

MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR YOUR REFRIGERATOR:

You don't need to manually defrost your self-defrosting refrigerator/freezer. Every 6 to 8 hours, it heats up its cooling coils slightly and melts any frost accumulation on the coils. The resulting water drains into a shallow pan at the bottom of the refrigerator/freezer.

There's no need to empty the pan. The water in it will evaporate. But it may begin to smell bad over time. You may be able to remove it for periodic cleaning by detaching the lower grill and sliding the pan out the front of the refrigerator/freezer.

Note... When mold grows in the drain pan, it is sometimes considered to be a health concern. If your drain pan is removable, and if you're sensitive to mold, consider cleaning the drain pan periodically.

Under your refrigerator/freezer is a set of coils and a cooling fan that you need to clean at least once a year. The coils may look like a grate or like a wide radiator. Unplug the refrigerator/freezer and use a Refrigerator Condenser Brush (available in the accessories section of our website), and your vacuum cleaner to clean any lint, pet hair, and so on from the coils.

If the gasket or interior of the refrigerator/freezer needs cleaning, try Refrigerator Cleaner to clean the surfaces. You can find this useful product in our accessories section.

For odors in the refrigerator/freezer try baking soda or, for tougher odors, try Fridge Aid deodorizer, also available in the accessories section of our website.

Does my refrigerator/freezer need any routine maintenance?

Yes. See our Maintenance Tips section for more information.

Can I put a refrigerator/freezer out in my garage?

Yes. But, if the refrigerator is self-defrosting, don't let the garage temperature drop to much below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Otherwise, the oil becomes thick and causes premature compressor failure.

How full can I pack my freezer?

Full. There is generally no limit to how full it can be. Just take care not to block air vents. For best efficiency, try to keep it at least half full.

How full can I pack my refrigerator?

Refrigerators work best if they're not packed full, because the air flow becomes restricted, which limits cooling capability.

How cold should my refrigerator/freezer be?

Your refrigerator should be 36 to 42 degrees Fahrenheit and your freezer 0 to 8 degrees.

Can I change the doors from one side to the other?

Usually, yes. You can reverse the doors on most refrigerators. Consult the owner's manual for your refrigerator/freezer to get the proper instructions. If you no longer have the manual, but do have the model number of your refrigerator, you can order the manual at our parts order center.

How do I dispose of my old refrigerator/freezer?

New federal laws make it illegal to send a refrigerator to the dump without first removing the refrigerant. Contact a local appliance repair company to remove the refrigerant. And be sure they show a valid license and give you a certificate of compliance. Some local municipalities will pick up units and properly dispose of them, though often for a nominal fee. Check with yours to find out what to do.

Is it easy to add an ice maker to my refrigerator/freezer?

Yes, if your freezer has the necessary internal wiring (most do). If you have the model number of your refrigerator/freezer, you can order an ice maker kit from our parts order center.

How much clearance do I need behind my refrigerator/freezer?

If the unit has a large black, grid-like device on the back, you should leave at least 1 inch of space between the grid and the wall, and avoid "building-in" the appliance. If there is no grid on the back, you may push the unit all the way to the wall.

Can I change my manual defrost refrigerator to frost-free?

No. There are numerous component, internal wiring, and design differences.

How do I change the seal around the door?

Follow the instructions that come with the seal. A person with moderate repair skills can replace the seal. If you have the appliance

model number,
you can order the seal from our parts order center.

How do I pull the refrigerator away from the wall to clean?

Virtually all refrigerators made in the past 15 years stand on built-in rollers. Often you need to retract the front leveling legs before trying to move the unit. Unloading the food from the unit first, really helps too. Grab the refrigerator near the bottom and pull it straight out, taking care not to damage your floor. Check out our Easy Glide Tracks in the accessories section to make this process easier.

Can shelves be added to the refrigerator/freezer?

Usually. If there is room in your unit for an additional shelf, and the necessary hardware in the walls and/or ceiling, you can add a shelf. To order the shelf from our parts order center, you will need the model number of the unit.

How often should I clean the coils under the refrigerator?

At least once a year. See our Maintenance Tips section for further details.

How do I prevent shelves and brackets from breaking?

Many of the plastic parts in your refrigerator/freezer are fragile. Take care not to load--or force--too many items onto the shelves or slam the door.

Does the freezer get warmer during self-defrost?

Yes. The freezer temperature increases by about 20 degrees during the defrost cycle. This is normal and doesn't affect the quality of the food in your freezer.

