



Objectives

- Determine participants' performance on Overstock's website as well as 7 competitors when completing key tasks centered around shopping for White Goods.
- What information can we gather from the following tasks on each website?
 - Navigating to White Goods products on the site
 - Finding specific pricing and warranty information
 - Information on delivery installation
 - What is the return policy?
 - Finding product technical information, user guides, and energy star ratings
- How can users determine whether or not the appliance fits their space?
- How does Overstock's White Goods experience compare to competitors'? Why?
- What aspects of competitor sites are ranked higher than Overstock or each other? Why?
- Where does Overstock stand overall?
- Identify design/flow ideas for redesign of the White Goods portion of the Overstock site.
- Users were asked to rate the difficulty of each task, as well as asked 8 follow up questions to determine usability, trust, appearance, and loyalty.



Methodology

We ran a remote, unmoderated benchmarking study with 80 participants on desktop (10 users per site) in order to determine how users shop online for White Goods (large appliances) and to discover what information and features are most important to users.

We also conducted a competitive audit of each site to learn more about the White Goods shopping experience on each site.

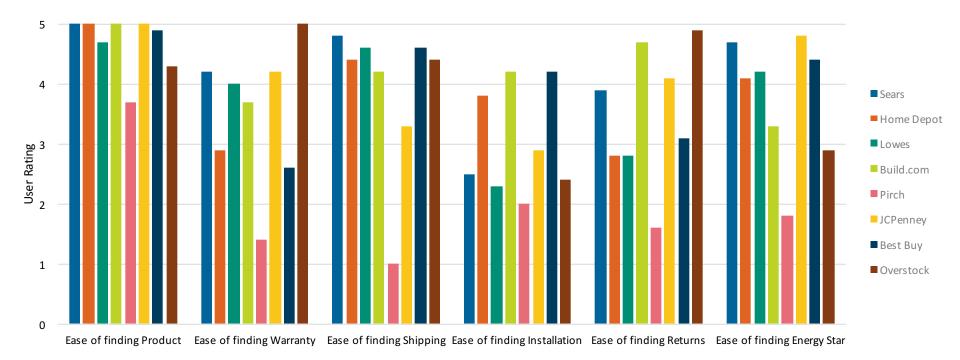
Sites Tested:

- 1- Sears
- 2- Home Depot
- 3- Lowes
- 4- Build.com
- 5- Pirch
- 6- JCPenney
- 7- Best Buy
- 8- Overstock

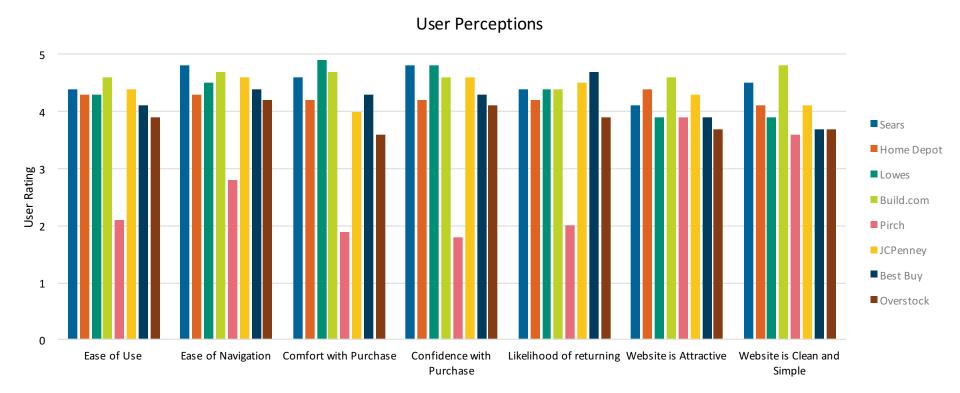


Total website comparison of specific tasks



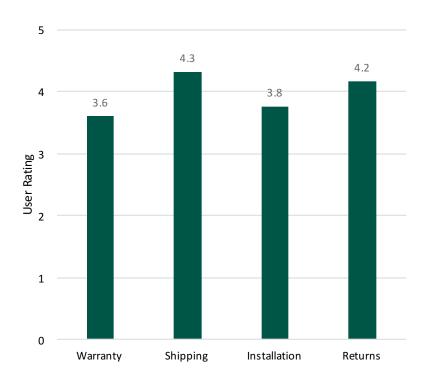


Total website comparison of overall experience





Overall purchase decision influencers



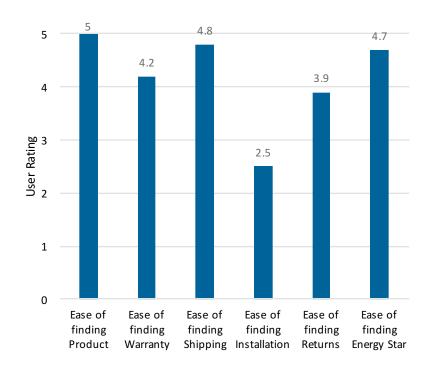
Users rated how important warranty, shipping information, installation options, and return policy were in making their final purchase decision.

