

# Refrigerator Guidelines

**As there are many makes and models of refrigerators in Members' Housing the following are general guidelines for proper operation:**

- The United States Food and Drug Administration set the maximum refrigerator temperature at 41 degrees Fahrenheit. That temperature is the maximum for the actual product being refrigerated. This is often confused for the air temperature. The air temperature may fluctuate but the product temperature must remain at 41 or lower. The colder the product, the longer it will last. That makes 38 degrees Fahrenheit a more optimum temperature. A unit set at 38 degrees Fahrenheit might come on at 38 degrees and shut off at 35 degrees.
- The United States Food and Drug Administration does not set a specific freezer temperature. They require that the food be frozen solid. Most things that do not have high sugar content are frozen solid at about 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Ice cream needs to be below about 5 degrees Fahrenheit to be solid. The colder the freezer temperature, the longer the food can be stored. The Institute recommends using 0 degrees F as a goal. That leaves a good size safety margin.
- Refrigerator settings vary by refrigerator style and have been preset for you. They are typically set at 4 and 4 or 5 and 5 depending on the make and model in the apartment.
  - o You may purchase your own refrigerator and/or freezer thermometers at local department and hardware stores to adjust the refrigerator/freezer settings to your preference.



# Top-Freezer REFRIGERATORS

## **SAFETY INFORMATION ..... 3**

### **USING THE REFRIGERATOR**

Temperature Control .....	5
Shelves .....	5
Drawers .....	6
Automatic Ice Maker .....	6
Auto Fill Pitcher .....	6

## **CARE AND CLEANING ..... 7**

### **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Preparing to Install the Refrigerator .....	9
Water Line Installation .....	
Installing the Door Handle .....	
Reversing the Door Swing .....	10

### **TROUBLESHOOTING**

Normal Operating Sounds .....	13
-------------------------------	----

## **WARRANTY ..... 16**

## **CONSUMER SUPPORT ..... 18**

## **OWNER'S MANUAL & INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Models 15,16,18

## **ENGLISH/FRANCAIS/ ESPANOL**

Write the model and serial  
numbers here:

Model# \_\_\_\_\_

Serial# \_\_\_\_\_

Find these numbers on a label  
on the left side, near the middle  
of the refrigerator compartment.

## **THANK YOU FOR MAKING GE APPLIANCES A PART OF YOUR HOME.**

---

Whether you grew up with GE Appliances, or this is your first, we're happy to have you in the family.

We take pride in the craftsmanship, innovation and design that goes into every GE Appliances product, and we think you will too. Among other things, registration of your appliance ensures that we can deliver important product information and warranty details when you need them.

Register your GE appliance now online. Helpful websites and phone numbers are available in the Consumer Support section of this Owner's Manual. You may also mail in the pre-printed registration card included in the packing material.



# IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

## READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING THE APPLIANCE

### A.WARNING

To reduce the risk of fire, explosion, electric shock, or injury when using your refrigerator, follow these basic safety precautions:

- This refrigerator must be properly installed and located in accordance with the Installation Instructions before it is used.
- Unplug the refrigerator before making repairs, replacing a light bulb, or cleaning.  
**NOTE:** Power to the refrigerator cannot be disconnected by any setting on the control panel.  
**NOTE:** Repairs must be performed by a qualified Service Professional.
- Replace all parts and panels before operating.
- Do not use an extension cord.
- Do not store or use gasoline or other flammable vapors and liquids in the vicinity of this or any other appliance.
- Do not store explosive substances such as aerosol cans with a flammable propellant in this appliance.
- To prevent suffocation and entrapment hazards to children, remove the fresh food and freezer doors from any refrigerator before disposing of it or discontinuing its use.
- To avoid serious injury or death, children should not stand on, or play in or with the appliance.
- Children and persons with reduced physical, sensory or mental capabilities or lack of experience and knowledge can use this appliance only if they are supervised or have been given instructions on safe use and understand the hazards involved.
- This appliance is intended to be used in household and similar applications such as: staff kitchen areas in shops, offices and other working environments; farm houses; by clients in hotels, motels, bed & breakfast and other residential environments; catering and similar non-retail applications.

### A.CAUTION

To reduce the risk of injury when using your refrigerator, follow these basic safety precautions.

