

Reach-in freezer

Undercounters included. How to run it, what normal looks like, and when to call.

What normal looks like

0°F

(-18°C) or a little colder is the usual setting. Frozen food must stay frozen.

3 to 6

defrosts a day, each 30 minutes or less. The air warms. The frozen food barely moves.

Clear

coil after every defrost. A light frost that builds between defrosts is normal.

Monthly

condenser cleaning in most kitchens, as for a cooler.

WRITE IT HERE

Our setting _____ Technician _____ Phone _____

Every day

- 1 **Read the temperature** at opening and closing, and log it on page 3. It rises during a defrost. That is normal.
- 2 **Let the door close itself**, and keep it shut. Do not push it wide open.
- 3 **Look at the door frame**. No frost round it, and the door not freezing shut.
- 4 **Feel the air from the grille**, never the compressor. Warm is normal. Too hot to keep your hand there is not.
- 5 **Look at the bottom**. No ice or water in the cabinet or on the floor.

When to call a technician

Today

- Food softening. Move it to another freezer now.
- Stuck warm after a defrost.
- The door will not close.
- Metal on the cabinet tingles. Switch it off at the breaker first.

Within a day

- Ice behind the fan guard, or frost on the walls and food.
- Warm-ups that run long, come at odd hours or stop.

This week

- Frost round the door, or a door that freezes shut.
- Ice or water in the bottom, or on the floor.
- It runs all the time.
- The outside of the cabinet sweats.

Tell them where the ice is, when the warm-ups happen and how long they last, and your log.

⚠ Never

- **Never chip ice off the coil.**
- **Never touch the compressor. Feel the grille air instead.**
- **Never block the grille, or box the cabinet in.**
- **Never keep resetting a unit that trips. Reset once at most.**



How it works

and why it heats its own coil



Something wrong?

Seven symptoms, the likely reasons, and what to check



The checklist

Yes or no questions that point to the likely reason

Basic care of the equipment

What you can do yourself, without opening the cabinet's machine compartment. Anything behind a panel, any wiring and anything that needs gauges is your technician's job. This is a starting schedule: your manual comes first.

Every week

- ☐ **Door gasket.** Look all the way round for tears, hard spots and gaps. A line of frost shows the leak. Clean it with warm soapy water. Never scrape it.
- ☐ **Door frame.** Run your hand along the frame next to the gasket. It should feel warm.
- ☐ **Coil.** Look behind the fan guard after a defrost. It should be clear.
- ☐ **Bottom of the cabinet.** No ice in the bottom, and no water on the floor.

Every 2 weeks

- ☐ **Thermometer.** A thermometer in the warmest part should agree with the display.
- ☐ **Defrosts.** Note when the cabinet warms and for how long. The times should not change from week to week.
- ☐ **Door.** Open it a few inches and let go. It should swing shut and seal, with no sagging hinge.

Every month

- ☐ **Clean the condenser.** Unplug the cabinet. Take off the grille, if your manual shows how. Brush along the fins, never across, then vacuum. Refit it, plug in, and check the fan turns.
- ☐ **Drain tube and pan.** The tube sits in its pan, with no ice in it, and the pan is not overflowing.
- ☐ **Setting.** Check it against the one written on page 1.
- ☐ **Space round the cabinet.** Nothing boxing it in, and the gap your maker asks for.

Every 3 months

- ☐ **Level.** The cabinet sits level, so the door swings shut and seals.
- ☐ **Drawers,** on undercounters. Pans and carts damage drawer gaskets. Look at each gasket and slide.

 **Never chip ice off the coil. Unplug the cabinet before you clean the condenser.**

