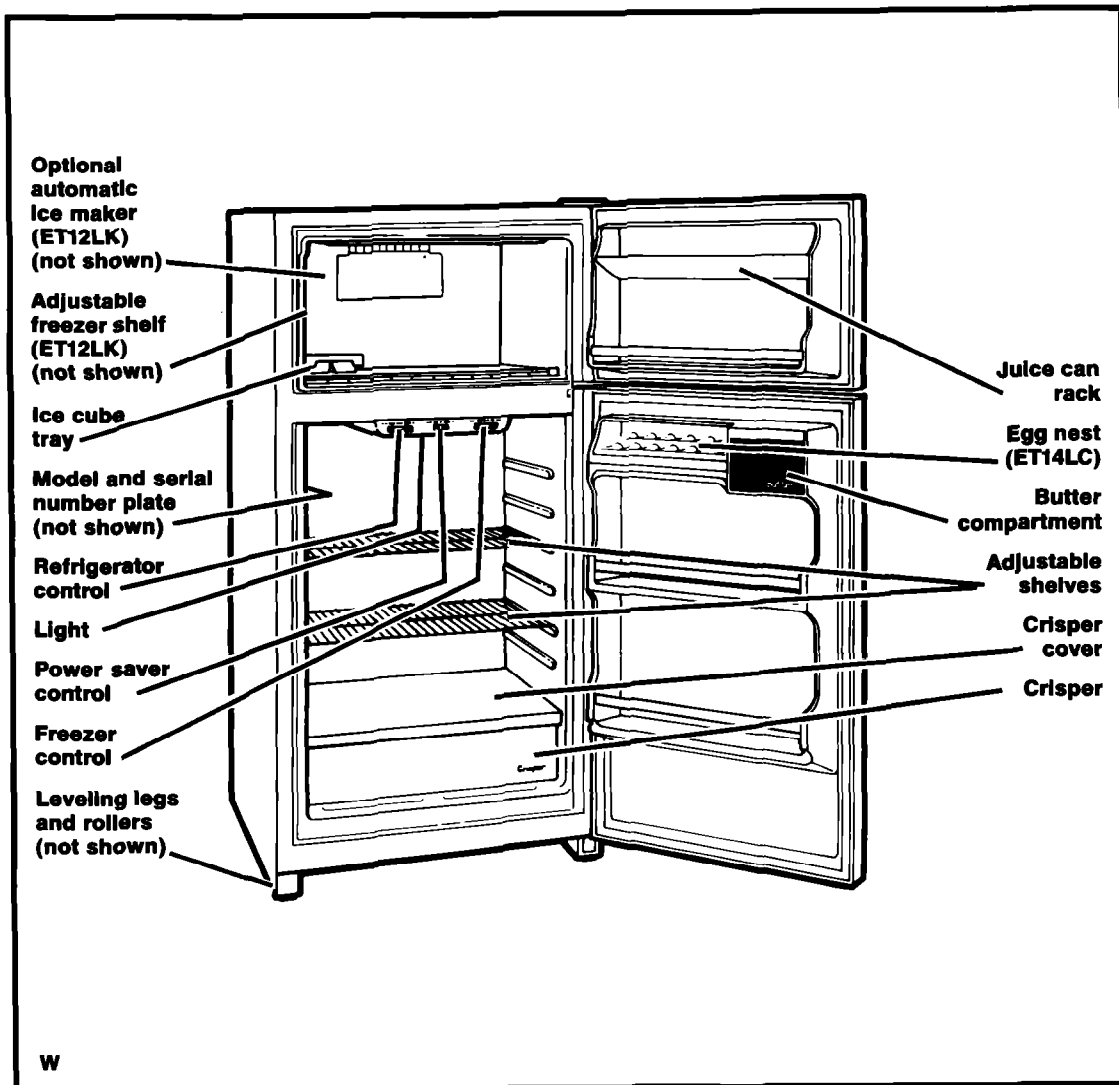




# Use & Care Guide



**NO-FROST  
REFRIGERATOR-FREEZERS  
ET12LK ET14LC**

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**Thank you for buying a Whirlpool appliance. Please complete and mail the Owner Registration Card provided with this product.**

Then complete the form below. Have this information ready if you need service or call with a question.

