Marcella's
SERVICE CENTER

Fridge Odors

Odors in refrigerators can be trapped in the plastic liner of the unit and removing them can be a process, but here are some proven tips to help speed up the process.

The air in a refrigerator is constantly being circulated around which means an odor can be picked up and spread around the compartments in a matter of hours. The odor has the ability to cling to the plastic surfaces and interiors in areas we can't easily access.

Instances where the fridge no longer cools make it easy to determine where the odor comes from (spoiled food in an enclosed area), but sometimes odors just appear. Items like uncovered food, spoiled food, onions, garlic, fish, fragrant herbs or food are often the culprits. The odor can be overpowering and even smell like "chemicals". We often hear the complaint that it smells like the Freon is leaking, but refrigerants are classified as mostly odorless. In addition, without the refrigerant your fridge wouldn't be cold!

We're going to provide some helpful tips to help clear up that odor, remember not everything will work immediately and may take several weeks to fully diminish the smell.

- Unplug the unit and remove all food and shelving.

- Wipe down shelving with warm soapy water, rinse, and air dry.

- Wipe down interior walls with paste made from baking soda and water. Let sit for half an hour and then wipe down with warm soapy water, rinse, and air dry with doors open and fan pointed in.

- Plug the unit back in and replace the food (remember to keep packaging closed and covered).

- Activated charcoal can be found at your local pet store or pharmacy. Place in a dish and in the bottom of the fresh food and freezer sections. Activated charcoal can also be reused after it loses its effectiveness by placing it in the oven for afew hours on low heat. Note that activated charcoal is not the same as the BBQ charcoal!

- In the fresh food section, squirt a quarter tube of minty fluoridated toothpaste into a small dish and place in the center of the middle shelf. The fluoride acts as a neutralizer and can add some fragrance to the air. Another option would be a small bowl of FRESH coffee grounds. Both of these would need to be changed daily.

- In the freezer section, wad up several newspaper pages into small balls and place on the shelves or in the drawer. Change daily.