

COLD STORAGE MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST



This checklist is valid for ultra-low temperature freezers (-70°C and -80°C), -20°C freezers, refrigerators, refrigerated equipment, glass-door refrigerators, and cold incubators.

! Never use solvents such as bleach or abrasive cleansers or pads to clean a freezer.

DOOR SEALED TIGHTLY AND FREE OF FROST? Brush frost frequently! **IMPORTANT!**

- A good door seal is important for keeping warm air outside of your freezer. It can improve energy efficiency and unit performance.
- Frost and ice build-up can damage gaskets leading to expensive repairs.
- Keep gaskets free of frost and ice by brushing frost off your gasket frequently.
- Close the door on a piece of paper. If the paper falls, the gasket is not well sealed.

TOO MUCH FROST? Is there more than a 1/2 inch of frost in a number of places in the freezer? If so, it's time to defrost your freezer.

FILTER CLEAN? (IF APPLICABLE) Clogged filters make it more difficult for air flow to cool the unit coils. It is recommended that the filter be cleaned every 6 months.

- To clean the filter, remove and rinse it with water (choose the direction carefully so lint is pushed off filter). It is okay to place a wet filter back on the unit.

NO OBJECTS BLOCKING AIR FLOW? **IMPORTANT!**

- Remove items that have fallen behind or are pushed up against your unit that may be blocking air flow underneath, on the sides, or above your unit. Be especially careful not to block air intake or exhaust grills.
- It is important that the freezer has good air flow for freezer performance and energy efficiency

COILS CLEAN? (IF ACCESSIBLE) If your unit has exposed coils on the back, top or underneath:

- Look for dust on coils.
- Dirty coils increase energy consumption by preventing effective heat dissipation.
- To clean coils, gently vacuum, brush, or wipe with a wet paper towel. Coils are frequently found underneath or on the back of your unit, but also can be found on top. A coil brush is the best way to clean coils located underneath a freezer.
- If your unit has delicate metal parallel lines on the coil, it is important to vacuum, brush or wipe the paper towel in the direction of the lines. **BE CAREFUL NOT TO BEND METAL LINES!**

SPECIFIC TO STIRLING FREEZER: Check and clean heat reject fins

- Turn off the freezer and remove screws holding top cover
- Using a vacuum or shop air, clean any dust or debris from copper fins and surrounding area
- Reinstall freezer top cover and screws hand tight

GOOD TO KEEP IN MIND: Minimal empty space inside?

- Consider filling empty spaces in freezers with water jugs or foam containers with gel packs
- **IMPORTANT:** Do **NOT** overwhelm your freezer by adding too much room temperature mass at once.

MONTHLY

EVERY 6 MONTHS

YEARLY