- Copy model and serial numbers from plate (see diagram on front cover) and purchase date from sales slip.
- Keep this book and sales slip together in a handy place.

---

**Model Number**

---

**Serial Number**

---

**Purchase Date**

---

**Service Company Phone Number**

Remove the Consumer Buy Guide Label, tape and any inside labels before using the refrigerator.

**To remove any remaining glue:**

- Rub briskly with thumb to make a ball then remove.

**OR**

- Soak area with liquid hand dishwashing detergent before removing glue as described above. Do not use rubbing alcohol or flammable or toxic solvents, such as acetone, gasoline, carbon tetrachloride, etc. These can damage the material.

**NOTE:** Do not remove any permanent instruction labels inside your refrigerator. Do not remove the Tech Sheet fastened under the refrigerator at the front.

# Important Safety Instructions

## **⚠ WARNING**

To reduce the risk of fire, electrical shock, or injury when using your refrigerator, follow basic precautions including the following:

- **Read all instructions before using the refrigerator.**
- **Child entrapment and suffocation are not problems of the past. Junked or abandoned refrigerators are still dangerous...even if they will "just sit in the garage a few days."**  
**If you are getting rid of your old refrigerator, do it safely. Please read the enclosed safety booklet from the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. Help prevent accidents.**
- **Never allow children to operate, play with, or crawl inside the refrigerator.**
- **Never clean refrigerator parts with flammable fluids. The fumes can create a fire hazard or explosion.**

• **FOR YOUR SAFETY** •

**DO NOT STORE OR USE GASOLINE OR OTHER FLAMMABLE VAPORS AND LIQUIDS IN THE VICINITY OF THIS OR ANY OTHER APPLIANCE. THE FUMES CAN CREATE A FIRE HAZARD OR EXPLOSION.**

### **It is your responsibility to be sure your refrigerator:**

- is installed and leveled on a floor that will hold the weight, and in an area suitable for its size and use.
- is connected only to the right kind of outlet, with the right electrical supply and grounding. (Refer to the Electrical Requirements and Grounding Instructions Sheet.)
- is used only to do what home refrigerators are designed to do.
- is not near an oven, radiator or other heat source.
- is properly maintained.
- is out of the weather.
- is used in an area where the room temperature will not fall below 55°F (13°C).
- is not used by anyone unable to operate it properly.
- is not loaded with food before it has time to get properly cold.

**– SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS –**

# Before Using Your Refrigerator

## 1. Clean it

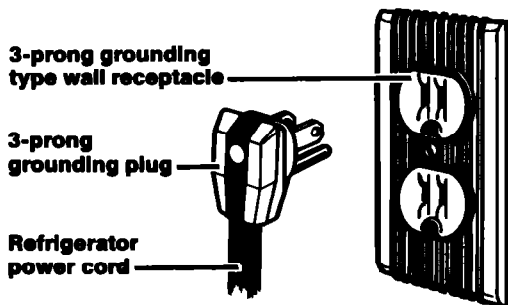
Clean your refrigerator before using it. See cleaning instructions on page 9.

## 2. Plug it in

### Recommended Grounding Method

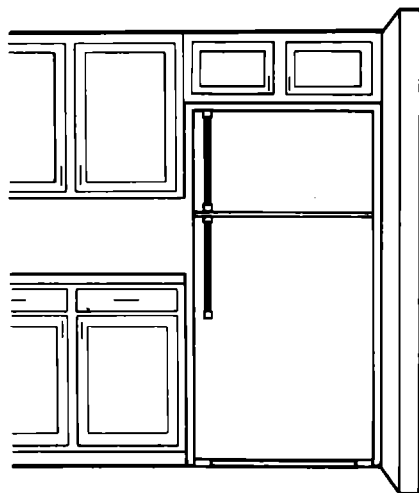
A 115 Volt, 60 Hz., AC only 15 or 20 ampere fused and properly grounded electrical supply is required. It is recommended that a separate circuit serving only this appliance be provided. Use a receptacle which cannot be turned off with a switch or pull chain. Do not use an extension cord.

