

Diamond/Dometic Gas Refrigerator Operation & Maintenance

Operating Tips

All propane refrigerators are manual defrost. If the frost buildup is solid between the fins in the refrigerator, it is time to defrost. Follow the tips below to minimize frost levels.

- Check the door seals for leaks.
- Place lids on food and liquid containers before placing them in the refrigerator.
- Adjust the thermostat knob to keep food at the desired temperature. This is generally between settings 2 and 3. Turning the control higher or to “MAX” will not necessarily make your refrigerator colder, especially if the temperature probe is encased in ice on the fins.
- Let food cool to room temperature or colder prior to storing in the refrigerator.
- Wipe condensation off cold containers with a dry towel prior to refrigeration.
- Limit how often the door is opened, especially in hot, humid weather.

Freezing Tips

- Items with a high sugar content, such as ice cream, should be placed on the bottom plate of the freezer. This is the coldest spot in the freezer.
- Chill warm items before placing them in the freezer.
- When putting water in the freezer for freezing, make sure the water is as cold as possible. Place water containers on the freezer shelf with meat and vegetables. It is advisable to use metal ice trays because metal transfers cold better than plastic.
- Place quick freezing items, such as water and juice, as far back and toward the bottom of the freezer as possible.

Cleaning the Refrigerator

Proper cleanliness of your refrigerator is important, especially interiorly. Cleaning can be done more conveniently during regular refrigerator maintenance or right after defrosting. Cleaning both the inside and outside should be done with a soft cloth and mild soap and water solution. Do not use harsh cleaners or a coarse cloth.

Cleaning the outside of your refrigerator requires a soft cloth and mild soap and water solution as well. Check the door seals for debris, which can cause seal failure and escape of cold air. Keeping the seals clean is especially critical to assure longer life and proper sealing, especially in the lower parts of the door. When done cleaning you can wax the refrigerator to prevent minor scuffs and scratches and improve overall appearance. A standard auto wax works great. Do not wax the handles, plastic parts, or rubber gaskets.

Cleaning the cooling unit every three months will improve your refrigerator's overall efficiency. Simply use a large bristle brush to remove lint and dust from the condenser fins and the absorber coils.

Keep the area around and under the refrigerator clean. If this is not done, dust and other light debris will enter the burner tube. This is a common cause of refrigerator failure. This cleaning should be done—at minimum—every three months! (See owner's manual for more information.)

Defrosting

There are two ways to defrost your refrigerator:

1. Turn the thermostat knob to “MIN” overnight. The next morning, turn the knob back to its original setting. Doing this weekly should be sufficient to keep ice off the fins. Remember, you must turn the thermostat back to its original setting or the refrigerator will not cool properly.
2. If ice buildup is solid between fins, turn off the refrigerator and allow the ice to thaw, after which you can remove residual ice by hand. You can use a plastic scraper to remove larger chunks. Do not use an ice pick or metal scraper. The drain pan is not designed to hold the large amount of water that this method produces. Drain the drain pan multiple times during this process or sponge away the water buildup.