Return policy and shipping were the most important aspects, as users noted that they would not purchase something that takes too long to arrive or something as expensive as an appliance without the ability to return it.

Competitors' White Goods Shopping Features

	Sears	Home Depot	Lowes	Build.com	Pirch	JCPenney	Best Buy
Warranty	V	✓	V	/		>	✓
Delivery	V	V	V	✓		>	✓
Installation		V					✓
User Guides	✓	V	V	✓	~	✓	~
Line drawings		V					
Product Videos	V	V	V				
Energy Star	V	V	V	V		/	V

Sears – specific tasks



Video Clips

 Products are extremely easy to find

- Warranty not found in full description, but available in PDF



 Shipping information displayed at the top of product page



 Installation information is hidden inside product PDFand doesn't cover professional installation



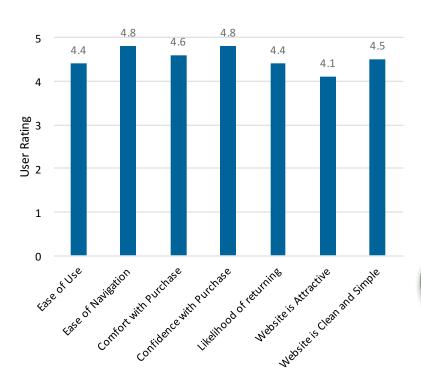
 Return policy visible in the middle of the page



 Energy Star certification under description



Sears – overall experience





"What I liked most about shopping for a fridge on this site was the clean layout and attractive products."



"There were so many options with excellent photos. Any fridge I could possibly be interested in appeared to be available through this site."



"Pages look a bit busy with information, sometimes hard to separate information needed from the "mess" of information on screen. Could use better space optimization and truncate large text areas like FAQs and Customer Reviews which stretch the page."

Sears Service Offers

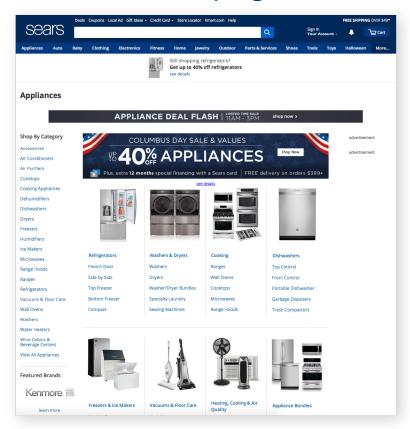
Delivery and Installation:

Free delivery on orders over \$399 Basic hookup service

Warranties:

3-year and 5-year extended protection

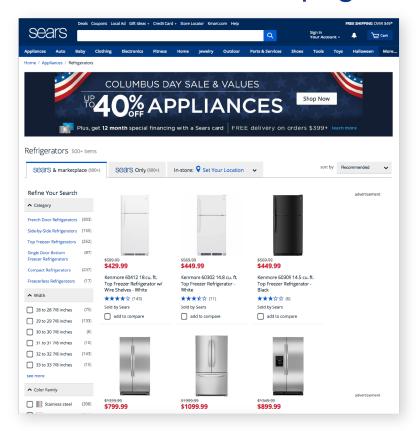
Sears – store page



Store Page Features:

Huge Sale Banners Shop by Category (photo links) Shop by Brand Related Product Category links

Sears – search/nav page



Search Refinements:

Category

Width

Finish

Brand

Height

Depth

Ice Maker

Price

Capacity

Depth

Dispenser

Energy Star Compliant

Discount

Consumer Reports Rated

User Ratings

Store Pickup & Delivery

Current Offers

Built In

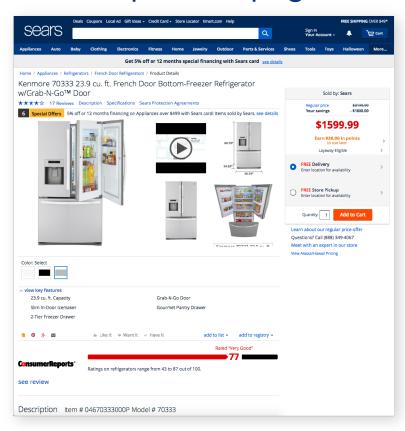
Gallon Door Storage

Sears & Other Sellers

Humidity-Controlled Crisper

New Arrivals

Sears - product page

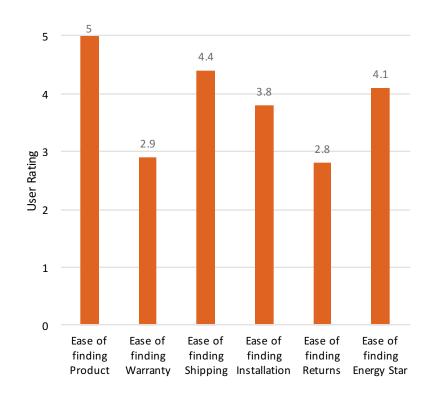


Product Page Features:

Photo grid
Energy Star Certified Info
Energy Guide Info
Owners Manual (English, Spanish)
Customers Who Viewed This Also Liked
Top Picks For You
Specifications, Warranty info
Ratings & Reviews
Similar Products
Q&A

Home Depot – specific tasks

Video Clips



 Products are easy to find due to triple layer navigation



 Warranty information in product description is a dead link



 Delivery information directly underneath product information



 Installation option under product picture



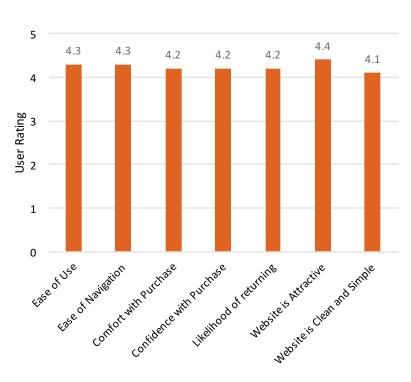
 Returns not on the main page for the appliance



 Energy Star certification in product details



Home Depot – overall experience





"Very well categorized, even for specific items, sub categories of main categories. Content is large, easy to read, laid out in a way that I can look at a lot of information at once."



"It was very intuitive - I didn't spend much time looking for something. When I did search, the information was usually right where I would expect it to be."



"The fact that I can't see in person the fridge is a drawback but I can find all the information and narrow down my choices and go to my local store to look at it in person."



Home Depot Service Offers

Delivery and Installation:

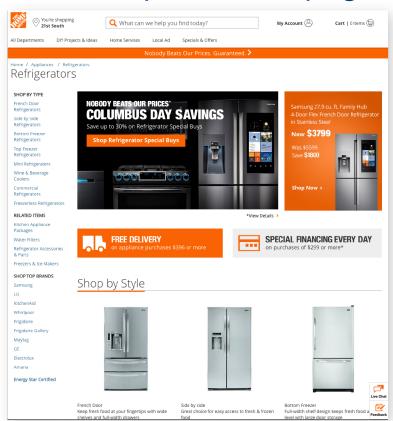
On all orders over \$396 Basic hookup service

Warranties:

Home Depot Protection Plan



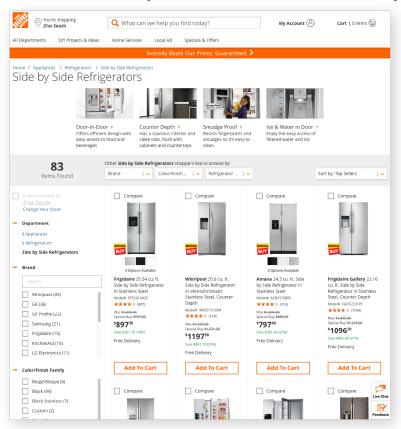
Home Depot – store page



Store Page Features:

Shop by Type
Related Items
Shop Top Brands
Store Sales Ad
Sponsored Ad
Free Delivery \$396 or more
Shop by Feature
Shop by Finish
Shop by Brand
Products on Sale
Customers Also Viewed
Recently Viewed Items
Similar Items
Live Chat feature

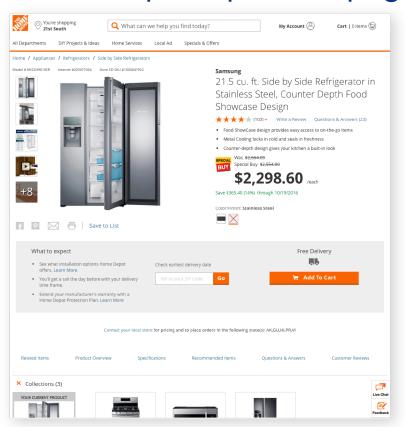
Home Depot – search/nav page



Search Refinements:

Department,
Brand, Price,
Counter Depth,
Refrigerator Width,
or Height,
or Depth,
Color/Finish,
Capacity (cu. ft.),
Review Rating,
General Features,
Refrigeration Dispenser Features,
Ice/Water,
Energy Star Certified,
Eco Options

Home Depot – product page



Product Page Features:

Product image carousel
360 degree photos
Installation instruction video
Sale price
Free Delivery
Energy Guide
Installation Guide
Specification
Use & Care Manual
Warranty
Customer Reviews