See Electrical Requirements and Grounding Instruction Sheet in your Literature Package.



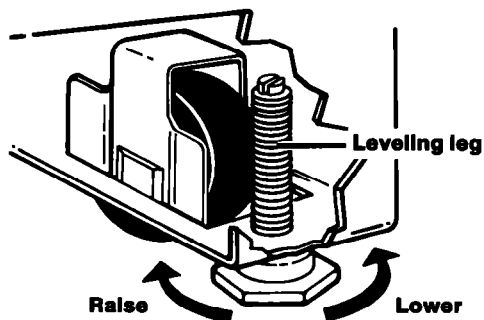
## 3. Install properly

1. Allow 3 inches (7.5 cm) between overhead cabinets and the refrigerator top.
2. Allow at least an inch (2.5 cm) between the refrigerator condenser on the back and the wall.
3. Allow ½ inch (1.25 cm) on each side of the refrigerator for ease of installation.
4. If the refrigerator is to be against a wall, you might want to leave extra space on the hinge side so the door can be opened wider.



## 4. Level refrigerator-freezer

1. Keep the 4 bolts that held the refrigerator in the shipping crate. They are the leveling legs.
2. Screw these bolts all the way into bolt holes at the bottom corners of refrigerator. Roll refrigerator into place.
3. Lower legs just enough to lift rollers off floor.
4. Adjust each leg until the refrigerator won't rock.
5. Adjust front legs to level the refrigerator.
  - To raise corners, turn legs in direction shown.
  - To lower corners, turn legs in direction shown.
6. Check with level.



# Using Your Refrigerator

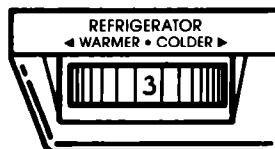
The drawings in this book may vary slightly from your refrigerator model. They are designed to show the different features of all the models covered by this book.

**NOTE:** Your model may not include all the features shown.

## Setting the controls

Controls for the refrigerator and freezer are in the refrigerator. When the refrigerator is plugged in for the first time:

1. Set the Refrigerator Control to 3.

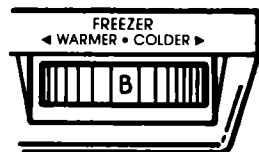


2. Set the Freezer Control to B.

Give the refrigerator time to cool down completely before adding food. (This may take several hours.)

These settings should be about right for normal household refrigerator usage.

The controls will be set about right when milk or juice is as cold as you like and when ice cream is firm.



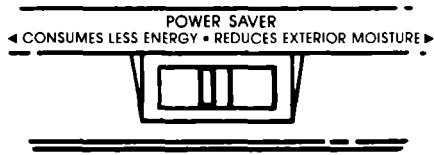
## Changing the control settings

If you need to adjust temperatures in refrigerator or freezer, use the settings listed in the chart below. If you have questions, call your COOL-LINE® service assistance telephone number. (See page 11.)

- Adjust the Refrigerator Control first.
- Wait at least 24 hours between adjustments.
- Then adjust the Freezer Control if needed.

CONDITION:	REASON:	RECOMMENDED CONTROL SETTINGS:
If Refrigerator Section is TOO WARM	Door opened often Large amount of food added Room temperature too warm	Refrigerator 4 Freezer C
If Freezer Section is TOO WARM	Door opened often Large amount of food added Very cold room temperature (can't cycle often enough)	Refrigerator 3 Freezer A
If Refrigerator Section is TOO COLD	Controls not set correctly for your conditions	Refrigerator 2 Freezer B
If ICE isn't MADE FAST ENOUGH	Heavy ice usage Very cold room temperature (can't cycle often enough)	Refrigerator 3 Freezer A
If BOTH SECTIONS are TOO WARM	Door opened often Large amount of food added Very warm or very cold room temperatures	Refrigerator 4 Freezer B

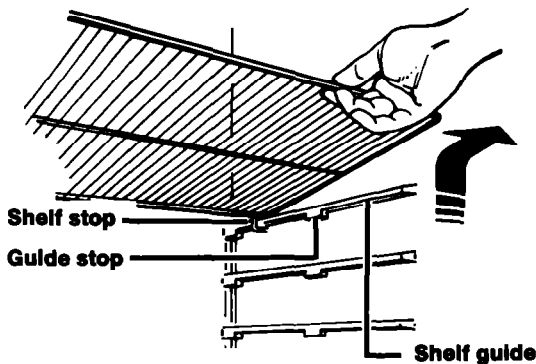
## Using Your Refrigerator Continued



### Power saver control

The Power Saver Control on the Control Console operates electric heaters around the door openings. These heaters help keep moisture from forming on the outside of the refrigerator.

