

DIGITAL RESOURCE GUIDE LEARNING



 **CR** Consumer Reports



All Products A-Z

Ad-free. Influence-free. Powered by consumers.

YOUR GUIDE TO BUYING AN EV OR HYBRID

Hot, New Electric Cars That Are Coming Soon

Decide If a Hybrid, Plug-In Hybrid, or Fully Electric Car Is Right for You

CR Helps You Find All the Available Electric Car Incentives

How to Choose the Best Home Wall Charger for Your Electric Vehicle



Which EVs Will Qualify for the New Electric Vehicle Tax Credit? It's Complicated.



**LINCOLNWOOD
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

What is Consumer Reports?

Consumer Reports is an independent, nonprofit member organization that works side by side with consumers for truth, transparency, and fairness in the marketplace.

Consumer Reports works to assist the consumer with purchase decisions, improve the products and services that businesses deliver, and drive regulatory and fair competitive practices.

Logging on to Consumer Reports with your Library card allows you to see Consumer Reports investigations and videos, articles, ratings, recommendations, buying guides, best time to buy guides, and more.

How to Access Consumer Reports

1. Go to the library's website, lincolnwoodlibrary.org
2. Hover over **Resources**. Select **Resource Quick Links**.
3. Select **View Resource** to the right of **Consumer Reports**.
4. On the page that loads, enter in your full Library card number from below the bar code on the back of your card, **21242000XXXXXX** all the numbers but omitting spaces.
5. Select **Sign in**.

Library Card

Once you're signed in, Consumer Reports will direct you to their homepage to get started.

Navigating Consumer Reports

Consumer Reports is well organized to find the information you're looking for. At the top left corner of the page you will find the menu.



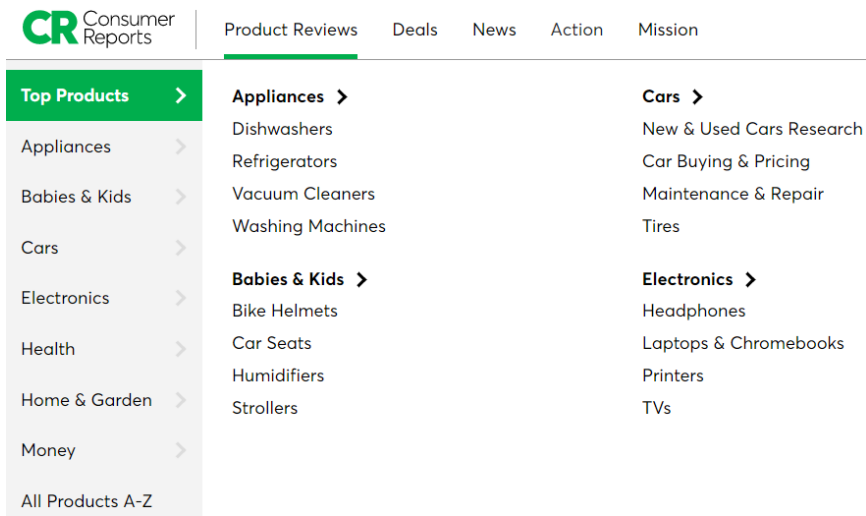
Product Reviews is the biggest section, which allows you to see ratings for cars, electronics, appliances, and much more.

In the **News** section you will find articles on a large variety of topics covering new products to issues concerning consumers.

The **Action** section allows consumers to advocate for issues they care about, sign petitions, and learn more about topics such as avoiding hidden fees or choosing cable TV over online streaming services.

Finding Product Reviews

To start searching and comparing product reviews, click on **Product Reviews**, and select the category in which you're interested.



For more detailed instruction, book a one-on-one session with a librarian. Registration requires a Lincolnwood Library Card. For scheduling, contact Adult Services at (224) 233-1859.

Once you've selected the product you're looking for you'll be taken to its **overview** page. This page will typically have a link to a buying guide, ratings, recommended products, any relevant news on the particular item you're looking for, and more.

At the top of the page you will see the following tabs:

The **ratings** page is where you can view different models and brands of the product you're looking for and see how each item has been rated in terms of it's reliability, owner satisfaction, and other categories which may be specific to the particular item. For instance, refrigerators are rated by thermostat control, and cars are assigned a road test score.

Filters narrow your search.

Product models

Ratings

The screenshot shows a product page for 'Refrigerators'. At the top, there are four tabs: 'Overview', 'Ratings & Reliability' (which is selected and underlined), 'Recommended', and 'Buying Guide'. Below the tabs is a filter bar with dropdown menus for 'Type', 'Categories', 'Price', 'Brands', 'More Filters', and 'Sort', along with a 'Clear' button. Below the filter bar are three buttons: 'COMPARE' (with a magnifying glass icon), 'CR RECOMMENDED' (with a toggle switch), and 'VIEW' (with a hamburger menu icon). Below these buttons, it says '47 RESULTS'. The main content area is titled '28 INCH AND NARROWER WIDTHS (12)'. There are three product listings, each with a 'BEST BUY' badge, a product image, the product name, price, and a 'Shop' button. The first listing is a Whirlpool WRT112CZJZ with a price of \$630.00 and a rating of 81. The second listing is a Frigidaire FFHT1425VV with a price of \$600.00 and a rating of 73. The third listing is a Hotpoint with a price of \$600.00 and a rating of 72. Each product listing also has a 'PREDICTED RELIABILITY' bar and four other rating categories: 'THERMOSTAT CONTROL', 'TEMPERATURE UNIFORMITY', and 'ENERGY EFFICIENCY'. The ratings for these categories are shown as horizontal bars with scores out of 5.