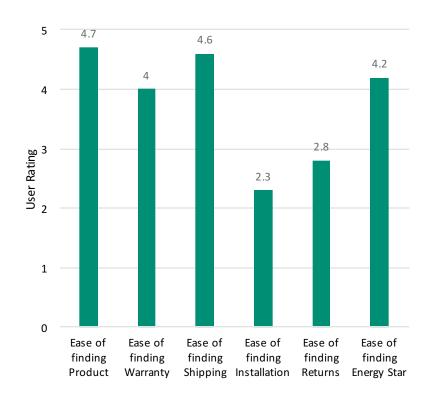
Customers Who Viewed This Item Bought (recs)

More Products With These Features (search function with similar refinements pre-selected)

Customer Q&A

Lowes – specific tasks

Video Clips



- Category page useful for navigation
- Uses confusing wording of "protection plan" for warranty, but easy to find



Shipping information up top next to price



 Installation information difficult to find on product page



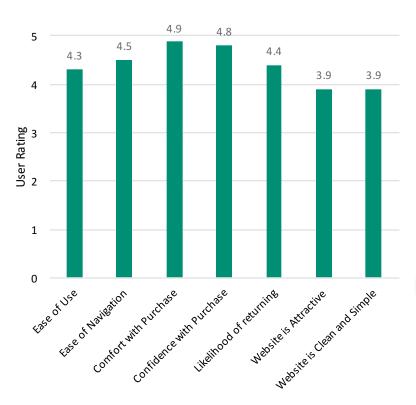
 Return policy on a different page from product



 Energy star picture next to product image



Lowes – overall experience





"Too much clutter on the site made it difficult to find the most important information. Having to scroll down the entire website to find the return policy seems a bit counterproductive."



"It was very easy to find and compare different fridges, and the prices and ratings were clearly available."



"A little cluttered, and I didn't like the pop-up chat window. I also didn't like that they called a warranty a protection plan. I feel like most people when looking for a warranty will be keyed in to find that word, specifically."

Lowes Service Offers

Delivery and Installation:

Free local appliance delivery Paid installation service

Warranties:

3-year and 5-year plans



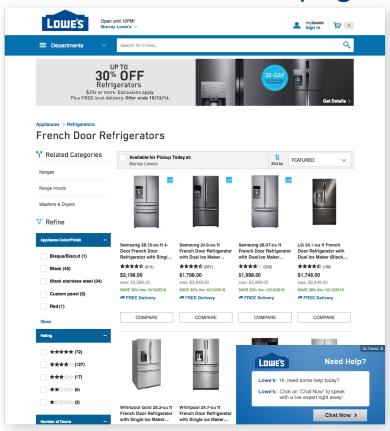
Lowes – store page



Store Page Features:

Huge Sale Banner
Store Credit Card Banner
Shop by Fridge type (large photo links)
Installation guide video
Shop by finish
Shop by Brand,
Banner Next Day Delivery for In-stock items
Buying Guides
Energy Savings Guide
Tech Innovation Videos
Related Product Category links
Chat module

Lowes - search/nav page



Search Refinements:

Categories

Counter depth

Overall Capacity (cu. ft.)

Built-In

Height

Rating

Depth

Finish

Width

Brand

Ice Maker

Price

Energy Star Qualified

Sub-Brand

Lowe's Exclusive

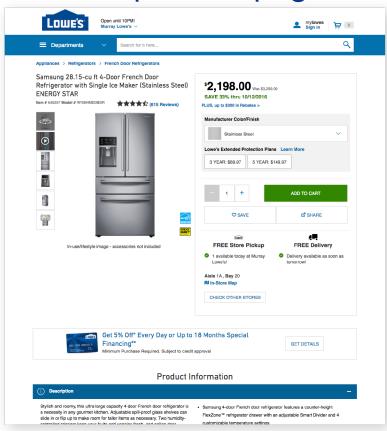
CEE Tier Qualified

ADA Compliant

Reversible Door



Lowes - product page



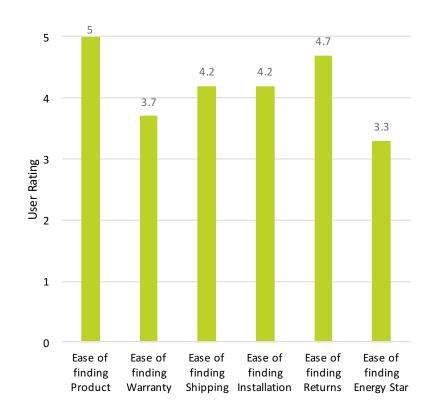
Product Page Features:

Product image carousel 360 degree photos Product video 3 & 5 year warranties Check Other (Lowes) Stores link Credit Card banner Product Details Specs Ratings & Reviews Customer Q&A Protection Plans **Energy Guide** Installation Guide **Dimensions Guide** Use & Care Guide **Energy Guide** Customers Also Viewed links recs Related Items recs



