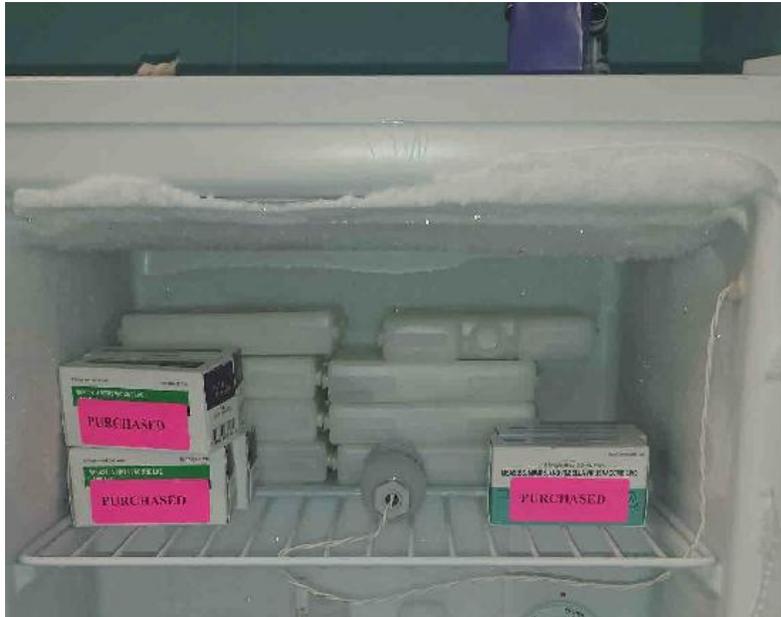


Freezer Setup with Probe Sensor

Small freezers are generally manual defrost. Defrosting requires warming the cooling coils to above freezing to melt the ice off of the coils. That is hard to do without also warming the interior of the unit. Defrosting must occur before the ice builds up (usually the top inside of the freezer) and prevents the door from closing securely. Worse yet, ice can literally push the door open once it has been closed!

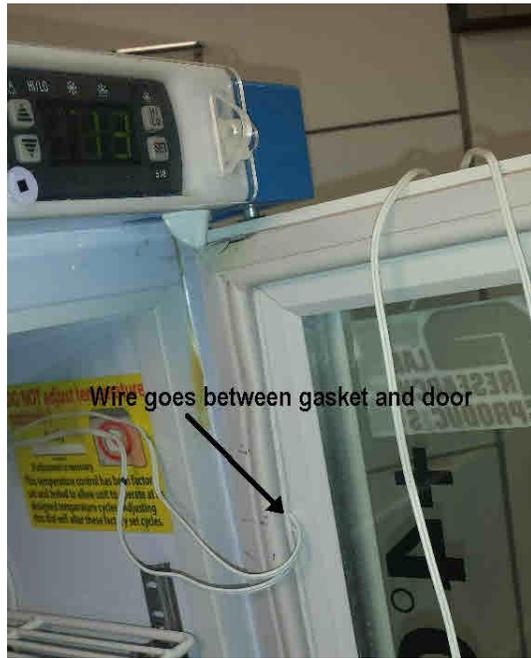
This picture demonstrates what to avoid with frost building up on the front edge of the unit:



To reduce the frequency of defrosting, the data probe wire should not go between the freezer unit and the door seal. It can either go through 1) a data port placed by the manufacturer, 2) between the door seal and the door on the hinge side, or 3) through a user drilled port in the front edge of the unit on the hinge side.

- 1) The data or probe port is the best option but they are often present only on the more expensive units \$350 and above. Hopefully large enough to fit a wire (even with a plug tip) through, the port sometimes must first be reamed out with a screwdriver or similar. Depending on the size of the probe wire connector, the wire may need to be cut and re-spliced to pass through the hole.
- 2) Between the face of the freezer opening and magnetic door seal is often the only place NOT to run a wire. It is best to go between the back side of the magnetic seal and door. The door seal is fitted into the door through a small slot in the door frame behind the magnetic seal. The gasket then seals with a magnetic strip to the face of the freezer. The magnetic door seal/gasket can be pulled out of the small slot. Place a screw driver or similar tool to make a gap where the probe wire can be fed between the door and the gasket. After pulling the right amount of probe wire into the unit, try to fold a small amount of the wire into the slot for the gasket and then force the gasket back into the slot on top of the wire.

Placing the probe wire between the door and the gasket, NOT across the opening of the door:



This is much easier than Drilling a hole which is the other alternative!

Drilling a hole in the front edge of the unit is not for the faint of heart! If you hit the internal condenser tubes just below the surface of the metal cabinet, the gas will leak out and the unit is useless. Drilling close to the front edge of the unit and aiming a little toward s the rear as you go through is helpful. It may make more sense to spend the extra money for a freezer with a port or try to wrestle with the gasket as above. Drilling is really a last resort – but still better than frequent manual defrosting!

-Graham Barden

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