



Refrigerator maintenance

Guide  
**Cleaning.**  
**Maintenance.**  
**Repair.**

Quality, Design & Innovation

**Cleaning your refrigerator properly**

Getting ready to clean  
Cleaning the parts  
Cleaning the inside  
Cleaning the outside

**Bad smells in the fridge**

Avoid smells in the fridge  
Getting rid of bad smells in  
the fridge

**Changing the seal**

Reasons for faulty seals  
How do you spot a faulty seal?  
How can you change the seal?  
Maintaining seals properly

**LIEBHERR**

# Contents

## **Bad smells in the fridge**

Avoid smells in the fridge

Getting rid of bad smells in the fridge

## **Cleaning your refrigerator properly**

What you'll need

Cleaning the parts

Cleaning the inner walls

Cleaning the outside

After cleaning

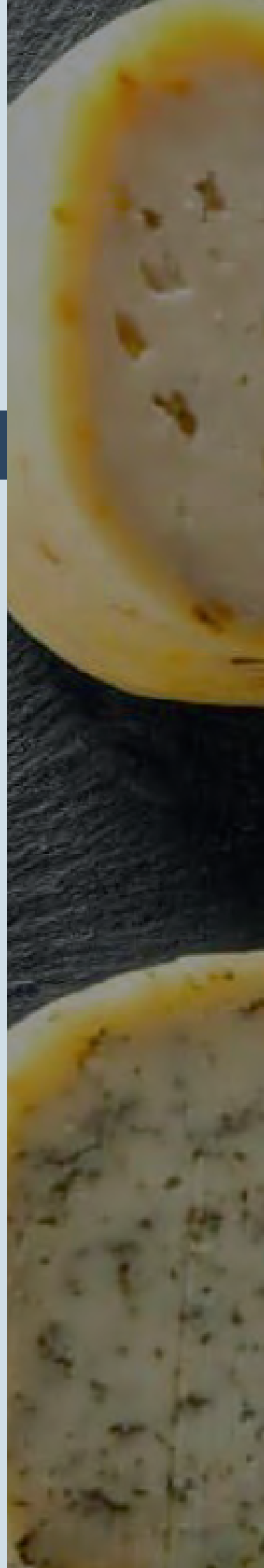
## **Changing seals**

Reasons for faulty seals

How do you spot a faulty seal?

How can you change the seal?

Maintaining seals properly





# Bad smells in the fridge

Smells coming from your fridge aren't always pleasant ones. Whilst a chilled apple tart will give off a nice smell, strong cheese on the other hand usually isn't as popular. It's even more annoying when you can't find the source of the bad smell in the fridge though - we'll explain what to do in this case.

# Avoid smells in the fridge

Let's start at the top of the fridge: this is where most refrigerators have a freezer compartment. This is suitable for storing frozen food and for making ice cubes - pay attention to the star marking on the freezer compartment.

There are a few simple things you can do to keep prevent smells coming from your refrigerator:

- Always pack strong smelling foods in plastic or glass containers. Cardboard packaging such as egg cartons can easily absorb the smell of the foods around it, so use an egg tray if possible.
- Clean your appliance every four weeks.
- If the fridge is switched off you should leave the door open, otherwise bad smells will accumulate.
- Prevent liquids from leaking, otherwise these can get into the condensation channels and collect in the condensation tray. If something tips over, clean the drainage hole (on the back wall, usually above the vegetable drawer or compartment) with a little water and washing up liquid. Make sure that water doesn't get into the drainage channel, ventilation grill or electronic parts.
- Models with FreshAir activated carbon filters always ensure optimal air quality - bad smells don't stand a chance with regular filter changes. This filter requires annual replacement – visit our webshop to get yours.
- DuoCooling prevents odours from being transferred from the freezer compartment to the refrigerator compartment and vice versa.

## Getting rid of bad smells in the fridge

If you encounter an unpleasant smell when you open the fridge door or if your appliance smells even when it is closed, act quickly! The following checklist will help you to quickly bring a breath of fresh air into your kitchen:

- Put a bowl of coffee in the refrigerator. This may absorb the bad smell.
- Soft rubber parts pick up unpleasant smells particularly quickly, so replace the rubber seals if necessary.
- Dirt can hide under the edges of the glass plates, so remove these and clean the edges with a damp cloth. If the dirt does not come off immediately, soak the entire glass plate in warm water.
- Bad smells can also come from the drain hole which collects condensate, so clean the drain hole with water and detergent. Wet cotton buds or pipe cleaners will help you to get to hard to reach areas.