Build.com – specific tasks

Video Clips



 Category page has useful subcategory links for navigation



 Warranty underneath product description, but easy to miss



 Shipping information next to price



 Installation found in resource center to the right of the product overview



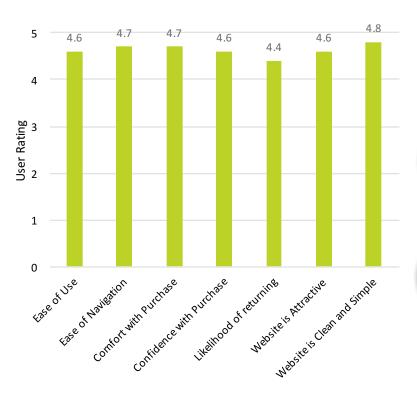
 Returns link is very small underneath price, and easy to miss



 There's an energy guide next to product description, but no easily seen energy star



Build.com – overall experience





"[I liked] the ample amount of information provided as well as the easy of searching and filtering by different categories."



"The overview of the product was bunched all together so it made me not want to read through it all."



"The clean, minimalistic interface. Allows me to shop without being distracted."

Build.com Service Offers

Delivery and Installation:

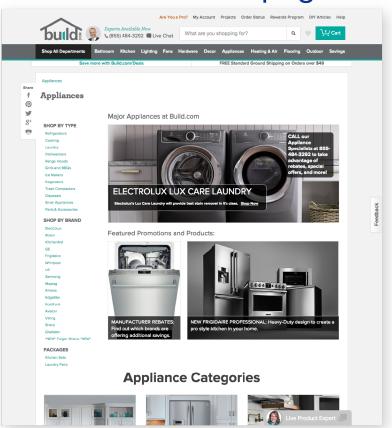
<u>Installation Resource Center</u>

Warranties:

Extended warranty plan available



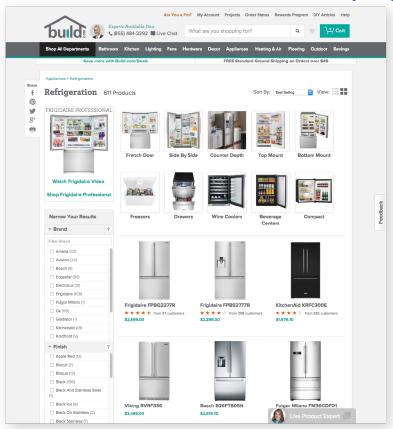
Build.com – store page



Store Page Features:

Shop by Type
Shop by Brand
ElectroLux Banner
Featured Promotions Banners
Sponsored Ad Video link
Product Category photo links

Build.com - search/nav page



Search Refinements:

Brand

Finish

Price

Fridge Type

Width

Height

Depth

Counter-Depth

Freezer Capacity

Water Dispenser Type

Ice Dispenser Type

Fridge Shelves

Freezer Shelves

Features

Bulb Type

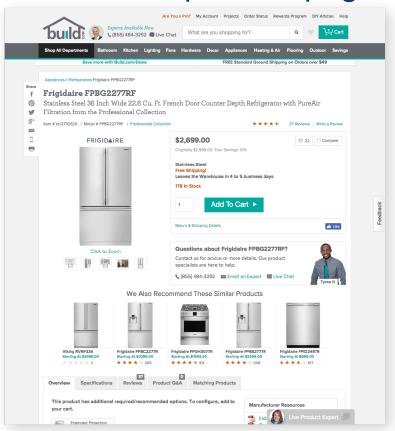
Sabbath Mode

Panel Ready

Buying Guide link to page

Recently Viewed Items

Build.com - product page

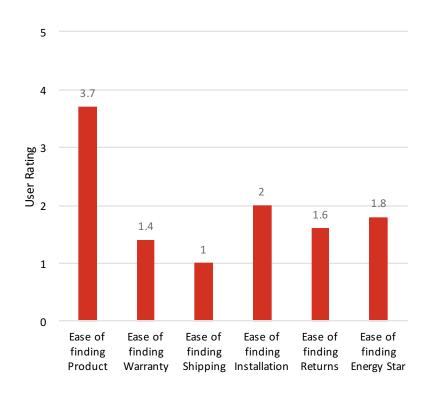


Product Page Features

Product image carousel 360 degree photos Product video 3 & 5 year warranties Check Other (Lowes) Stores link Credit Card banner **Product Details** Specs Ratings & Reviews Customer Q&A Protection Plans **Energy Guide** Installation Guide **Dimensions Guide** Use & Care Guide **Energy Guide** Customers Also Viewed links recs Related Items recs