1. Use the CONSUMES LESS ENERGY setting when humidity is low.
2. Use the REDUCES EXTERIOR MOISTURE setting if moisture forms on the outside of the refrigerator.



### Adjusting the refrigerator shelves

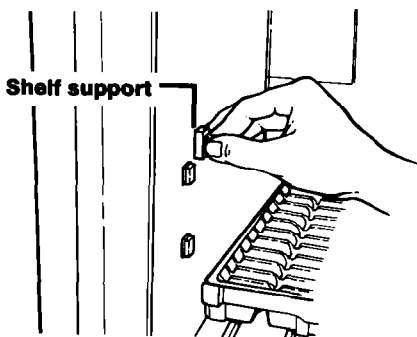
Shelves can be adjusted to match the way you use your refrigerator.

#### To remove shelf:

1. Remove items from shelf.
2. Slide shelf straight out to the stop.
3. Lift front and slide shelf the rest of the way out.

#### To replace shelf:

1. Fit back of shelf on top of guides with wire stops on the bottom of guides.
2. Lift front and slide shelf in until it clears guide stops.



### Adjusting the freezer shelf (model ET12LK)

#### To remove shelf:

1. Lift front slightly.
2. Lift back off supports.
3. Replace in reverse order.

#### To adjust shelf:

1. Remove shelf.
2. Remove supports by sliding upwards.
3. Replace supports on desired level.
4. Replace shelf.

### Changing the light bulb

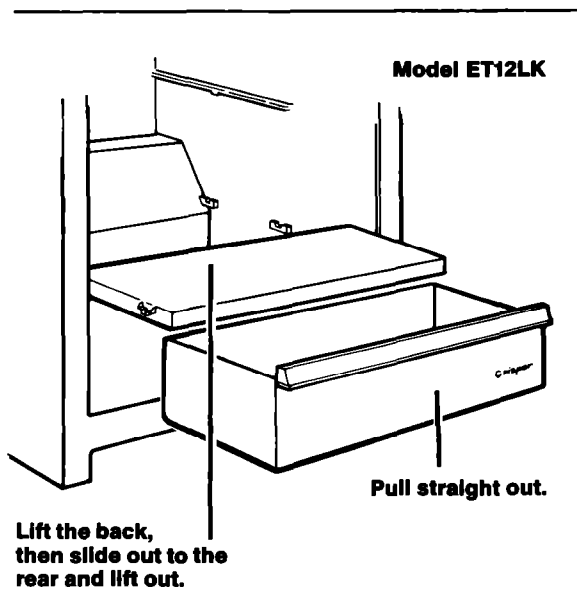
## ⚠ WARNING

### Electrical Shock Hazard

Before removing the light bulb, either unplug the refrigerator or disconnect the electricity leading to the refrigerator at the main power supply. Shock and injury can occur if electricity remains connected.

#### To change refrigerator light:

1. Disconnect refrigerator from power supply.
2. Reach behind the Control Console to find bulb.
3. Remove bulb.
4. Replace with a 40-watt appliance bulb.
5. Reconnect power supply.



