

Maintenance for your Kitchen Appliances

REFRIGERATOR



- ❖ Clean the appliance inside and out regularly
- ❖ If the temperature is set lower than necessary, your system will be working too hard, which can shorten its life.
- ❖ Defrost on schedule, make sure you follow the manufacturer's recommendations for defrosting.
- ❖ Clean out units to prevent crowding; the air will not be able to freely circulate in a refrigerator packed to the gills, which will make the unit work harder to maintain its set temperature.
- ❖ Clean frequently and keep items away from the vents inside the refrigerator
- ❖ The gaskets or seals on your doors are ripped or loose, air can escape, which is another reason why your unit might be overworked. Minor gasket leaks can be repaired with silicone caulk.
- ❖ Clean the mould and mildew off your gaskets using full-strength hydrogen peroxide or vinegar in a spray bottle, spray the gasket, then wipe off all the mold with a clean cloth, then rinse with clean water leave open to dry.
- ❖ Make sure your unit's door hinges and latches are tightly secured. If the doors are not properly aligned, cool air is likely escaping.
- ❖ Also, you should inspect and clean your unit's condenser and evaporator coils. If your coils are caked in dirt and grime, it will interfere with the transfer of heat from your system.

STOVE TOP/OVEN



- ❖ Clean that grimy oven window. A dirty window actually reduces the efficiency of your stove because you keep opening the door to check the food. To clean the window, rub it with a damp cloth dipped in baking soda.
- ❖ Clean under the hood. If your stove doesn't have a sealed cooktop, food and grease will fall down under the burners. It's easy to forget about this out-of-view debris, so remember to lift the cooktop to clean beneath it. Follow the owner's manual instructions for lifting the top without damaging it.
- ❖ Clean coils and catch trays and the grease buildup with a sponge and warm, soapy water or a 50-50 solution of vinegar and warm water.

HOOD FAN



- ❖ Clean your fan blades on occasion to prevent buildup of dirt and grease. This will help avoid excess stress on your motor and keep it from overheating.
- ❖ Wash the exposed metal often. Warm suds will usually suffice.
- ❖ Regularly check the vent to keep air flow unrestricted. If you allow grease to build up, it can pose a fire hazard.
- ❖ Clean the filter frequently as it is the part that will collect grease the fastest.

MICROWAVE



- ❖ Keep the inside clean by regularly wiping out the inside of your microwave, you cut down on bad smells and keep spots and corrosion from developing.
- ❖ Prevent door damage; Microwave latches are more complex than many people appreciate, some latches have as many as three switching mechanisms that must close in the correct order. Closing the door carelessly may damage these switches. Pulling the door open while the microwave is running can result in a blown safety fuse.
- ❖ Running a microwave without anything inside it can cause serious damage.

DISHWASHER



- ❖ Dishwashers work by spraying water out of their spinning arms onto the dishes inside. When those arms aren't spinning properly or the holes in them are full of buildup, your dishes won't be getting thoroughly cleaned. Check to make sure that the arms spin correctly and clean out any debris that has accumulated inside the holes with a small piece of wire, a toothpick, or small pliers.
- ❖ At the very bottom of your dishwasher is the drain, and this area can be a common place where food debris, buildup, and other matter can end up. Leaving these obstacles near the drain will eventually create a clog. When your dishwasher drain is clogged, it will become less efficient and have a harder time cleaning. Use an Acid to Remove Buildup by using white vinegar or lemon juice.