REFRIGERATOR OPERATION TIPS

Refrigerators are self-contained HVAC systems. They are built to be 2 zone systems. The unit super cools one area, then passively cools the other zone through air flow vents. The temperature settings on the thermostat operate as an on/off switch. Once the desired cooling level is met, the system stops cooling. The freezer coil has a small heating element to defrost itself. Any excessive ice, or large amounts of condensation observed should be reported to the maintenance department.

In order to experience optimum performance, observe the "3 S's":

1. SPACING

- Fridges require spacing inside for air to circulate around each item, and draw the heat from the item. Items overcrowding the areas, result in both excess run time for the system to draw the heat from the items, and some potential items not reaching the desired cooling levels.
- Since the appliance is designed to condition only one space directly, overcrowding of the freezer will result in poor performance in the refrigerator compartment .

  Spacing on the exterior of the appliance is also required. Typically 3 inches between the vent on the back of the appliance and the wall will allow the cooling fan adequate airflow for peak performance.

2. SEALS

- The cooling system is designed to maintain temperature, and not to frequently make large temperature swings. Ensuring the door is securely closed is important.
- Seals are typically made from plastic or vinyl coated magnets. The coatings on these seals can deteriorate with prolonged exposure to organic items like food. Seals should be frequently cleaned with mild detergent.

3. SPILLS

- The sealed system that traps in the conditioned environment, also trap in any spills. Small spills work their way across glass and plastic surfaces into accommodating groves. The sugars from the food items create an ideal environment for bacteria to flourish. It is recommended to clean spills inside the appliance immediately.
- Some spills are hard to notice, and as a best practice, take advantage of the available space when restocking with groceries to perform a more thorough clean of the interior of the appliance.

Additional Tips to Keep Your Refrigerator Running Effectively

- Don't keep the temperature too cold. Not only will your electric bill be higher, but the compressor will need to run longer to keep the fridge colder, which wears it out faster.
- Don't put hot leftovers in the fridge. They can dramatically raise the fridge's temperature, making the compressor work harder to cool the fridge down.
- Keep the doors closed. Frequently opening and closing the door puts strain on the fridge.
- Cover food to reduce extra moisture. If your food is uncovered the moisture in the food is released into the air and your fridge is forced to work extra hard to keep things dry.