Pirch – specific tasks

Video Clips



 Navigation broken into brands, making finding specific features difficult



 Warranty not found on product page



 Shipping information not on product page, and difficult to find in checkout



 No installation available, just a phone number



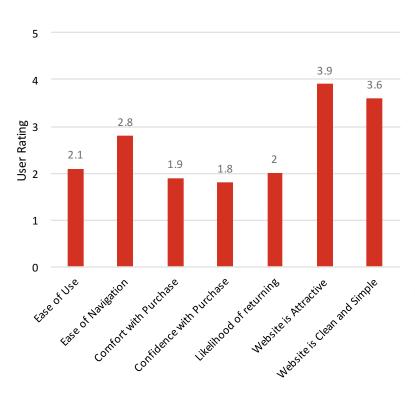
 Return Policy not available, just a phone number



 Energy Star certification in mods with product features



Pirch – overall experience





"I really enjoyed the imagery used throughout the website. I loved how the price was right at the top when searching and I knew exactly what the brand was and the look and feel of the fridge."



"Hard to zoom in on specific models and figure out price, shipping, features. Need to be able to search by feature, not just brand."



"Difficulty in finding detailed information about the products, and the sites policies (delivery fees, installation fees, etc). Needs more photos and search options."



Pirch Service Offers

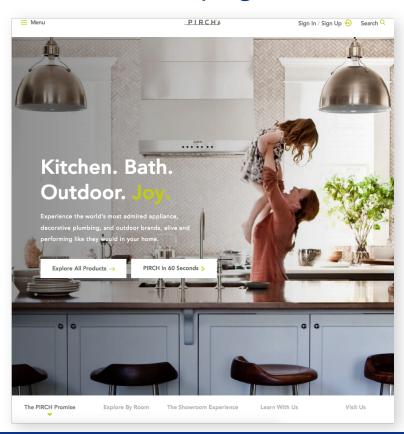
No delivery information available

No installation information available

Note: Pirch's goal is to get users into their physical showrooms to make a purchase



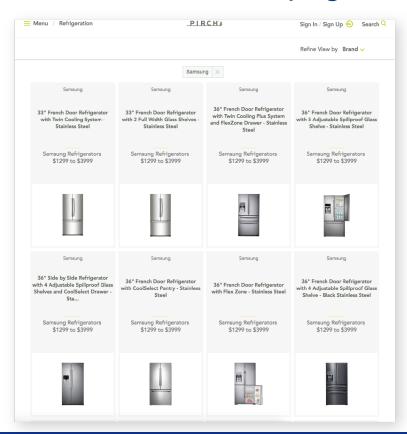
Pirch – store page



Store Page Features:

Shop by Type
Related Items
Shop Top Brands
Store Sales Ad
Sponsored Ad
Free Delivery \$396 or more
Shop by Feature
Shop by Finish (material)
Shop by Brand
Products on Sale
Customers Also Viewed
Recently Viewed Items
Similar Items
Live Chat feature

Pirch – search/nav page



Their Search/Nav page consists of only product tiles, there are no search refinements.

Pirch - product page

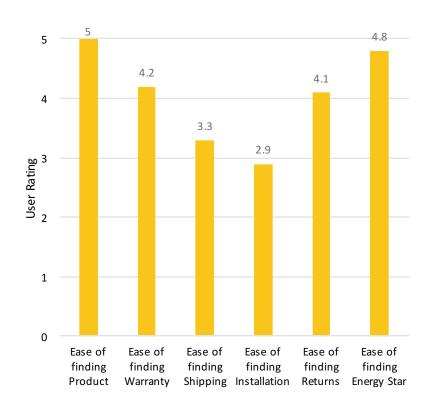


Product Page Features:

Only one product photo Product specs Installation guide to download More from this collection link Find a store

JCPenney – specific tasks

Video Clips



- Search feature pulls up very accurate results
- Warranty has its own section under product details
- Shipping information available after entering in zip code
- No direct installation information available
- Returns policy in small link under important information
- Energy Star logo above important information







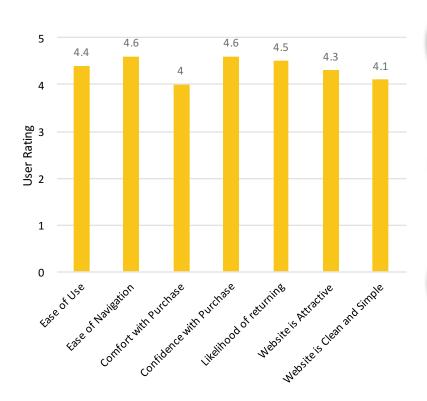








JCPenney – overall experience





"The search engine was easy to use and the results list showed me a photo of each refrigerator that I could use to identify the 'french door' configuration."



"The fact that installation options are not explicitly explained or linked to from the product page, I only found that info via a promotional banner."



"There was a lot of variety, even though I didn't have time to look around at everything I would have if I was really shopping for a fridge on this website."

