

# Refrigerator & Freezer Tips

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## Choose an energy-saving setting.

Set your refrigerator thermostat to 37 to 40 degrees and your freezer between zero and five degrees. Setting it lower just wastes energy: Ten degrees lower in the freezer can use up to 25 percent more energy.

## Allow about two inches of air space around your refrigerator.

This helps it run most efficiently. Be aware that a refrigerator has to work harder if it's in direct sunlight or right next to your stove or dishwasher (good to keep in mind if you're planning a remodel).

## Take notice if your refrigerator motor is running excessively.

That could be a sign it's no longer operating efficiently.

## Check fridge and freezer gaskets.

Clean the rubber gaskets on freezer doors regularly and make sure they seal tightly. A loose gasket may cause frost build-up. Try this test: Close the freezer door on a dollar bill and then pull on the dollar. If it slides out easily, the seal isn't tight. Find instructions on replacing a freezer gasket online.

## Turn it off before extended trips.

If you're leaving for a month or more, you might want to empty, clean and unplug your refrigerator and freezer to save energy. Prop the door open to prevent odors.

## Recycle the second refrigerator and/or freezer.

They probably waste a lot more energy than you realize, because most are older castoffs. Depending on their size, age and location (like a hot garage, back porch or storage shed), a fridge could cost up to \$100 to \$200 a year to operate. A freezer could eat up \$60 to \$120 per year. If you are keeping a second fridge or freezer, unplug it until you need it.



## Fridge & Freezer Shopping Tips

**Always buy ENERGY STAR® models** that save up to half the energy used in standard models.

**Water and ice can cost you more.** You might like the convenience of a through-the-door water and ice feature, but it can increase refrigerator energy use by 20 percent. Choose ENERGY STAR models that improve the efficiency of these options.

**Choose a more efficient style.** Side-by-side refrigerator/freezers generally use more energy than freezer-on-top or freezer-on-bottom configurations.

**Buy the right size for your needs.** If you buy a bigger refrigerator or freezer than you really need, you're just wasting energy.