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## Are sub zero fridges worth the money

If you're planning a high-end kitchen renovation, chances are you're working with a designer, and if you're working with a designer, she's probably mentioned Sub-Zero as a possible refrigerator to consider. Among pricey, built-in models, Sub-Zero is perhaps the most recognized brand. But is it worth the \$7,500 or more you'll have to pay? Speaking strictly in terms of performance, the answer is no. Just within the built-in category, Thermador and Jenn-Air are two competitors that cost slightly less than Sub-Zero and earned higher overall scores in Consumer Reports' latest refrigerator Ratings, largely on the strength of their quieter operation. The Sub-Zero B1-36U, \$7,700, is particularly noisy, which could be an issue if you're sound-sensitive. Looking across all types of refrigerators, the highest overall scores belong to several French-door bottom-freezers that cost between \$1,500 and \$2,700. That top performance has helped make French-door fridges the fastest-growing configuration. But then, part of the reason people spend \$7,500 on anything, including a refrigerator, is so that they can own something that everyone else doesn't have. That gets to the less quantifiable value of a Sub-Zero, or any built-in refrigerator for that matter. Take style, for example: there's simply no mistaking the imposing 80-inch-high frame of a built-in—a foot or more taller than other configurations. Then there's the fact that integrated panels, often desired in high-end kitchens because they make the appliances disappear into the cabinets, are easier to do with built-in models because they often don't have through-the-door ice and water dispensers. Last but not least, there's brand recognition. Like we said at the top, Sub-Zero is one of, if not the biggest name in high-end refrigerators. So anyone who visits your kitchen is going to know you spent top dollar on the appliance. That includes would-be buyers down the line. Indeed, real estate professionals have told us time and again that most luxury-home buyers expect to see professional appliances in the kitchen. So are Sub-Zero refrigerators worth the price? There's no easy answer. But if you're going to spend that much on a refrigerator, make sure you're doing it for the right reasons. The short answer is, maybe. When our parent firm the Carey Group designs and builds homes, we take into consideration several criteria including aesthetic design, maintenance, resale value and reliability. Will the item provide a "wow" factor for the homeowner? With Sub-Zero's "panel ready and counter flush" design, the whole refrigerator can be made to disappear into your cabinets, or you can elect the classic stainless steel look... Think about it. The kitchen is the one place by which guests, or future buyers can judge the quality of the home. Sub-Zero accomplishes that in a big way. It is great looking and has the largest brand recognition of any residential product. Sub-Zero refrigerators have an active vacuum seal. They are tougher to open (which could be a problem for children or seniors), but outside air cannot infiltrate into the refrigerator. The benefit is that food stays fresher for a longer period of time. The refrigerator drawers are magnetized for the same reason. Sub-Zero has less temperature deviation than other brands. The temperature can be set in 1 degree increments in both the refrigerator and freezer. An air purification system is included that scrubs the internal air every 20 minutes to remove any ethylene, mold, viruses and bacteria. As a result, the spoilage process is slowed and there is less chance of cross contaminating other foods. Another feature is that Sub-Zero shelving surfaces are easy to adjust and the coating is made with new technology designed so a spill will congeal and does not spread to other parts of the refrigerator. Sub-Zero's features and branding are the best in the industry. Thermador is their main competition and offers great features but Sub-Zero has a better seal, shelving and air filter. The difference in price between Sub-Zero and their close competitors is \$2,000 to \$4,000. (Yes, you can still buy a refrigerator for much less but without all the bells and whistles). A couple of other notes; when we checked Consumer Reports, Bosch, Sub-Zero and Thermador were the top 3 in the higher end refrigerators, all ranked equally in owner satisfaction. The only reoccurring negative we came across about Sub-Zero, was about their built in ice maker. The cubes get stuck if you don't do the required regular cleaning and filter change. I then called The Appliance Store locally and asked them if they have more repair calls on Sub-Zero or Thermador and they said Thermador has more calls (this is not scientific in any way, it's just a stomach check with the repair firm we use). One more thing, Augie's Water Systems (who