- Do not clean glass shelves or covers with warm water when they are cold. Glass shelves and covers may break if exposed to sudden temperature changes or impact, such as bumping or dropping. Tempered glass is designed to shatter into many small pieces if it breaks.
- Keep fingers out of the "pinch point" areas; clearances between the doors and between the doors and cabinet are necessarily small. Be careful closing doors when children are in the area.
- Do not touch the cold surfaces in the freezer compartment when hands are damp or wet, skin may stick to these extremely cold surfaces.
- Do not refreeze frozen foods which have thawed completely.
- In refrigerators with automatic ice makers, avoid contact with the moving parts of the ejector mechanism, or with the heating element that releases the cubes. Do not place fingers or hands on the automatic ice making mechanism while the refrigerator is plugged in.

### STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 65 WARNINGS

### A.WARNING

This product contains one or more chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

## INSTALLATION

### A.WARNING

### EXPLOSION HAZARD

Keep flammable materials and vapors, such as gasoline, away from refrigerator. Failure to do so can result in fire, explosion, or death.

# READ AND SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

# IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

## READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING THE APPLIANCE

### CONNECTING ELECTRICITY

#### **A.WARNING** 1 ELECTRICAL SHOCK HAZARD

Plug into a grounded 3-prong outlet

Do not remove the ground prong

Do not use an adapter

Do not use an extension cord.

Failure to follow these instructions can result in death, fire, or electrical shock.

**Do not, under any circumstances, cut or remove the third (ground) prong from the power cord. For personal safety, this appliance must be properly grounded.**

The power cord of this appliance is equipped with a 3-prong (grounding) plug which mates with a standard 3-prong (grounding) wall outlet to minimize the possibility of electric shock hazard from this appliance.

Have the wall outlet and circuit checked by a qualified electrician to make sure the outlet is properly grounded.

Where a standard 2-prong wall outlet is encountered, it is your personal responsibility and obligation to have it replaced with a properly grounded 3-prong wall outlet. Do not use an adapter.

The refrigerator should always be plugged into its own individual electrical outlet which has a voltage rating that matches the rating plate.

A 115 Volt AC, 60 Hz, 15- or 20-amp fused, grounded electrical supply is required. This provides the best performance and also prevents overloading house wiring circuits which could cause a fire hazard from overheated wires.

Never unplug your refrigerator by pulling on the power cord. Always grip plug firmly and pull straight out from the outlet.

Immediately discontinue use of a damaged supply cord. If the supply cord is damaged, it must be replaced by a qualified service professional with an authorized service part from the manufacturer.

When moving the refrigerator away from the wall, be careful not to roll over or damage the power cord.

### PROPER DISPOSAL OF YOUR OLD REFRIGERATOR

#### **A.WARNING** SUFFOCATION AND ENTRAPMENT HAZARD

Failure to follow these disposal instructions can result in death or serious injury

**IMPORTANT:** Child entrapment and suffocation are not problems of the past. Junked or abandoned refrigerators are still dangerous even if they will sit for "just a few days." If you are getting rid of your old refrigerator, please follow the instructions below to help prevent accidents.

#### **Before You Throw Away Your Old Appliance**

- Take off the fresh food and freezer doors.
- Leave the shelves in place so that children may not easily climb inside.

#### **Refrigerant and Foam Disposal:**

Dispose of appliance in accordance with Federal and Local Regulations. Flammable insulation material used requires special disposal procedures. Contact your local authorities for the environmentally safe disposal of your appliance.

## READ AND SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

## Temperature Control

The temperature control adjusts the refrigerator from its warmest to coldest settings.

Your refrigerator will come with the recommended factory setting on "Colder". For colder temperature, turn the knob clockwise to setting "Coldest". For warmer temperature, turn the dial counter-clockwise to setting "Cold". To turn off the cooling in both compartments, turn the knob counter-clockwise to setting "Off". Note that this does not shut off power to the refrigerator.



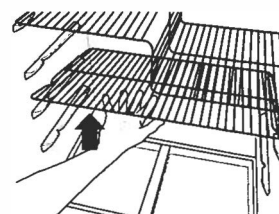
## Fresh Food Compartment Shelves

Shelf supports at various levels allow you to custom-space your shelves. Not all features are on all models.

### Full-Width Shelves

Some models have a stationary tempered glass shelf, a spillproof shelf or two steel wire stationary shelves. These shelves can be moved to another place in the fresh food compartment.

When placed correctly on the shelf supports, the shelf will stop before coming completely out of the refrigerator and will not tilt when you place food on it or remove food from it.



