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Fix ice dispenser kenmore refrigerator

Photo: fotosearch.comHoliday entertaining is getting underway, and gracious hosts everywhere are busy cleaning, shopping, decorating, crafting, and cooking up all sorts of incredible edibles for family and friends. With all that planning and hard work going into creating delicious dishes for guests, the last thing you need is a fridge on the fritz. Fortunately, most common fridge ailments are easily treatable by the handy homeowner. Armed with just a little bit of know-how and some readily available parts, you can deal with many maladies before they become dining disasters. Here are a few typical problems and some DIY solutions that can help keep your hardworking refrigerator in tip-top shape.Photo: fotosearch.comPROBLEM: You've found a puddle of water on the floor in front of or under the fridge. SOLUTION: Tighten and replace any faulty tubing. Start by identifying the source of your leak. The most common troublemaker, and the first place to check, would be the water supply to the refrigerator's ice maker and/or water dispenser. Look for the water supply shut-off valve, either in the basement or under the sink closest to the refrigerator. Once the water has been shut off, replace any cracked, worn, or brittle tubing according to the instructions that come with the part.Alternatively, you may need to replace the water inlet valve, which is a solenoid-operated device that connects your household water supply line to your refrigerator. This valve can typically be found at the rear of the fridge, near the bottom. First, carefully inspect its supply connections for leaks, then tighten or replace the connectors; while you're back there, check the valve body for any cracks and replace if necessary.PROBLEM: Noise, noise, noise! Your fridge is making grinding and scraping sounds. SOLUTION: Check and clean out your appliance's fan motors, located at the condenser and evaporator.Most modern frost-free refrigerators operate with a fan-cooled condenser coil, which is located near the compressor, at the bottom rear of the refrigerator. To investigate whether or not it's functioning properly, first disconnect all power to the fridge and remove the rear access panel. Look for any obstructions or debris that could be preventing the fan from moving freely. If any fan blades are physically damaged, or if the motor shows visible wear, these components will need to be replaced. Also, check the rubber mounting grommets for signs of wear, and replace if necessary.If the noise seems to be coming from the freezer, however, the evaporator fan motor may be the one to blame. Located in the freezer compartment, this motor pulls air over the evaporator coils when the compressor is running. Again, disconnect all power to the fridge and remove the evaporator fan cover from the freezer. As with the condenser fan, if any of the fan blades are loose or damaged, or if the motor shaft doesn't turn freely, these parts will need to be replaced. Also, check the evaporator fan motor grommet, which isolates the motor from the mounting bracket; regular wear and tear can cause the grommet to detach, leading to increased vibration and noise.PROBLEM: The fridge cycles on and off more frequently—or, worse, it won't start at all anymore. SOLUTION: Dust out your fridge's coils.Frequent cycling often indicates dirty condenser coils and dirty fan blades. Especially if you share a house with animals, dust, debris, and fur can accumulate along the condenser fan blades and on the coils. In extreme cases, this condition will trip an overload relay and prevent the fridge from turning on at all. But the fix is an easy one: Turn off the power to the unit, and remove the rear access panel. Carefully vacuum the coils, fan blades, and motor with the brush attachment of your vacuum. To help prevent future dust buildup, cut a section of lightweight filter material—or, in a pinch, stretch a piece of old pantyhose—and fit it inside the vent panel beneath the door to trap debris before it reaches the coils.PROBLEM: You're constructing a mini glacier inside your freezer. SOLUTION: Seal up any gaps.Ice and moisture buildup inside the freezer or refrigerator compartment typically results from damaged door gaskets or torn seals. A leaking gasket or seal will allow cold air to constantly seep out of the unit and allow excess moisture inside the unit, creating a layer of frost—one that eventually turns into an ice dam. To see if you have a leak on your hands, stick a high-powered flashlight inside the freezer with the beam pointed at the door and shut it inside. Kill the lights in the kitchen. If you see any light