JCPenney Service Offers

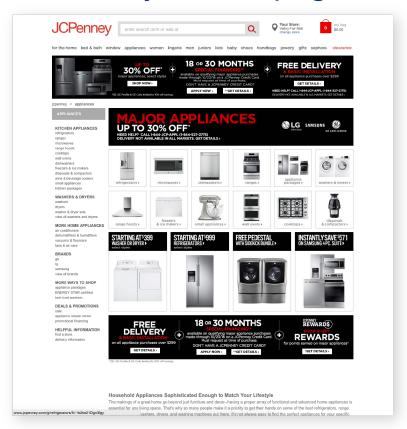
Delivery and Installation:

Free delivery for purchases over \$299 Basic hookup service

Warranties:

- 1-Year (limited) Free
- 3-Year for \$139.99
- 5-Year for \$239.99

JCPenney – store page

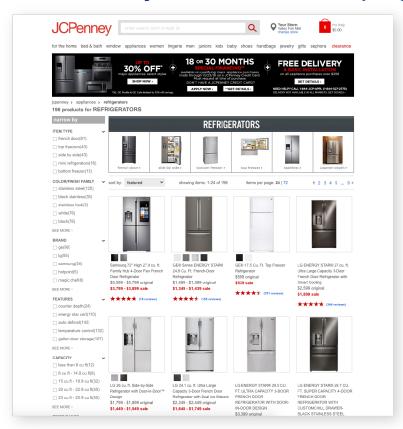


Store Page Features:

Huge Sale Banners Shop by Category (photo links) Shop by Brand Related Product Category links



JCPenney – search/nav page



Search Refinements:

Item Type

Finish

Brand

Features

Capacity

Price Range

Number of Doors + Drawers

Dispenser Features

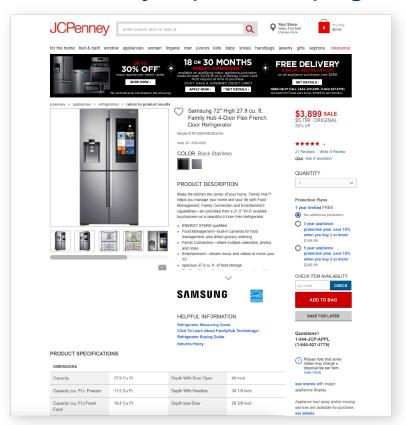
Depth

Height

Rating



JCPenney - product page

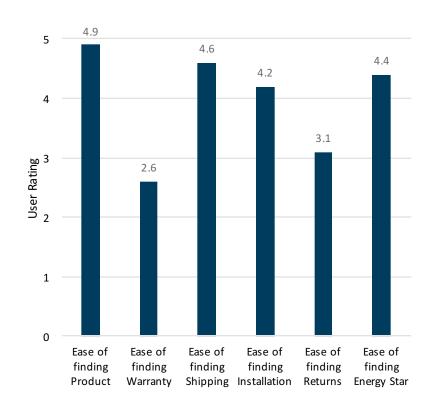


Product Page Features:

Product image carousel
Product video
3 & 5 year warranties
Measuring Guide
Buying Guide
ADA Compliant
Energy Star Certified
People Who Viewed This Ultimately Purchased
Reviews
Q&A
Customers Also Bought (recs)

Best Buy – specific tasks

Video Clips



Category page has easy to see subcategories with pictures



Geek squad and protection plans available, but not the manufacturer's warranty



Delivery information to the right of product image



Installation under special offers, and links to a different page



General return policy in footer, but doesn't apply to all products

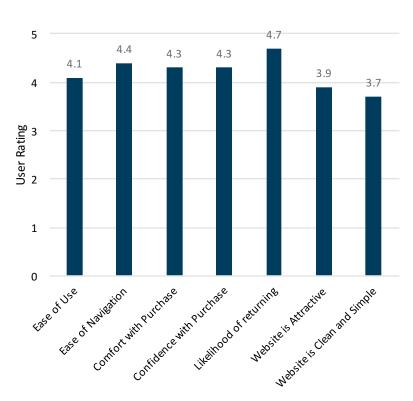


Energy star rating under product overview





Best Buy – overall experience





"[I liked] The ease of narrowing down the search to the criteria that I was looking for and the clean presentation.



"During the test I found that some information that would be helpful was not clear to me such as warranty info and return info specifically related to the product (not general policy)."



"It had SO MUCH information about the product. It gave me more than I would have gotten from a salesperson."