does a lot of work locally), recommends having an R/O system tied to your icemaker for clearer ice cubes. Refrigerator filters only remove the chlorine taste. For the new house we are building in Hope Ranch, we chose Sub-Zero. Sub-Zero is designed to have a 20-year life span, but mine are on their 36th year and are still going strong. Yes, we have had regular maintenance and repairs along the way, but they keep on going. The best thing about Sub-Zero is that their products are made to last (other brands will discontinue a style and then you can no longer get the replacement part). These are my personal opinions in the capacity of reviewing products for our firm's use. Consumers should balance the pros and cons of any product they choose. Trudi Carey is a licensed architect, real estate broker and general contractor. She specializes in new home trends and self-storage services. The Sub Zero ID30F freezer offers twice as much space due to its double design. Sleek and stylish, this model ranks among some of the best freezers around. This is an integrated freezer that aims to fit in but also stand out - in a good way as this is designed to look great. The 30-inch double drawer unit has lots of face options to fit into your kitchen space perfectly. Alternatively, if you don't want an integrated model, consider a combo with one of the best French door refrigerators or the best side-by-side refrigerators. Sub Zero knows how to make a freezer, and well, so you can rest easy knowing this US-made unit is both Star-K certified and Energy Star qualified and comes with a limited 12-year warranty. So is this reliable and stunning freezer the integrated choice for you? Read on to find out everything you need to know about the Sub Zero ID30F. Image 1 of 3 (Image credit: Sub Zero) Image 2 of 3 (Image credit: Sub Zero) Image 3 of 3 (Image credit: Sub Zero) 4.9 cubic feet 30-inch width Soft-close The Sub Zero ID30F is built to last and as such it comes with really well made parts. This integrated freezer's drawers and doors are soft-close meaning they should last longer and are easier to use comfortably. The main unit front is stainless steel as standard, with a wide bar handle for easy opening. There are other front options including a wood panel style finish, to suit your kitchen type. Inside there is a total of 4.9 cubic feet of storage across the two drawers, each of which are a full 30-inches wide and 24-inches deep. These are magnetically sealed so you can push and walk away knowing it will close securely. The drawers have dividers for easy storage and access. These are removable so cleaning should also be easy. LED soft-on lighting Optional ice maker Sabbath mode Touchscreen The Sub Zero ID30F comes with LED soft-on lighting throughout, meaning you're eased into the brightness - and this can be set to reach however bright you need. This can be done using the touch controls which are also available to set the thermostat. While the unit doesn't come with an ice maker, this is an optional additional feature. This will automatically make ice so it's ready when you open the drawer. There is also a handy Max Ice mode that increases output by 30% for a 24-hour period - ideal for a party. These units are Star-K Kosher certified for use on the Jewish Sabbath and other religious holidays. Plus they're built to last a whopping 20 years thanks to rigorous testing. Energy Star rated Easy access Superb seals The Sub Zero ID30F might not be cheap but to run it won't cost you a lot as this is Energy Star rated for efficiency. It's also easy on the arms thanks to those soft close and slide out drawers which are effortless. Once closed the doors are designed to form an air seal around all four sides of the door to prevent leaks while conserving energy. The microprocessor means interior temperature stays within one degree of the setpoint - which means you get consistent food stasis. The soft-on LED lighting is great for use at night where you don't want to be shocked with a bright light on opening the freezer. The touch controls are super easy to use so adjusting that light, or temperature, is straight forward. If you don't mind spending a bit more for a long warranty, quality build and attractive design then the Sub Zero ID30F is for you. If you need more than five cubic feet, then the Gladiator 17.8 Upright Rolling Garage will most certainly deliver, or if you want to save some money, then the GE FCM16DLWW freezer may not look as good but is more affordable. The Sub Zero ID30F is an extremely well designed and built integrated freezer with a decent amount of space and super easy access. It's comfortable to use with touch controls and soft-on LED lighting plus it runs efficiently thanks to that Energy Star rating. This isn't a cheap unit, sure, but with up to 12 years of warranty this is something that you won't have to replace anytime soon.



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