

Undercounter Refrigeration Training Flyer

One area that is becoming a bigger and bigger part of our business is appliances. Because of that it is important we all become familiar with what is available and the terminology used. One area of appliances is undercounter refrigeration. This flyer will serve to briefly cover the different types of undercounter refrigeration and some terminology used.

Free-Standing vs Built In:

When talking undercounter refrigeration, a product can be either Free-Standing or Built in. Freestanding refrigerators will cost about \$400-\$600 or less. Built-in refrigerators start at over \$1,000. They both have similar dimensions. Refrigerators use the refrigeration cycle to remove heat from the inside of the fridge. This means it will be expelling heat into the air around it. This is helpful to know when discussing free-standing vs built-in refrigeration.

Free Standing units have the condenser on the back and cannot be placed between cabinets. If they are placed between cabinets, the heat the fridge produces will be trapped and damage the fridge. They can also be noisier and do not maintain a constant temperature.



Built-In refrigerators vent heat through a bottom “toe kick” vent. This allows them to be placed between cabinets and under a countertop.



Types of Undercounter Refrigeration:

Undercounter refrigeration of all types has become more popular, especially in kitchen islands and other bar applications. There are several different types of undercounter refrigeration including wine storage, beverage centers, refrigerators and icemakers.

Wine Storage: Temperature, humidity, and vibration are the key distinguishing factors between conventional refrigerators and wine refrigerators. Where a regular fridge is designed to drop temperature rapidly and drive out humidity, a wine refrigerator is designed to lower temperature gradually and maintain a level of humidity conducive to wine storage.



Beverage Centers: These are undercounter refrigerators that have the ability to store wine. They can store wine, beer and soda. We have different lines available but True and U-Line would be good options. The True beverage centers are a totally stainless box, engineered for a 20 year life with a very powerful compressor. Also, True manufacturers all the parts used.



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Refrigerator Drawers: Refrigerators have similar characteristics as beverage centers. The notable innovation has been the double drawer. These can also be freezer drawers. Most appliance lines will have these available.



Ice Makers: There are three types of icemakers: Condensation, Gravity Fed and Pump.

- **Condensation:** This is an ice maker without a drain and very similar to what is in most kitchens already. Condensation icemakers are less expensive but don't deliver the same volume of cubes as the other types.
- **Gravity Fed:** This is an ice maker with a drain. These produce more ice than the condensation type. However, they are the most problematic because any impurities can be lodged in the ice maker itself and clog the drain.
- **Pump:** This is the best choice of all three. Cubes are plentiful and clear. Also, because they are pumping the water rather than using only gravity, there are less clogs and repair issues.



When discussing icemakers customers can determine pounds of ice, clear v cloudy ice, and the shape of the cube.

*For clear ice icemakers, it is very important to run the cleaning cycle regularly. A majority of service calls for this type of icemaker are due to the system not being cleaned at least once a quarter.

What do we have available?

There are many different lines available for each of the products above. True and U-Line are two great options to start with. Other great options would be Perlick, Scottsman, Marvel, and Kitchen Aid among others.



What do we have available?

The first next step is to learn more. If you have not already, you can read the [Refrigerator Training Flyer](#). Also, the link below is a link to a video detailing Kitchen Aid Wine Storage and Beverage Centers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQZjoVWTixA>.

TRUE or FALSE: Gravity fed icemakers have the least amount of problems among icemakers.

TRUE or FALSE: Built in refrigerators vent heat through the back of the fridge.

Bonus Question:

How is an undercounter refrigerator similar to a [heat pump dryer](#), a [water cooler](#), and an [AC system](#)?

Send your answer to Brandon to be entered into a drawing for a Zoeller Rain Jacket.