To remove the full-width shelves

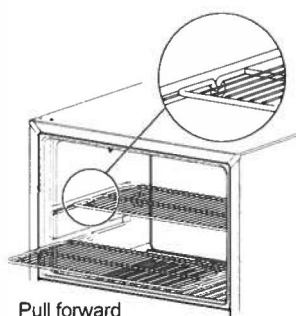


#### **CAUTION**

Do not clean glass shelves or covers with warm water when they are cold. Glass shelves and covers may break if exposed to sudden temperature changes or impact such as bumping or dropping. Tempered glass is designed to shatter into many small pieces if it breaks.

## Freezer Compartment Shelves

When placed correctly on the shelf supports, the two steel wire stationary shelves will stop before coming completely out of the freezer and will not tilt when you place food on it or remove food from it.



Some models have glass shelves.

#### **CAUTION**

Do not clean glass shelves or covers with warm water when they are cold. Glass shelves and covers may break if exposed to sudden temperature changes or impact such as bumping or dropping. Tempered glass is designed to shatter into many small pieces if it breaks.

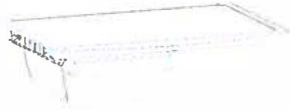
# en Storage Drawers

3:

Not all features are on all models.

## Snack Drawer

The snack drawer can be moved to the most useful location for your family's needs.



## Fruit and Vegetable Drawers

Excess water that may accumulate in the bottom of the drawers should be emptied. The drawers wiped dry.



0  
a:  
a:  
W  
a:  
W  
c:  
1-

## Humidity Controlled Drawer and Cover (on some models)

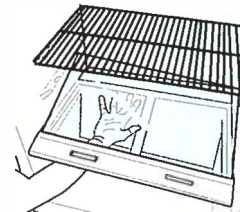
Slide the control all the way to the HIGH setting to provide high humidity recommended for most vegetables.

Slide the control all the way to the LOW setting to provide lower humidity levels recommended for most fruits.



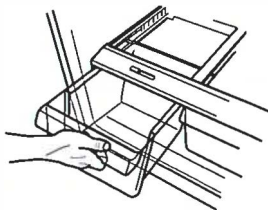
## Cover Removal

1. Remove the drawers.
2. Reach in, push the back of glass cover up, and at the same time, pull it backward as far as it will come. Tilt it and take it out. Avoid cleaning the cold glass cover with hot water because the extreme temperature difference may cause it to break.
3. Remove the drawer frame. (Always remove the glass cover before you take out the drawer frame.) Lift the frame off the supports at each side and back, pull it forward, tilt it and take it out.



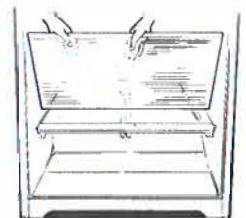
## Drawer Removal

Drawers can be removed easily by grasping the sides and lifting up slightly while pulling drawers past the stop location.



## To replace:

1. Lower the frame until it rests on the supports at each side and back.
2. Replace the glass cover, pushing its front edge firmly into the front frame channel and gently lowering the back into place.
3. Replace the drawers.





## Automatic Icemaker (on some models)

Not all features are on all models.

A newly-installed refrigerator may take 12-24 hours to begin making ice.

## ACAUTION

**CAUTION** Avoid contact with the moving parts of the ejector mechanism, or with the heating element (located on the bottom of the ice maker) that releases the cubes. Do not place fingers or hands on the automatic ice making mechanism while the refrigerator is plugged in.

The ice maker will produce approximately 70-100 cubes in a 24-hour period, depending on the freezer compartment temperature, room temperature, number of door openings and other use conditions.

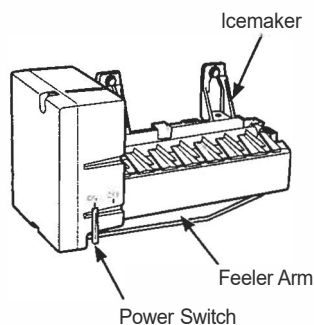
If the refrigerator is operated before the water connection is made to the ice maker, set the switch OFF.

When the refrigerator has been connected to the water supply, set the switch ON position.

The ice maker will fill with water when it cools to 15° F (-9° C). A newly-installed refrigerator may take 12 to 24 hours to begin making ice cubes.

Once the ice maker starts to make ice, it may take up to 48 hours to fill the bin, depending on the temperature settings and number of door openings.

You will hear a buzzing sound each time the ice maker fills with water.



**NOTICE:** Throw away the first few batches of ice to allow the water line to clear.

Be sure nothing interferes with the sweep of the feeler arm.

When the bin fills to the level of the feeler arm, the ice maker will stop producing ice.

It is normal for several cubes to be joined together.

If ice is not used frequently, old ice cubes will become cloudy, taste stale, shrink or fuse together.

