**Refrigerator Maintenance Tips**

**Manual-defrost refrigerator/freezers**

Manual defrost refrigerator/freezers require very little maintenance. When frost has accumulated on the inside walls of the freezer to a thickness of ½ inch or so, remove the food from the refrigerator/freezer, turn off the thermostat or unplug the unit, and allow all of the frost to melt.

Once the frost has melted completely, turn the unit back on, wait for it to reach its operating temperature, and restock it with food.

**Self-defrosting refrigerator/freezers**

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 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.

For odors in the refrigerator/freezer try baking soda or, for tougher odors, try Fridge Aid deodorizer.

The Refrigerator that you have just purchased, If the installation is in garage that is not heated or if the installation is in area where the ambient temperature (Surrounding Environment)

is below 50 degrees the refrigerator will not operate properly. The reason that your refrigerator will not operate properly is the cold control in the fresh food section is satisfy.

The operating temperature for the cold control is between 34 degrees to 42 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Refrigerator frequently asked questions**

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

The Refrigerator that you have just purchased, If the installation is in garage that is not heated or if the installation is in area where the ambient temperature (Surrounding Environment)

is below 50 degrees the refrigerator will not operate properly. The reason that your refrigerator will not operate properly is the cold control in the fresh food section is satisfy.

The operating temperature for the cold control is between 34 degrees to 42 degrees Fahrenheit.

**[How full can I pack my freezer?](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/24/Refrigerator-How-Full-Can-I-Pack-My-Freezer?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fRefrigerator-Maintenance-Tips)**

Keep your freezer as full as you need it to be, as long as the air vents are not blocked. For the most efficient operation, it’s best keep enough food to fill half of the freezer.

**[How cold should my refrigerator and freezer be?](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/26/Refrigerator-How-Cold-Should-My-Refrigerator-Freezer-Be?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fRefrigerator-Maintenance-Tips)**

Your refrigerator’s thermostat should be set to 36 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit (approximately two degrees Celsius) and your freezer’s thermostat from 0 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit (-18 degrees Celsius).

If your model does not have a thermostat, use a thermometer to check the temperature. Adjust the control as needed.

[**How do I dispose of my old refrigerator/freezer?**](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/28/Refrigerator-How-Do-I-Dispose-Of-My-Old-Refrigerator-Freezer?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fRefrigerator-Maintenance-Tips)

It is illegal to send a refrigerator to a landfill without first removing the refrigerant, due to environmental and safety issues. Only licensed professionals can do this procedure. Contact your local municipality for more information. Many offer services to pick up refrigerators and properly dispose of them – for a nominal fee. If your local municipality does not offer such a service, contact a reliable, local appliance repair company and inquire about such services. Be sure to ask for a valid license and a certificate of compliance.

[**How much clearance do I need behind my refrigerator/freezer?**](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/30/Refrigerator-How-Much-Clearance-Do-I-Need-Behind-My-Refrigerator-Freezer?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fRefrigerator-Maintenance-Tips)

If your refrigerator has condenser coils (large black, grid or radiator-like coils) on the back, you should leave at least one inch (two and a half centimeters) of space between the coils and the wall to avoid "building-in" the appliance. If the coils are located beneath the refrigerator, you still need to allow 1 inch between refrigerator and wall.

**[Can I change my manual defrost refrigerator to frost-free?](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/31/Refrigerator-Can-I-Change-My-Manual-Defrost-Refrigerator-To-Frost-Free?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fRefrigerator-Maintenance-Tips)**

No, because there several component, internal wiring and design differences.

**[How do I pull the refrigerator away from the wall to clean the condenser coils?](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/33/Refrigerator-How-Do-I-Pull-The-Refrigerator-Away-From-The-Wall-To-Clean-The-Condenser-Coils?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fRefrigerator-Maintenance-Tips)**

Always have another person with you before attempting to move your refrigerator or any other large appliance. Unload food from the refrigerator. Most refrigerators manufactured in the last 20 years stand on built-in rollers. Before attempting to move the refrigerator, you may need to first retract the front leveling legs. Take care not to damage the floor. If you need to move the refrigerator than one foot or so, consider using [plastic floor guards](http://www.repairclinic.com/PartDetail/Floor-Protectors-For-Moving-Appliance/12914?TLSID=1776) to prevent any damage to the floor.

[**Does the freezer get warmer during self-defrost?**](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/37/Refrigerator-Does-The-Freezer-Get-Warmer-During-Self-Defrost?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fRefrigerator-Maintenance-Tips)

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 causes freezer burn? And is it safe?](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/38/Refrigerator-What-Causes-Freezer-Burn-And-Is-It-Safe?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fRefrigerator-Maintenance-Tips)**

Freezer burn is a common problem caused by food packaging. Food dehydrates due to exposure to the air in the freezer. Standard supermarket packaging for many foods is not designed to prevent dehydration. If you intend to store food in your freezer for more than a few days, you should place the food in airtight containers or zippered plastic bags specifically made for food preservation and freezer storage. It is absolutely safe to cook or eat freezer-burned food. However, most people find that the dehydration process destroys the food’s taste and texture. Dehydrated meat is said to be tough and tasteless after cooking.

**[My refrigerator seems to run constantly. Is that normal?](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/39/Refrigerator-My-Refrigerator-Seems-To-Run-Constantly-Is-That-Normal?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fRefrigerator-Maintenance-Tips)**

No. There are several possible causes, make sure that the refrigerator’s condenser coils are clean, that there’s enough space between the condenser coils and the wall (one inch or about two and a half centimeters) for adequate air flow and that the gasket (door seal) is in good condition.

**[How long can I expect my refrigerator to last before I need to replace it?](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/40/Refrigerator-How-Long-Can-I-Expect-My-Refrigerator-To-Last-Before-I-Replace-It?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fRefrigerator-Maintenance-Tips)**

The average life of a refrigerator is 8 to 10 years on new and 3 to 5 years for used refrigerator. Some last many more years, others many fewer. Proper maintenance will positively impact the life of your refrigerator.