leaking around the door, replace the defective gasket. Clean the gaskets regularly to help keep them pliable and working properly.If you can't find any problems with the gaskets, check the door hinges next. If the hinges become worn out or the lubricating grease dries out, the doors may not close completely, allowing moist room air to seep into the fridge. A common indicator of a faulty hinge is a thumping or scraping noise when the door is opened or closed. Lubricate stiff hinges with food-safe grease, and replace any worn or damaged hinges altogether.Photo: fotosearch.comPROBLEM: Your ice maker just doesn't work. SOLUTION: Flip the functionality back into gear.Yes! It can be that simple. Check to see if the wire along the side of the ice maker assembly is raised, which indicates the unit is turned off. Typically there is a red lever that lowers the wire into the "on" position. (If there is no lever, gently pull down on the wire itself to turn the unit on.) Another problem may be a blockage or leak in the water supply system. Inspect the fill tube and the fill cup area at the back of the ice maker to make sure nothing is blocking the water supply—sometimes a buildup of ice (caused by faulty door gaskets) can block the fill tube; you can defrost it using a hair dryer.You should also inspect the inlet valve and water supply tubing for leaks or damage. Finally, check to see if your ice maker is equipped with a filter. Many newer models include a carbon filter that helps remove debris or contaminants from the local water supply. Over time, the filter can become clogged, thereby reducing the water flow to the ice maker. Most manufacturers recommend checking and replacing the filter every six months, or more frequently if necessary.PROBLEM: You found a spill inside your refrigerator, but nothing seems to have leaked. SOLUTION: Clean and clear out the drain tube.Many fridges have a drain tube that routes excess moisture to a drain pan underneath the fridge, there, the evaporator fan then blows over it to disperse the moisture. If the drain tube becomes blocked by food spills or other debris, that moisture could end up on the inside of your fridge rather than where it's supposed to go. Turn off the power to the refrigerator and look for the drain plug, which should be located near the back or bottom of the main fridge compartment. Next, use a turkey baster to force a 50/50 solution of bleach and warm water (or, if you prefer, white vinegar and warm water) into the drain tube. Repeat this process several times, and then remove and clean the drain pan.Know when to call in a professional. These fixes are great to keep in your back pocket, but certain problems do not lend themselves to a DIY approach—especially issues involving the coolant or electrical systems. Call in reinforcements if: ...the condenser coils are cracked or damaged, ...you feel an oily residue on the floor of the freezer compartment, ...you hear a slight hissing noise and the fridge is not cooling effectively, ...the unit continues to cycle frequently even after you have cleaned the condenser coils, ...the outer shell of the unit is sweating, ...the fridge breaker keeps tripping in your main electrical panel, ...or the unit is leaking and you can't locate the source of the leak. Bill Roberson/Digital TrendsFor some, an ice dispenser is a must-have feature in a fridge. After all, who wants to be tragically fumbling with an ice cube tray like someone out of an infomercial? Then there are some people who take this modern-day amenity and turn it into so much more. If you disable the ice-making function on your dispenser, you can fill the bin with all sorts of other goodies, as Reddit user Deric Peace discovered in 2014. Peace had a bag of Peanut M&Ms and an ice maker, which sparked a vision of the two together. Who doesn't like frozen candy? People with bad teeth, probably, but for the rest of us, a chilly Reese's Peanut Butter Cup (the mini kind, otherwise it likely won't dispense properly) is welcome all year-round. Sticking a cup under the fridge's dispenser and having it fill with candy instead of ice is like something Willy Wonka would dream up. Another person who dared to dream of a more useful dispenser is Ingur user reanimatedus. "Because I use this more than ice," reanimatedus offers as an explanation of a GIF showing pizza rolls plopping onto a Winnie-the-Pooh plate from the dispenser. Nary a roll goes astray, either. It's genius because it frees up space in the freezer for more pizza rolls. My adult life just peaked pic.twitter.com/U70YQL7VE — Clare (@iliketweet) December 11, 2016 The final ice dispenser hack is a personal favorite. Twitter user iliketweet posted a photo of her glorious wine fridge — and by wine fridge, we mean wine-dispensing fridge. Turn off the ice-making function, pour in a bottle of your favorite white, and let the good times roll. It's so beautiful. This makes us wonder what else we could fill the office ice dispenser with. Cereal? Not sure if frosty Cheerios are as good as Frosted Cheerios. Vodka? That's definitely something you don't want to mistake for water. Editors' Recommendations Move over, dogs — Panasonic's Movable Fridge robot is man's new best friend 1 Why "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" Matters in a Post-Pandemic World 2 What Are Athena's Personality Traits? 