Ice maker accessory kit:

If your refrigerator did not already come equipped with an automatic ice maker, an ice maker accessory kit is available at extra cost.

Check the back of the refrigerator for the specific ice maker kit needed for your model.

# AutoFill Pitcher (on some models)

Not all features are on all models.

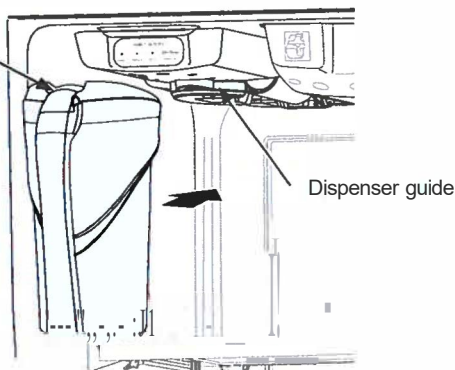
## AWARNING

To reduce the risk associated with choking, do not allow children less than 3 years of age to have access to small parts during the installation of this product.

The AutoFill pitcher is designed for hands-free, refilling of the pitcher for a constant supply of fresh water. The refrigerator shelf must be at the second position to use the AutoFill pitcher.

1. Place the lid onto the pitcher so it fits securely. Align the notch in the pitcher lid to the dispenser guide in the top of the refrigerator and slide the pitcher toward the back of the refrigerator until it stops.

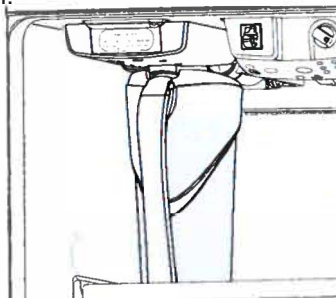
Notch in top of pitcher



2. Water will fill the pitcher until it reaches a specified level and will then shut off.

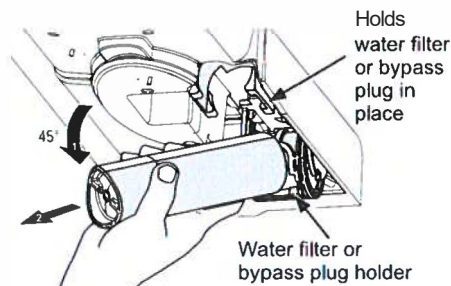
**NOTE:** If you remove the pitcher before the water stops, water may drip on the shelf.

When you replace the pitcher back under the dispenser, it will refill the pitcher back to the specified level.



The Water Filter is located on the underside of the dispenser housing. The filter should be replaced every six months or if the flow of water decreases. You must have a water filter or the bypass plug in place when using the AutoFill Pitcher.

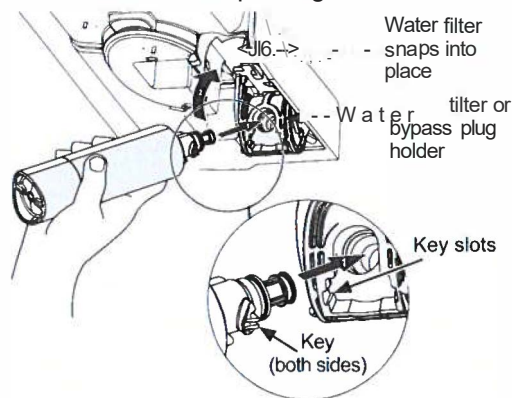
To remove the water filter or bypass plug, swing the water filter or bypass plug down until it stops (45°) and gently pull it toward you to unseat it from the water filter or bypass plug holder. **DO NOT TWIST THE FILTER.**



To replace the water filter or bypass plug, align it into the water filter or bypass plug holder. The keys on the sides of the water filter or bypass plug will seat into key slots on the inside of the water filter or bypass plug holder. Push the water filter or bypass plug straight into the opening and continue to push as you swing the water filter or bypass plug upward until it snaps into place. If the water filter or bypass plug will not swing easily, check to ensure it is properly aligned and fully seated into the holder. A newly installed water filter or bypass plug may cause water to drip from the dispenser.

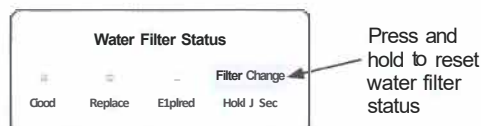
After replacing the water filter, run 2 gallons of water (approximately 3 full pitchers) through the autofill dispenser (about 5 minutes) to remove air from the system.

**NOTE:** It is normal for water to appear discolored during the initial system flush. Water color will return to normal after the first minutes of dispensing.