Best Buy Service Offers

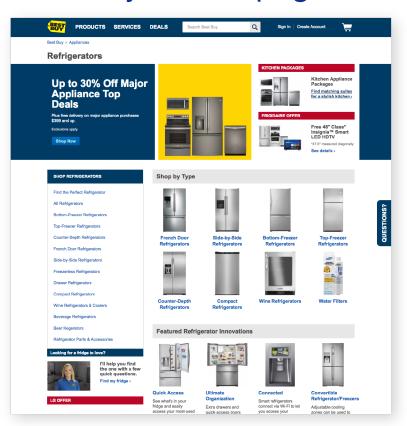
Delivery and Installation:

Free delivery for purchases over \$399 Basic hookup service

Warranties:

Greek Squad Protection Plans extend up to 4 years

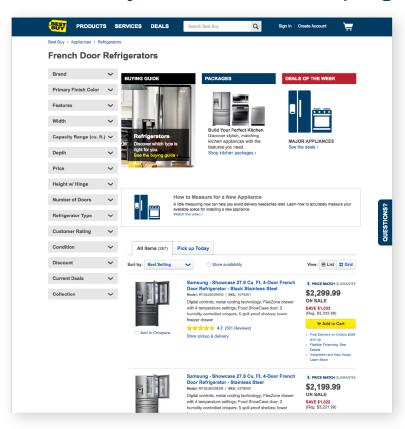
Best Buy – store page



Store Page Features:

Huge Banner for 30% off Major Appliances Shop by Category (list) Shop by Category (photo links) Shop by Featured Refrigerator Innovations Shop Top Brands Shop Accessories Related Categories Protection & Services Free Delivery \$399 or more Delivery and/or Installation guides Learn About Refrigerators (videos) Top Rated recs Live Chat feature

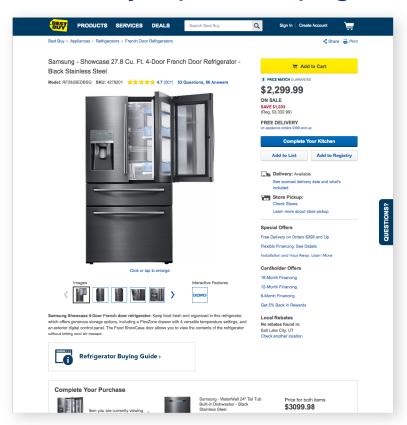
Best Buy - search/nav page



Search Refinements:

Brand
Finish
Features
Width
Capacity Range
Depth
Price
Height
Number of Doors
Refrigerator Type
Customer Rating
Condition
Discount

Best Buy - product page

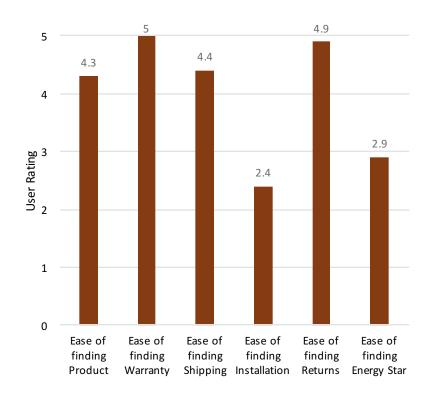


Product Page Features:

Product image carousel
Refrigerator Buying Guide
Complete Your Purchase (recs)
Customers Who Viewed This Item Also Viewed
Energy Rating Guide
Customers Also Purchased
Customers Ultimately Purchased
Chat Module

Overstock- specific tasks

Video Clips



 Large appliances in Home Improvement was very confusing to users



 Warranty tab at the top is very easy to find



 Shipping information easily found in two places



 Installation information not available on product page



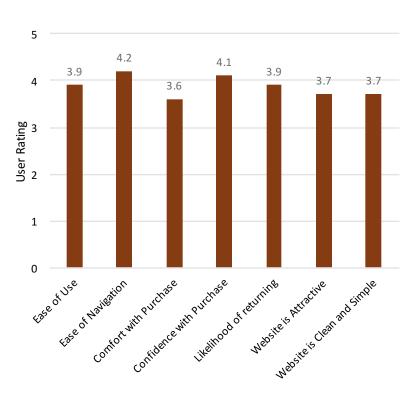
 Returns easy to spot in shipping and returns tab



 Energy Star inside product details and specs



Overstock- overall experience





"I liked how simple it was to type in the search bars to find exactly what I was looking for. A search navigation is a must for me when finding products. I use it over the menus."



"Trying to find out whether or not they had installation. I think that if they don't offer it on this product then it should say so either way, so that customers don't have to continue to search for it."



"I thought the website was a bit cluttered. When on the product detail page, have the content was about other items, and not the fridge specifically. This made finding item specific information harder."

Recommendations

Based on user feedback and the competitive audit, we recommend:

- Giving appliances a more prominent location on the menu bar, once all of the SKUs have been added.
- Adding the Energy Star rating as an image to the image carousel for every large appliance.
- Adding either returns or installation information as another drop down box for easier visibility.
- Using consistent wording when it comes to shipping or delivery. Some users would be looking for shipping information, and scroll past delivery.
 - o The delivery time estimate is 1-4 weeks. If possible, that should be narrowed.
 - The box for delivery could default to open, so fewer users scroll past the information