

Thermoelectric vs Compressor Appliances

What is the difference between thermoelectric and compressor coolers? The chart below shows a comparison of the 2 different kinds of coolers. One kind is not necessarily better than the other. Your personal preference, budget, and the needs of your collection will be important factors that help you choose which kind of cooler is best for you.

	Compressor	Thermoelectric
Cost*	Higher purchase cost, lower operation cost.	Lower purchase cost, higher operation cost.
Temperature	Able to reach colder temperatures and adapt to changes in ambient temperature.	Coldest temperature achievable is approximately 20 degrees cooler than ambient temperature.
Capacity	Able to cool a larger collection.	Perfect for smaller collections.
Noise	Sound comparable to standard food refrigerator (compressor cycles on and off to cool, more moving parts).	Whisper quiet (fewer moving parts).
Installation	Variety of installations. Units with front exhaust can be recessed into cabinetry. Units with rear exhaust are for freestanding installation.	Units have rear exhaust and are for freestanding installation only.
Ecological Impact	Contains refrigerant. Must be disposed of using proper precautions.	Contains no harmful substances or emissions. Proper precautions must still be taken when disposing of a thermoelectric appliance.
<i>*Operation cost is largely dependent on the size of the cooler and number of bottles stored.</i>		