3 How Is Cinco De Mayo Celebrated? 4 What Is 3/4 of a Cup Doubled? 5 What Is Blockchain Technology? 1 What Is a Group of Squid Called? 2 How Much Does a 5 Gallon Bucket of Paint Weigh? 3 What Was the 1950s Era Called? 4 How Many Miles Is a 1k Run? 5 Deep-Freeze Dinosaurs: Why Oklahoma's "Alligator Popsicles" Practice Snorkeling for Survival The Spruce / Sarah Lee If your refrigerator light is not coming on, it may be that the bulb has reached the end of its lifespan and has burned out. Check the bulb to see if it has a dark area in the bulb or has a broken and loose filament. When you shake the bulb, you may hear a rattling noise if the filament inside is damaged. You can purchase special bulbs for appliances, usually 25 or 40 watts, at your local hardware or merchandise store. Unplug your refrigerator, change the bulb, and it's likely that this will solve this problem. When you remove the light bulb, take a quick look at the empty socket. If the socket is broken or dirty, you may have found another source of the problem. Often a quick cleaning with a warm, damp cloth can clean the contacts and allow the light to turn on. However, make sure you unplug the refrigerator before touching the lightbulb socket. The Spruce / Sarah Lee Surprisingly often, it is a simple power interruption that is causing the light to stop working. Problems that can cause this include: The power cord is unplugged: Start by making sure the power cord for the refrigerator is fully plugged into its outlet receptacle. There's always a possibility that you may have accidentally knocked the plug out of alignment. The circuit breaker has tripped: An overload or short-circuit can cause the circuit breaker controlling the refrigerator to trip, shutting off the circuit. Check in the main circuit breaker panel and reset the breaker if it has tripped. Also, make sure that you have not added too many electrical devices to a single circuit, or the breaker will trip again. A breaker that trips again immediately may also be signaling a short-circuit, a more serious problem that may require an electrician. A power outage to the house: A complete power outage to the house will cause the lightbulb in the refrigerator to fail—along with every other light fixture and appliance in your home. If this happens, keep the refrigerator closed, if possible, to protect the food inside until the power comes back on. A damaged power cord on the refrigerator: Although it's not common, a power cord on a refrigerator can become frayed or damaged, interrupting the flow of electricity. If that's the problem, you may need to hire an electrician to replace the cord. A failed electrical outlet: Sometimes, an electrical outlet receptacle can fail, causing the refrigerator, including its lights, to stop working. If this happens, the refrigerator will stop running entirely. You can check the outlet using a non-contact circuit tester, which will tell you if there is power flowing to the outlet. A bad outlet will need to be replaced. The Spruce / Sarah Lee If you have not yet found the cause of the problem, it is likely that a stuck or faulty door switch is causing the lightbulb to fail. With the door open, locate the plunger-type switch lever in the door frame. Depress it and release it several times to see if this frees up the action. Over time, these buttons can become stuck from a build-up of dust or dirt, which may require simple cleaning with a cloth and warm sudsy water to loosen it. Less frequently, the door switch may wear out entirely. If you find no other reason for the light failure, the final fix is to replace the door switch. Often, this switch can be easily pried out of its mounting with a putty knife or screwdriver. It is usually connected with a pair of wire leads that can easily be unplugged. Buy a replacement switch as specified by the manufacturer, reconnect the wires, and insert the switch back into its socket. Your refrigerator light should now operate correctly. The Spruce / Sarah Lee

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