



The top 7 differences between your parent's 1970s-era refrigerator and today's models:



Reason #7 - Today's typical refrigerator is NOT avocado green, the color of choice in the '70s!

Reason #6 - Most current models make ice and many dispense water (there was a time when refrigerators were just refrigerators).

Reason #5 - In addition to top-freezer and side-by-side options, there are more styles to choose from (bottom freezer, French doors, additional drawers, and now even *four-door* refrigerators).

Reason #4 - More efficient compressors make for a much quieter kitchen experience.

Reason #3 - Refrigerators today are larger on average and thus hold more food and beverages.

Reason #2 - The price¹ to buy a refrigerator fell by two-thirds since the '70s! *And...*

...Reason #1 - **THEY USE MUCH LESS ENERGY!** 1970s refrigerators used about 1800 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year, while today's average refrigerator uses only about 500 kWh. In dollar terms, today you pay about \$60 per year in electricity costs for a typical refrigerator. If you'd held on to your parent's '70s era fridge, you'd be paying over \$200 in electricity costs---every year!

Appliance efficiency standards have led the way in significantly reducing the energy use of refrigerators since the 1970s. But it doesn't stop there. On September 15, 2014, new efficiency standards took effect, which will reduce the amount of electricity most refrigerators and freezers use another 20-25%. Hats off to the manufacturers, and efficiency groups who worked together to recommend efficiency levels for refrigerators and freezers to the Department of Energy. DOE ultimately based the final standards on these recommendations, which will save enough energy to meet the total energy needs of one quarter of all the homes in the United States for a year. DOE estimates CO₂ emissions will be cut by 344 million metric tons over 30 years, an amount equal to the annual emissions of about 70 million cars. Over the same 30-year period, and taking into account up-front costs, consumers will save up to \$36 billion.

Your parents would be proud!

[Click here](#) to learn how your refrigerator has kept its cool over 40 years of efficiency improvements

¹ In 2010 dollars