## Removing the crisper and crisper cover

### Model ET12LK:

#### To remove crisper:

1. Slide crisper straight out.

#### To remove cover:

1. Lift back, then slide to the rear until the front can be lifted.
2. Lift cover up and out.

#### To replace cover:

1. Slide the front cover tabs into the back of the front supports on the refrigerator walls.
2. Lower back into place.

### Model ET14LC:

#### To remove crisper:

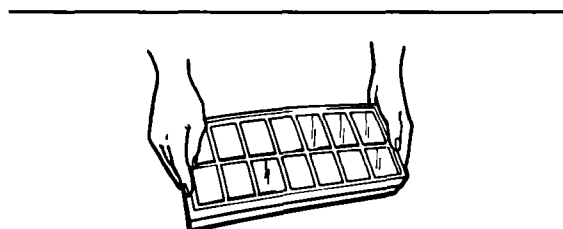
1. Slide crisper out to the stop.
2. Lift the front.
3. Slide the rest of the way out.
4. Replace in reverse order.

#### To remove cover:

1. Lift the front, then the back.
2. Pull up and out.

#### To replace cover:

1. Fit notches on back of cover into back nubs on wall of refrigerator.
2. Lower front into place.

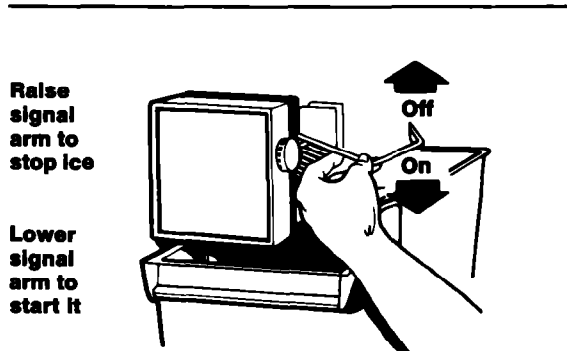


## Ice cube tray

If cubes are not used, they may shrink. The moving cold air starts a slow evaporation. The longer cubes are stored, the smaller they get.

#### To remove ice:

1. Hold tray at both ends.
2. Twist slightly.



## Optional automatic ice maker (model ET12LK)

If you have the automatic ice maker accessory, or if you plan to add one later (Part No. ECKMF-90), there are a few things you will want to know:

- The ON/OFF lever is a wire signal arm.  
Down...for making ice automatically.  
Up...to shut off the ice maker.

**NOTE:** Do not turn ice maker on until it is connected to the water supply.

- The dial or lever on the side of the ice maker changes the size of the cubes.
- Shake the bin occasionally to keep cubes separated, and to obtain increased storage capacity.

## Using Your Refrigerator Continued

- It is normal for ice crescents to be attached by a corner. They will break apart easily.
- You will hear water running when ice maker is working. You'll hear ice fall into the bin. Don't let these sounds bother you.
- The ice maker will not operate until the freezer is cold enough to make ice. This can take overnight.
- Because of new plumbing connections, the first ice may be discolored or off-flavored. Discard the first few batches of ice.
- If ice is not being made fast enough and more ice is needed, turn the Refrigerator Control toward a higher number. Wait a day and, if necessary, turn the Freezer Control toward A.
- If you remove the ice bin, raise the signal arm to shut off the ice maker. When you return the bin, push it all the way in and lower the arm to the ON position.
- If cubes are stored too long, they may develop an off-flavor...like stale water. Throw them away. They will be replaced. Cubes in the ice bin can also become smaller by evaporation.
- Good water quality is important for good ice quality. It is not recommended that the ice maker be connected to a softened water supply. Water softener chemicals such as salt from a malfunctioning softener can damage the ice maker mold and lead to poor quality ice. If a softened water supply cannot be avoided, then it is important that the water softener be well maintained and operating properly.

## Sounds you may hear

Your new refrigerator may make sounds that your old one didn't. Because the sounds are new to you, you might be concerned about them. Don't be. Most of the new sounds are normal. Hard surfaces like the floor, walls and cabinets can make the sounds seem louder.

The following describes the kinds of sounds that might be new to you, and what may be making them.

### Slight hum, soft hiss

You may hear the refrigerator's fan motor and moving air.

### Clicking or snapping sounds

The thermostat makes a definite click when the refrigerator stops running. It also makes a sound when the refrigerator starts. The defrost timer will click when the defrost cycle starts and stops.

### Water sounds

When the refrigerator stops running, you may hear gurgling in the tubing for a few minutes after it stops. You may also hear defrost water running into the defrost water pan.

