Marcella's APPLIANCE CENTER

Understanding Normal Refrigerator Noises

Your new refrigerator may sound different from older models due to modern technology and energy-efficient features. Below is a list of common operating noises and their explanations.

Humming & Whooshing

- The high-efficiency compressor may run faster and longer than older models, producing a high-pitched hum or pulsating sound.
- Fans may create a whooshing noise, especially when the refrigerator is first plugged in, doors are opened frequently, or a large amount of food is added.
- Fan speeds adjust automatically for optimal cooling and energy savings. If the noise stops when the door is opened, it is likely the fan.

Clicks, Pops, & Cracks

- Cracking or popping sounds occur as the refrigerator cools, a normal result of newer refrigerants.
- The compressor may click or chirp when restarting (this may take up to 5 minutes).
- Cooling coils expand and contract during and after defrost cycles, producing cracking or popping sounds.
- If your model has an ice maker, you may hear ice cubes dropping into the bucket.
- After dispensing ice, a motor closes the ice chute to maintain freezing temperatures.
- The defrost timer may produce a clicking or tick-tock noise when switching on and off.
- A clicking noise may also be heard after a power outage as the compressor attempts to restart.

Water & Gurgling Sounds

- Refrigerant moving through cooling coils may sound like boiling or gurgling water.
- Water dripping onto the defrost heater may cause sizzling, popping, or buzzing sounds.
- A water-dripping noise may occur during the defrost cycle as ice melts and drains.
- Closing the door may create a gurgling sound due to pressure equalization.
- Water hammer, a loud banging noise, may occur in water supply lines when the valve opens or closes due to high water pressure.

Buzzing & Vibrations

- The ice maker may buzz when filling with water, which can occur every 15 minutes if the water supply is turned on.
- A buzzing noise can also occur when using the water dispenser but should stop within 7 seconds after dispensing.
- If the ice maker is on but not connected to a water supply, it may make a rattling or vibrating noise. If not connected to water, it is best to turn off the ice maker.

Other Normal Sounds

- The damper door opening or closing may create chirping, barking, woofing, or howling sounds.
- Fan speeds may change as the refrigerator adjusts to temperature shifts caused by door openings.
- A snapping sound occurs a few seconds after using the water dispenser as the chute closes.
- New refrigerator doors may whistle or squeak due to tightly sealed gaskets, which will stop after a few days of use.

Need Assistance?

If you hear unusual noises not listed here or experience performance issues, consult your owner's manual or contact our repair department. Most noises are part of normal operation, but we’re happy to help if you have concerns.

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