

**Note by WebMaster:** The reason it is necessary to keep your cooling fins defrosted, is because ice acts like an insulator. To properly cool the reefer area, the fin temperature will usually range from 20 to 26 degrees. When the fins are covered with ice, it basically insulates the fins from cooling the reefer area properly.

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## Keep your fridge fins frost free

Freezing fridge fins frustrate food fixers. So says the cook in our RV household. If you've opened the door of your RV refrigerator and been confounded by blocks of ice where they should not be, this piece is for you.

For some RVers, RV refrigeration is a complete mystery. The typical 'reefer back home has auto-defrost and fans jetting cold air all over the inside of the refrigerated section. They're pretty much self-maintaining--well, OK, they don't toss out the old moldy leftovers, but they pretty much handle most everything else.

Recently defrosted fridge chills more effectively.



An RV refrigerator relies on natural convection to get the cold air moving around inside the refrigerator section, and you'll find the cold comes from those aluminum colored fins in the back, up near the top of the compartment. Open the door to take a look or grab something out, warm air from your living quarters invades that refrigerated space. Moisture in the air typically makes its way to those fins and attaches itself like a barnacle on the bottom of a ship.

Left to itself, not only is the ice build up a bit unsightly, it will eventually kill off your reefer's cooling ability. What's to be done to fix the problem? When you get an ice build up, there's nothing for it but to shut down the refrigerator and manually defrost it. Usually opening the door and leaving it open for a few minutes on a warm day will be enough to banish the ice queen, but sometimes a little extra help is needed. DON'T pull out the flame thrower (or the hair dryer), simply boost the flow of warm air with a fan.

To help slow down the formation of ice on the chill fins, limit the amount of time you have the door open. Like one old friend says, he used to tell his son, "Open door. Take mental picture. Close door. Make decision. Re-open door. Remove choice." Putting a small circulating fan in the refrigerator may also help keep the air circulating inside the box, and some RV'ers swear it reduces their ice build up. We kind of wonder about it, since humidity in the box will still find its way to those fins, but that's what they say.