### Ice maker sounds

- **trickling water**
- **thud (clatter of ice)**

If your refrigerator has an ice maker you may hear buzzing (from the water valve), trickling water and the clatter of ice dumped into the bin.

### Running sounds

Your refrigerator has a high-efficiency compressor and motor. It will run longer than older designs. It may even seem to run most of the time.

## Energy saving tips

You can help your refrigerator use less electricity.

- Check door gaskets for a tight seal. Level the cabinet to be sure of a good seal.
- Clean the condenser coils regularly.
- Open the door as few times as possible. Think about what you need before you open the door. Get everything out at one time. Keep food organized so you won't have to search for what you want. Close door as soon as food is removed.
- Go ahead and fill up the refrigerator, but don't overcrowd it so air movement is blocked.
- It is a waste of electricity to set the refrigerator and freezer to temperatures colder than they need to be. If ice cream is firm in the freezer and drinks are as cold as your family likes them, that's cold enough.
- Keep the Power Saver Control on CONSUMES LESS ENERGY unless moisture forms on refrigerator exterior.
- Make sure your refrigerator is not next to a heat source such as a range, water heater, furnace, radiator or in direct sunlight.



# Cleaning Your Refrigerator

Both the refrigerator and freezer sections defrost automatically. But both should be cleaned about once a month to help prevent odors from building up. Spills should be wiped up right away.

To clean your refrigerator, turn the Refrigerator Control to OFF, unplug it, take out all removable parts and clean it according to the following directions.

## Cleaning chart

PART	WHAT TO USE	HOW TO CLEAN
<b>Removable parts</b> (shelves, crisper, etc.)	Sponge or cloth; mild detergent and warm water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash removable parts by hand with warm water and a mild detergent.</li> <li>• Rinse and dry.</li> </ul>
<b>Outside</b>	Sponge, cloth or paper towel; mild detergent; appliance wax (or good auto paste wax).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash with warm water and a mild detergent. <b>Do not use abrasive or harsh cleansers.</b></li> <li>• Rinse and dry.</li> <li>• Wax painted metal surfaces at least twice a year with appliance wax or a good auto paste wax. Apply wax with a clean, soft cloth. <b>Do not use wax on plastic parts.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Waxing painted metal surfaces provides rust protection.</b></p>
<b>Inside walls</b> (Freezer should be allowed to warm up so cloth won't stick.)	Sponge, soft cloth or paper towel, baking soda, warm water, mild detergent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash with warm water and               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– mild detergent or</li> <li>– baking soda (2 tablespoons [26 g] to 1 quart [.95 L.] warm water).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rinse and dry.</li> </ul>
<b>Door liners and gaskets</b>	Sponge, soft cloth or paper towel; mild detergent, warm water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash with mild detergent and warm water.</li> <li>• Rinse and dry.</li> </ul> <p><b>DO NOT USE cleaning waxes, concentrated detergents, bleaches or cleansers containing petroleum on plastic parts.</b></p>
<b>Dark plastics</b> (covers and panels)	Mild detergent and warm water; soft, clean sponge or soft, clean cloth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash with a soft cloth or sponge.</li> <li>• Rinse and dry.</li> </ul> <p><b>DO NOT USE paper towels, window sprays, scouring cleansers, or flammable or toxic solvents like acetone, gasoline, carbon tetrachloride, etc. These can scratch or damage the material.</b></p>
<b>Defrost pan</b> (behind refrigerator on top of the motor)	Sponge or cloth; mild detergent and warm water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll refrigerator out away from wall.</li> <li>• Wash defrost pan with warm water and mild detergent. <b>Do not remove defrost pan to clean.</b></li> <li>• Rinse and dry.</li> <li>• Roll refrigerator back into place.</li> </ul>
<b>Condenser coils</b>	Use vacuum cleaner with brush attachment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean dust and lint from condenser coils behind the refrigerator at least once every other month.</li> </ul>
<b>Floor under refrigerator</b>	Floor cleaners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll refrigerator out away from wall.</li> <li>• Clean the floor.</li> <li>• Roll refrigerator back.</li> <li>• Check to see if the refrigerator is level.</li> </ul>

# Caring For Your Refrigerator

## Vacation and moving care

### Short vacations

No need to shut off the refrigerator if you will be away for less than four weeks. Use up perishables; freeze other items. If your refrigerator is equipped with an automatic ice maker:

1. Turn it off.
2. Shut off the water supply to the ice maker.
3. Empty the ice bin.

### Long vacations

Remove all the food if you are going for a month or more. If your refrigerator is equipped with an automatic ice maker, turn off the water supply to the ice maker at least a day ahead. When the last load of ice drops, turn off the ice maker.