Product	Price	Rating	Predicted Reliability	Thermostat Control	Temperature Uniformity	Energy Efficiency
Whirlpool WRT112CZJZ	\$630.00	81	5/5	5/5	5/5	4/5
Frigidaire FFHT1425VV	\$600.00	73	5/5	4/5	4/5	5/5
Hotpoint	\$600.00	72	4/5	5/5	5/5	5/5

You may click on any of the **i** buttons to see detailed descriptions of ratings categories.

Rated Best For ▾ More Filters ▾ Sort

Select One or More Filters:

- Predicted Reliability
- Thermostat Control
- Temperature Uniformity
- Energy Efficiency
- Noise
- Ease Of Use

CLEAR ALL Apply

PREDICTED RELIABILITY **i**

↑ 5 / 5

Predicted Reliability

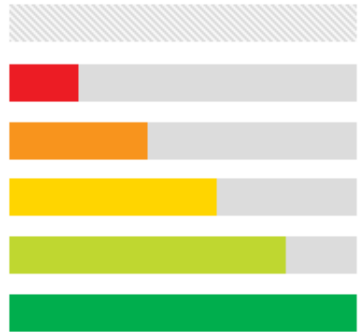
Predicted brand reliability ratings are based on estimated

If you want to search refrigerators based on the ratings of *thermostat control*, you select Rated Best For and then choose thermostat control and select Apply.

Type ▾ Categories ▾ Price ▾ Brands ▾ Rated Best For ▾ More Filters ▾ Sort ▾ Clear

Each metric is rated on a scale of **Poor** to **Excellent**.

- Gray = not rated, insufficient data
- Red = poor
- Orange = less poor
- Yellow = ok
- Light green = good
- Dark green = best



You may click on the name of any product to read more information on it, see user reviews, and get links on where the item can be purchased.


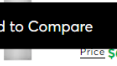


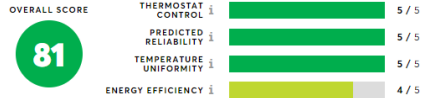
You can customize the **View** of results from **Full View** for a scrollable table with tons of information to **Compact View** (default), **Model View** emphasizing specific items, and Reliability & Satisfaction giving an overview of brand quality.



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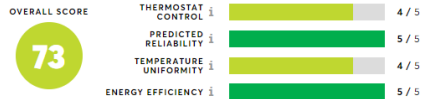
Comparing Products

It's easy to compare the items you're interested in. On the main ratings page, click the **Add to Compare** link under 2 or 3 items. The link is located to the left of the model picture.


BEST BUY 28 INCH AND NARROWER WIDTHS

Price \$630.00 Shop





BEST BUY 28 INCH AND NARROWER WIDTHS

Price \$600.00 Shop




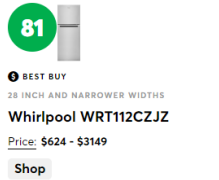
Once you've selected the items to compare, click the green **Compare** button at the top left of the ratings table and then select **View Compare**.



COMPARE
View Compare

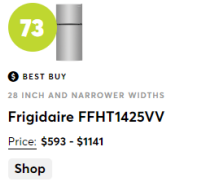
You will see a chart comparing the items that you've selected.


COMPARING 2 MODELS |  PRINT

 REMOVE



 REMOVE



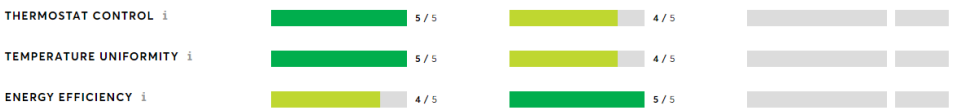


Add Another Model

Survey Results




Test Results



Compare Prices

Once you've found an item you are interested in purchasing, you can compare prices by clicking on the **Shop** button next to the item on the main ratings page.

⊖  **BEST BUY** 28 INCH AND NARROWER WIDTHS
Whirlpool WRT112CZJZ
Price \$630.00 **Shop**

OVERALL SCORE 81

- THERMOSTAT CONTROL 5/5
- PREDICTED RELIABILITY 5/5
- TEMPERATURE UNIFORMITY 5/5
- ENERGY EFFICIENCY 4/5

You will then see prices from several retailers. Clicking the **Shop** button will take you the website of the retailer where you can complete the purchase of the product.

PRICE ↓	SOLD BY
LOWEST \$624.10 In stock	Appliances Connection
\$629.00 In stock	Home Depot Free Shipping on Most \$45+ Orders.
\$629.99 In stock	Best Buy

[View All Retailers](#)

Buying Guides

Each product offers a buying guide, which can be accessed by clicking on the **Buying Guide** tab.

The guide will provide an overview of the different models and types of the particular product, things to consider when purchasing, and a background on how the items are rated. They link to articles on specific aspects of shopping for certain items.

Buying guides are updated frequently to reflect the most updated information.

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After making a major purchase like buying a car, study up for drivers license tests with Driving-tests.org!

