to make sure there are no leaks

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Enjoying Your New Refrigerator

- ☐ The First Day:
 - ☐ Read the owner's manual... seriously!
 - ☐ Adjust the shelves and temperature dials to your ideal settings
 - ☐ Fill up the refrigerator right away as it will help it cool down more quickly - however, it will take 24-48 hours for it to fully cool
 - ☐ If it has a water dispenser, run at least 1 gallon of water through the dispenser and toss it out (do not drink it)
- ☐ After 24 Hours:
 - ☐ If it has an icemaker, the first batch of ice will be ready after 24 hours - but you should toss it out (do not use it)
 - ☐ If the interior temperature does not seem to be dropping steadily towards the settings you selected, call the retailer for assistance
- ☐ Remember to register for any warranties and send in rebates as well if applicable!