Reset the filter status on the housing, after installing new filter, by holding the Filter Change button for 3 seconds. The filter indicator light above "Good" will turn green for Water Filter Status.

For maximum benefit, GE Appliances recommends the use of GE Appliances-branded filters only. If you have questions or to order additional water filter cartridges, visit our website at [www.gewaterfilters.com](http://www.gewaterfilters.com) or call GE Appliances Parts and Accessories at 877.959.8688.v



# Care And Cleaning

## Cleaning the Outside

The door handles and trim (on some models). Clean with a cloth dampened with soapy water. Dry with a soft cloth.

Keep the outside clean. Wipe with a clean cloth lightly dampened with kitchen appliance wax or mild liquid dish detergent. Dry and polish with a clean, soft cloth.

Do not wipe the refrigerator with a soiled dish cloth or wet towel. These may leave a residue that can erode the paint. Do not use scouring pads, powdered cleaners, bleach or cleaners containing either bleach or ammonia because these products can scratch and weaken the paint finish.

The stainless steel doors and door handles (on some models) can be cleaned with a commercially available stainless steel cleaner. Cleaners with oxalic acid such as Bar Keepers Friend Soft Cleanser™ will remove surface rust, tarnish and small blemishes. Use only a liquid cleanser free of grit and rub in the direction of the brush lines with a damp soft sponge. Do not use appliance wax or polish on the stainless steel.

## Cleaning the Inside

To help prevent odors, leave an open box of baking soda in the fresh food and freezer compartments.

Unplug the refrigerator before cleaning. If this is not practical, wring excess moisture out of sponge or cloth when cleaning around switches, lights or controls.

Use warm water and baking soda solution-about a tablespoon (15 ml) of baking soda to a quart (1 liter) of water. This both cleans and neutralizes odors. Rinse and wipe dry.

After cleaning the door gaskets, apply a thin layer of petroleum jelly to the door gaskets at the hinge side. This helps keep the gaskets from sticking and bending out of shape.

### CAUTION

Do not clean glass shelves or covers with warm water when they are cold. Glass shelves and covers may break if exposed to sudden temperature changes or impact such as bumping or dropping. Tempered glass is designed to shatter into many small pieces if it breaks. Do not wash any plastic refrigerator parts in the dishwasher.

## To Clean the AutoFill Pitcher

The AutoFill pitcher and lid are dishwasher safe. The lid should be placed in the top rack only and the pitcher in the bottom rack of the dishwasher. Run on normal wash.

To maximize performance of your AutoFill pitcher, it is recommended that you rinse it thoroughly after washing to remove all soap residue. If your AutoFill pitcher has been in contact with food that is likely to cause discoloration (e.g. tomato ketchup, mustard), clean your pitcher promptly. This is to avoid possible discoloration of your pitcher.

If you would like to order a secondary AutoFill pitcher, go to our website at [www.geappliancesparts.com](http://www.geappliancesparts.com).

## Moving the Refrigerator

Be careful when moving the refrigerator away from the wall. All types of floor coverings can be damaged, particularly cushioned coverings and those with embossed surfaces.

Turn the leveling legs at each front corner of the refrigerator counterclockwise until the rollers support the refrigerator. Pull the refrigerator straight out and return it to position by pushing it straight in. Moving the refrigerator in a side direction may result in damage to the floor covering or refrigerator.

When pushing the refrigerator back, make sure you don't roll over the power cord or ice maker supply line (on some models).

After rolling the refrigerator back into place, turn the legs clockwise until the legs again bear the weight of the refrigerator.

## Light Bulb Replacement

### WARNING

Before replacing a burned-out light bulb, the refrigerator should be unplugged in order to avoid contact with a live wire filament. (A burned-out light bulb may break when being replaced.)

Turning the control to the OFF position does not remove power to the light circuit.

## Preparing for Vacation

For long vacations or absences, remove food and unplug the refrigerator. Move the temperature control dial to the OFF position, and clean the interior with a baking soda solution of one tablespoon (15 ml) of baking soda to one quart (1 liter) of water. Leave the doors open.

Move the switch to the OFF position on the power switch model, and shut off the water supply to the refrigerator.

If the temperature can drop below freezing, have a qualified servicer drain the water supply system (on some models) to prevent serious property damage due to flooding.

## Preparing to Move

Secure all loose items such as grille, shelves and drawers by taping them securely in place to prevent damage. To prevent the doors from opening while moving, secure them to the case with tape. Be sure the refrigerator stays in an upright position during moving.

