

# Refrigerator Coil Cleaning

Modern refrigerators are reasonably efficient but are still one of the heaviest users of electricity in the average home. Keeping the condenser coil clean is a necessary task to maintaining refrigerator efficiency and longevity.

In most refrigerators the condenser coil is down at the bottom behind the kick plate. A fan pulls room air through the coils and transfers the freezer heat to the room. Unfortunately the recirculating air is down at floor level where dust is present and some of this gets caught in the coils.

Dust on the coils tends to trap more dust and eventually it becomes a clogged mess down there.



This obstruction reduces the efficiency of heat transfer so the compressor has to run longer to compensate, wearing it out while costing more money to operate.

Cleaning the condenser coils will help your refrigerator run less often, which saves you money monthly and extends the life of the appliance, which saves money long-term.

Frequency of cleaning varies with each location and depends on appliance design, proximity to dirt sources, pets, etc. Twice a year is a good starting point.

Refrigerators vary somewhat but a basic cleaning guideline is presented on the following pages.

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1. Remove the kick plate from the front down at the floor level. Usually this snaps off but may be fastened with screws.



2. Inside you should see several rows of serpentine coils. If it's very dirty you may see only a gray fuzzy mass.



The basic idea is to get all the dust and dirt out from among the coils without damaging them. The coils are fairly robust but could be damaged by sharp or stiff tools.

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3. Use a hose-type vacuum cleaner with dust brush attachment to suck up as much debris as you can from around the coils and the entire lower area.



4. Use a special coil cleaning brush to remove dust farther back inside the coils.



Use the vacuum hose to remove debris from the brush with each pass through the coils.



Reasonable force should be used with the brush; avoid jabbing or violent motion which might damage the coils.



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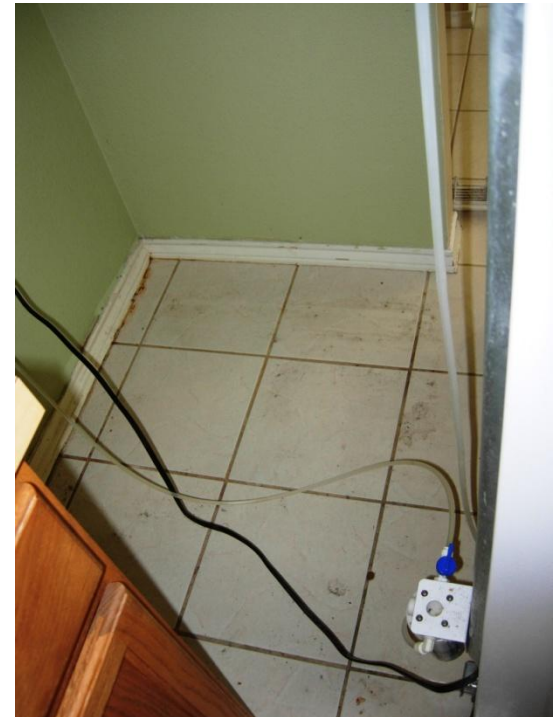
5. If you have one, follow up with a special vacuum extension to get the remaining dust from the coils and the floor.



If you can get the floor clean with this attachment you may skip step 6.

6. It is important to vacuum up all the dirt around and below the fridge because any that is left is likely to be sucked back up and deposited on the coils again.

It is usually worth the trouble to move the refrigerator out from the wall to vacuum and mop the floor underneath, then push it back in place.



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7. It is also advisable to vacuum the back side of the refrigerator where the condenser fan moves air. Dust usually accumulates here as well.



8. Use the vacuum cleaner with brush attachment to clean both inside and outside the kickplate.



The kickplate can now be re-installed and you're finished.