Unplug the refrigerator and clean it...rinse well and dry. Tape rubber or wood blocks to the top of both doors...keeping them open far enough for air to get in. This will keep odor and mold from building up.

## **⚠ WARNING**

### **Personal Injury Hazard**

**Do not allow children near the refrigerator when the doors are blocked open. They may become injured or trapped.**

To restart refrigerator, see "Using Your Refrigerator" on page 5.

### Moving

If your refrigerator is equipped with an automatic ice maker, shut off the ice maker water supply a day ahead of time. Disconnect the water line. After the last supply of ice drops, lift the signal arm to turn off the ice maker.

Remove all food. Pack frozen food in dry ice. Unplug the refrigerator and clean it thoroughly.

Take out all removable parts. Wrap all parts well and tape them together so they don't shift and rattle.

Screw in the leveling legs (for model ET14LC); tape the doors shut; and tape the electric cord to the cabinet. When you get to your new home, put everything back and refer to page 4. Don't forget to reconnect the water supply line if you have an ice maker.

## Power interruptions

If electricity goes off, call the power company. Ask how long power will be off.

1. If service is to be interrupted 24 hours or less, **keep both doors closed**. This will help frozen food stay frozen.
2. If service is to be interrupted longer than 24 hours:
  - (a) Remove all frozen food and store in a frozen food locker.

**OR**

  - (b) Place 2 lbs. (0.9 kg) of dry ice in freezer for every cu. ft. of freezer space. This will keep food frozen for 2 to 4 days. Wear gloves to protect your hands from dry ice burns.
  - (c) If neither food locker storage nor dry ice is available, use or can perishable food at once.
3. A full freezer will stay cold longer than a partly filled one. A freezer full of meat will stay cold longer than a freezer full of baked goods. If food contains ice crystals, it may be safely refrozen, although the quality and flavor may be affected. If the condition of the food is poor or if you feel it is unsafe, dispose of it.

### Questions?

Call your COOL-LINE® service assistance telephone number. (See page 11.)

# If You Need Service Or Assistance

## We suggest you follow these five steps:

### 1. Before calling for assistance...

Performance problems often result from little things you can find and fix yourself without tools of any kind.

#### If your refrigerator will not operate:

- Is the electric cord plugged into a live circuit with proper voltage? (See page 4).
- Have you checked your home's main fuses or circuit breaker box?
- Is the Refrigerator Control ON?

#### If there is a rattling or jingling noise or unfamiliar sounds:

- Is something on top of or behind the refrigerator making noise when the refrigerator is running?
- New features on your new refrigerator make new sounds. You may be hearing air flowing from the fans, timer clicks for the defrosting cycle, or defrost water draining in the defrost pan.

#### If your ice maker will not operate:

- Has the freezer had enough time to get cold? With a new refrigerator, this might take overnight.
- Is the signal arm ON...in the down position?
- Is the water valve turned on? Is water getting to the ice maker?

#### If there is water in the defrost pan:

- This is normal in hot, muggy weather. The pan can even be half full. Make sure the refrigerator is level so the pan does not overflow.

#### If the light does not work:

- Have you checked your home's main fuses or circuit breaker box?
- Is the power supply cord plugged into a live circuit with the proper voltage? (See page 4).

#### If a bulb is burned out:

- See instructions for changing light bulbs on page 6. Use appliance bulbs only.

#### If the motor seems to run too much:

- Is the condenser free of dust and lint?
- On hot days, or if the room is warm, the motor naturally runs longer.
- If the door has been opened a lot, or if a large amount of food has been put in, the motor will run longer to cool down the interior.