What is freezer burn, how can I prevent it?

Freezer burn is dehydration caused by food being exposed to the air in the freezer. Often the wrappings used in supermarkets don't prevent dehydration. Re-wrapping foods in airtight containers or wrappings usually avoids this problem.

It's not unsafe to cook and eat freezer-burned food, but the resulting meal is often tough and tasteless!

My refrigerator seems to run constantly. Is that normal?

It's generally not normal. If your refrigerator/freezer runs constantly it may:

- Have a dirty condenser coil. See our Maintenance Tips section for help in cleaning it.

- Not have adequate clearance around the appliance for proper air flow
- Have a bad seal on one of the doors
- Have a light bulb that is not going off when the door is closed
- Have excessive frost build-up on the internal evaporator coils
- Have a defective thermostat
- Be low on refrigerant

How long can I expect my refrigerator to last before I replace it?
The average life of a refrigerator is 14 to 17 years. Some last many more years, others many fewer.

MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR YOUR ICE MAKER:

Ice cube smell/taste;

Even when your well or municipal water supply provides healthy, potable water to your ice maker, some impurities may remain. These can affect

the smell or taste of the ice cubes, and therefore the beverages in which you serve them. A taste and odor water filter on the incoming water-supply line--such as our charcoal "Universal Replacement Water Filter"--can help a lot.

Also, over time, the ice cube bin can absorb difficult-to-remove odors from the freezer. We recommend that you replace the bin every 2 to 3 years--whenever it seems to be retaining objectionable odors and transferring them to the ice cubes. Go to our "Parts Order Center"

section to get the right ice bin for your refrigerator.

Water filter replacement;

We recommend that you replace your ice maker's water filter twice a year.

Old cubes in the ice bin;

To help keep your ice tasting its best, empty out the ice and wash the ice bin every 2 to 3 months. Also try to keep the foods in your refrigerator covered, because the ice cubes absorb many odors and tastes (baby formula, onion, and so on).

Cubes too small;

If the cubes coming from your icemaker are too small, it may be time to replace the water filter. Or the shut-off water-supply valve may be clogged. Check the water-supply valve first, to see if there is

an obstruction. If the cubes are still small when you're sure that the water supply is good, try replacing the water filter.

No cubes at all;

Contact us to set up an appointment

Why do my ice cubes taste/smell bad?

Even if the water produced by your household water source tastes good as drinking water, it probably tastes and smells a bit unpleasant when frozen into ice cubes. A water filter can reduce the taste and odor problems.

Note... Ice cubes also pick up odors from the inside of the freezer and refrigerator--especially from open food containers. To minimize that problem, empty the ice cube bin from time to time, and start with a fresh set of ice cubes.

How can I change the shape of my ice cubes?

You can't change the shape. It's determined by the manufacturer of the ice maker.

Can I add an ice maker to my freezer?

Usually. Most refrigerators made in the past 20 years are wired to accommodate an add-on ice maker. Consult our "Parts Order Center" to find the correct ice maker for your appliance.

Why won't my ice maker make ice?

Maybe the ice maker is turned off. Look for the thin, coat-hanger-like metal bar on the right side of your ice maker. When this bar is up, the ice maker is off. When the bar is down, the ice maker is on. During normal ice maker operation, the bar is up (the ice maker turns off) while the unit drops ice into the holding bin. The bar comes down (the ice maker turns on) when all the ice has been dropped. See our "Troubleshooting Guide" section for more details. If the bar is up, gently lower it to begin making more ice.

How often should I change my ice maker water filter?

Change it whenever you start detecting a disagreeable taste or odor. If you use ice frequently, you probably need to change the filter every 6 months. If you use ice infrequently, you can probably change it only once a year.

How many years should my ice maker last?

Most ice makers last from 6 to 10 years.

What's the best ice maker for my freezer?

The one designed for the particular series of refrigerators to which yours belongs. You don't have a choice.

How long should it take to make a batch of ice?

Your ice maker turns out a new batch when the water in the ice maker has frozen--usually in 75 to 120 minutes.

Exactly how long a batch of ice takes depends on the freezer temperature, the temperature of the room in which the freezer is located, the humidity level, and so on.

How can I get clear ice cubes from my ice maker?

You can't. The cloudiness is caused by entrapped air bubbles. The clear ice cubes you get at a store or a restaurant are rapidly frozen by commercial equipment that traps little or no air. Your relatively slower-freezing residential in-freezer ice maker traps air bubbles in the ice.