



Here's how to...

Prepare Refrigeration Equipment for Summer

With summer approaching, it is an excellent time to perform routine inspections and cleaning of all refrigeration and air conditioning systems to ensure proper operation and efficiency. The units are required to work harder with warmer weather conditions, so it is a good time to check the units to ensure airflow has not diminished and that refrigerant systems are fully charged. All maintenance should be performed before the weather heats up – this is key to reliable, long-term unit operation.

<p>Maintenance</p> <p><i>Call a local HVAC/refrigeration company to schedule a preventative maintenance and cleaning appointment.</i></p>	<p>Condenser Coils Ensure adequate airflow around the motor and condenser coils. Clean them monthly, as built-up dust acts as an insulation layer and interferes with the circulation of air through the cooling coils. Unplug the unit, uncover the condenser and vacuum thoroughly.</p> <p>Filters Check filters and replace as needed.</p> <p>Compressors Clean and lubricate compressors according to manufacturer instructions.</p> <p>Thermometer Following manufacturer instructions, calibrate the dial thermometer twice a year.</p> <p>Drain Pans and Drain Lines Clean drain pans and inspect drain lines to ensure they are clean and free from cracks or leaks that might interfere with the drainage of the unit.</p> <p>Condensing Fans Ensure proper operation of fans and check for obstructions.</p> <p>Door and Gaskets Keep the door handle, door closure kit, door hinges, sweep gasket and door gasket free from dirt and in good repair. Use mild soap or sanitizer and a soft cloth to clean the door gasket monthly. Check the door gasket for splits or cracks as poorly sealed doors will cause the units to operate inefficiently and can lead to expensive repairs. Change door gaskets every 3 to 5 years or more often if torn.</p>	 
<p>Tips</p> <p><i>Always follow the equipment manufacturer's operation, maintenance and service recommendations and schedule.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a calendar with the recommended maintenance dates for all parts and equipment – including monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual checks.• Check temperatures regularly.• Regularly check door gaskets, hinges and catches to minimize leaking of warm air into the unit.• Monitor refrigeration units for excessive noise and vibration.• To maintain proper air circulation, never store boxes or other items on top of the walk-in units, especially in restaurants with low ceilings.• During extended periods of summer heat and humidity, place a small house fan on top of the unit near the condenser to enhance cooling efficiency.	
<p>If Your Equipment Isn't Functioning Properly</p>	<p>Check the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the unit in the defrost cycle?• Is the power switch on?• Is the unit plugged in?• Is the circuit breaker in the "on" position?• Are the condenser coils clean and free from obstruction? <p>If the unit is not operating properly, call a refrigeration company to schedule a service appointment. Keep the unit door closed unless absolutely necessary and purchase dry ice and place on shelves if unit is inoperable for an extended period of time.</p>	