#### Remember:

Motor running time depends on different things: number of door openings, amount of food stored, temperature of the room, setting of the controls.

Your new refrigerator may be larger than your old one so it has more space to be cooled. It also has a regular freezer instead of a frozen food compartment. All this means better refrigeration and

may require more running time than your old one.

### 2. If you need assistance\*...

Call Whirlpool COOL-LINE® service assistance telephone number. Dial free from anywhere in the U.S.:

**1-800-253-1301**

and talk with one of our trained consultants.

The consultant can instruct you in how to obtain satisfactory operation from your appliance or, if service is necessary, recommend a qualified service company in your area.

### 3. If you need service\*...



Whirlpool has a nationwide network of franchised TECH-CARE® Service Companies. TECH-CARE service technicians are trained to fulfill the product warranty and provide after-warranty service, anywhere in the United States. To locate TECH-CARE service in your area, call our COOL-LINE service assistance telephone number (see Step 2) or look in your telephone directory Yellow Pages under:

APPLIANCES - HOUSEHOLD -  
MAJOR - SERVICE & REPAIR

OR

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES -  
MAJOR - REPAIRING & PARTS

WASHING MACHINES, DRYERS  
& IRONERS - SERVICING

WHIRLPOOL APPLIANCES  
FRANCHISED TECH-CARE SERVICE

SERVICE COMPANIES

XYZ SERVICE CO  
123 MAPLE ..... 999-9999

### 4. If you have a problem\*...

Call our COOL-LINE service assistance telephone number (see Step 2) and talk with one of our consultants, or if you prefer, write to:

Mr. Donald Skinner  
Director of Customer Relations  
Whirlpool Corporation  
2000 M-63  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Please include a daytime phone number in your correspondence.

### 5. If you need FSP® replacement parts\*...

FSP is a registered trademark of Whirlpool Corporation for quality parts. Look for this symbol of quality whenever you need a replacement part for your Whirlpool appliance. FSP replacement parts will fit right and work right, because they are made to the same exacting specifications used to build every new Whirlpool appliance.

To locate FSP replacement parts in your area, refer to Step 3 above or call the Whirlpool COOL-LINE service assistance number in Step 2.

\*If you must call or write, please provide: model number, serial number, date of purchase, and a complete description of the problem. This information is needed in order to better respond to your request for assistance.

# Whirlpool® Refrigerator Warranty

RF001

LENGTH OF WARRANTY	WHIRLPOOL WILL PAY FOR
<b>FULL ONE-YEAR WARRANTY</b> From Date of Purchase	FSP® replacement parts and repair labor to correct defects in materials or workmanship. Service must be provided by a franchised TECH-CARE® service company.
<b>LIMITED FIVE-YEAR WARRANTY</b> From Date of Purchase	FSP replacement parts for electronic control system if defective in materials or workmanship. (Electronic models only.)
<b>FULL FIVE-YEAR WARRANTY</b> From Date of Purchase	FSP replacement parts and repair labor to correct defects in materials or workmanship in the sealed refrigeration system. These parts are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compressor</li> <li>2. Evaporator</li> <li>3. Condenser</li> <li>4. Drier</li> <li>5. Connecting tubing</li> </ol> Service must be provided by a franchised TECH-CARE® service company.
<b>WHIRLPOOL WILL NOT PAY FOR</b>	
<p><b>A.</b> Service calls to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Correct the installation of the refrigerator.</li> <li>2. Instruct you how to use the refrigerator.</li> <li>3. Replace house fuses or correct house wiring or plumbing.</li> <li>4. Replace light bulbs.</li> </ol> <p><b>B.</b> Repairs when refrigerator is used in other than normal, single-family household use.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Pick up and delivery. This product is designed to be repaired in the home.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Damage to refrigerator caused by accident, misuse, fire, flood, acts of God or use of products not approved by Whirlpool.</p> <p><b>E.</b> Any labor costs during limited warranty.</p> <p><b>F.</b> Any food loss due to product failure.</p>	

WHIRLPOOL CORPORATION SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages so this limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Outside the United States, a different warranty may apply. For details, please contact your franchised Whirlpool distributor or military exchange.

