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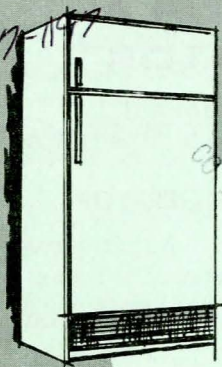
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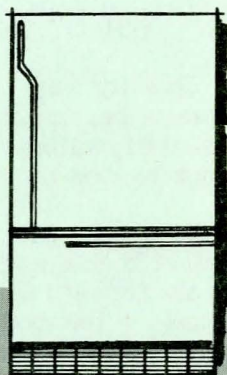
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Shopping for a REFRIGERATOR



EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING
E. F. FROLIK, DEAN J. L. ADAMS, DIRECTOR

SHOPPING FOR A REFRIGERATOR

By Mrs. Clara N. Leopold
Extension Home Management Specialist

SHOPPING FOR A REFRIGERATOR

What Is a Good Refrigerator?

A refrigerator does more than keep your food cold. It:

--Offers temperatures from cool to below freezing.

--Helps guard the health of your family by retarding food spoilage.

--Protects your pocketbook -- you can buy in larger quantities, save leftovers, cut down waste.

Requires little of you -- weekly cleaning, possibly defrosting, and electricity to run it.

TOP OF THE LIST FEATURES

Quality may be a bit difficult for the average person to spot but it is there in most refrigerators. Here is a check list of things to look for when you shop:

Exterior - Most refrigerator boxes are made of bonderized steel to prevent rusting and are finished with two coats of baked-on enamel. A few models are available in porcelain. Porcelain does not wear off but may chip from a sharp blow and cannot be repaired at home. Some come with metallic finishes.

Insulation - Efficiency of the refrigerator depends largely on the amount and kind of insulation it has. Whatever type, the

insulation must be heat resistant, moisture resistant, nondestructible, odorless and must not settle or sag. Glass fiber and/or foamed plastic are widely used. They give good insulation in a small amount of space, allowing refrigerator walls to be thinner than they were in years past.

Interior Liner - Porcelain-enameled steel is acid and stain resistant.

Leveling feet - Proper leveling eliminates vibration, produces less motor wear and noise and less strain on hinges and door.

Doors - Latches and hinges should be of good quality, easy to clean. It is convenient if the latch does not require hand manipulation but holds when the door is pushed shut with an arm or knee. Doors should be regarded as part of the wall and should have the same insulation as the walls. Gasket should be replaceable. Does the door need to open to the right or to the left to give you working space beside the refrigerator at the open side?

Fruit and vegetable storage drawers - Porcelain pans are acid and stain resistant. Well worth extra cost above that of plastics, easier to clean, do not break or crack, and generally cool food more quickly.

Shelves - Made of stainless steel or anodized aluminum and with no rough or sharp edges makes them easy to clean. Should slide or swing easily and quietly. Rods should be close enough together to support small containers without tilting or falling through. Adjustability adds to convenience.

Storage temperature - Meat, poultry and fish need temperatures between 30°-35°F. Milk, cream, cheese should be cooled at 40°F. Bulk of foods need about 40°-44°F.

Seals of Approval - Electrical appliances should carry the Underwriter's Label. While not a guarantee of performance, this seal of approval assures you that the appliance has passed certain tests for safety. The NEMA seal tells you that the refrigerator meets industry's specification standards.

Automatic defrosting - Be sure you know whether you are getting a refrigerator which defrosts automatically or one in which frost never forms. There is a slight added operating cost for the frostless feature. Frostless models keep the air dry, causing more drying unless foods are covered tightly.

Color - Nice for coordinating a color scheme but may not fit if you move. Usually an added cost.

Ice Cube storage - Automatically filled ice trays and ice cube ejectors may be high priced for the use you may make of them, although it is convenient to have a supply of cubes available at all times.

Combination Refrigerator-Freezer - Convenient for small family. Combinations usually have more deluxe features than standard refrigerators. Cost of operating combination models is more than for refrigerator alone, because of the colder temperatures in the freezer section. Studies show that the refrigerator door is opened and closed an average of 69 times a day in the average home, while the freezer door is opened only 3 times a day. Thus, it makes sense to give the refrigerator the most desirable spot - on top. Some freezer compartments of the refrigerator-freezer combination are not as cold as is recommended for a regular freezer -- 0°F.

BEFORE SELECTING, ASK YOURSELF

--How often do I want to shop? If you shop often you can get by with a smaller refrigerator.

--Will my family increase? It is wiser economy for the young couple to buy a large refrigerator (not less than nine cubic feet) if you expect to have children. Overcrowding of the refrigerator is false economy. If space is available and cost is not prohibitive, the larger size, 14 to 15 cubic feet, is recommended.

How much frozen food will I store? Most people find that they would like to have more space for frozen foods than they anticipate at the time they choose a refrigerator.

Will I freeze foods at home? If you intend to do any freezing at all, choose a refrigerator-freezer, or better yet, a refrigerator plus a conventional freezer with a sealed freezing compartment which will supply zero temperatures. Also, estimate the amount of home freezing that will be done.

How much milk will we use? Choose a refrigerator that has plenty of tall storage space for milk because that is one food that must have refrigeration at all times.

How much entertaining will I do? The family that does much entertaining will require more refrigerator capacity than the family which doesn't entertain.

WHATEVER YOUR CHOICE :

Buy a recognized brand.

Buy from a dealer you know and trust and who can service what he sells.

Send the warranty card to the manufacturer. Does it cover both labor and materials?

Read the instruction book; keep it handy; refer to it often.

Make sure reliable service is available -- you may need it in a hurry.