

All Food Equipment

Cleaning & Defrosting

If you own a chest freezer or do not have an Automatic Defrost option on your freezer, you will need to make sure you defrost your freezer manually at least once or twice a year. The best time to defrost your freezer is when your supplies are at their lowest, and the ice is over 5mm thick.

Before defrosting, remove all items from the freezer. You can pre-set your fridge to 'very cold' and store as much frozen food as you can there. Wrap up the rest in newspaper or cardboard, and put it in a portable cooler or a cool and well-ventilated location. Turn off the power and pull out the power plug, or switch the controls to defrost.

Put on some gloves, and gently scrape off as much ice as possible from the freezer with a wooden or plastic scraper (do not use metal items like knives etc as it can damage the gas pipes). You can even sit a container of hot water inside the freezer to speed up the defrosting process. Pouring warm water over the ice walls is not recommended as an upright freezer it can flood the floor around it and it can be very hard to collect a pool of water from the bottom of a chest freezer.

It is just as important to regularly clean your freezer, as it is to defrost it.

Once the ice has been removed, wipe the interior of the freezer with a solution of 1 level tablespoon of bicarbonate of soda to 1.2 litres of warm water. Make sure you also wash all shelves and baskets before returning them to the freezer and wipe everything completely dry before turning it back on!

Condenser coils at the back of the freezer should also be cleaned at least once a year and kept free of fluff and dust.

After defrosting/cleaning, turn on the freezer to the and leave for one hour before repacking it.

The exterior of your freezer/fridge can also be kept clean quite easily by wiping it with a damp cloth and a little washing-up liquid followed by a rub with a soft cloth and silicone car polish.

When positioning your freezer, also ensure it is not exposed to direct sunlight or next to a hot object such as a stove or against an uninsulated wall. Also allow for a clearance of at least 80mm between the coil at the back of the freezer and the wall. Refer to manufacturer's instructions for exact details.