# Cleaning your refrigerator properly

Sometimes things spill in the refrigerator, so the inside should be cleaned from time to time (ideally once every 4 weeks). Despite the low temperatures, bacteria can quickly multiply. We'll tell you what to look out for when cleaning your fridge.

Cleaning your fridge is easy, and the good news is you don't need any expensive cleaners or disinfectants - warm water and a little washing-up liquid are all you need to clean the inside.

# Getting ready to clean

Firstly, try to use up most of the food in your fridge beforehand, or you can store it in a cool bag with ice packs (or cold storage accumulators, available on our webshop), or maybe even with a nice neighbour. Before you start cleaning, you should always switch off the fridge and unplug it to be on the safe side. If it is a floor-standing appliance, pull it out a little or to the side and use a vacuum cleaner to remove any dust on the floor under the appliance and on the large, black condenser grille on the back. If it is a fridge / freezer combination without NoFrost or a fridge with a freezer compartment, you should defrost the appliance a few hours before you start cleaning.

## Overview

- Remove stored food temporarily
- Switch off the refrigerator and pull out the plug
- Remove dust
- Defrost the appliance before if required

# Cleaning the parts

Take out removable parts such as shelves, drawers and intermediate shelves and if possible take them apart. It's best to clean the individual parts in the sink with warm water and a splash of washing up liquid or a pH-neutral cleaning agent. Clean the telescopic rails with a damp cloth, but the grease in the runners is used for lubrication so be careful not to wipe this away. Dry each part with a cotton cloth.

## Overview

- Take out removable parts and take them apart
- Clean them with:
  - warm water
  - a splash of washing up liquid or pH-neutral cleaning agent
  - damp cloth
- Be careful not to remove grease in drawer runners!

# Cleaning the inner walls

To clean the interior, it's best to use a microfibre cloth and warm water with a splash of washing-up liquid or a pH-neutral cleaner. After cleaning, rinse with clean water and dry the appliance with a cloth.

## Overview

- Clean with:
  - warm water
  - a splash of washing up liquid or pH-neutral cleaning agent
  - microfibre cloth
- Rinse with clean water and dry the surface

It's important to clean your appliance regularly, around every four to six weeks. Whilst it's very easy to clean your fridge, here are a few things you should avoid just to be on the safe side.

- Do not use steam cleaning equipment
- Do not use concentrated cleaning agents
- Do not use any abrasive or scratchy sponges or even steel wool
- Do not use any sharp or abrasive cleaning agents that contain sand, chloride or acid
- Do not damage or remove the nameplate on the inside – if this is illegible, your warranty will be void.
- Do not allow cleaning water to enter the drainage channel, the ventilation grill or any electrical parts

# Cleaning the outside

How you clean the outside depends on what your appliance is made of.

**Stainless steel door surfaces:** These are usually equipped with the SmartSteel surface coating, which must be treated with particular care, simply wiping it down with a soft, clean cloth. Use a little water or a neutral detergent if it's particularly dirty. A stainless steel cleaner must not be used on SmartSteel surfaces, otherwise the function of the SmartSteel coating can be impaired.

**Stainless steel side walls:** If the side walls are dirty, clean them with a soft, clean cloth. Use a little water or a neutral detergent if required, then seal the dry surface with specialist care products, always working in the direction of the cut.

**Lacquered side walls:** Wipe with a soft, clean cloth. Use a little water or a neutral detergent if particularly dirty.

## Overview

- Treat appliances with SmartSteel coating particularly gently
- Use water or neutral detergent
- Reseal surfaces with specialist care products

# After cleaning

After cleaning and when all parts are dry, plug the appliance back in and switch it on. Activate the SuperFrost function if your appliance has it, which will create a cold reserve that protects your frozen food from being thawed during storage. Once the appliance is cold enough, put the food back in. Now you can prepare your fresh food safe in the knowledge your appliance is clean and safe.



A close-up photograph showing a person's hand holding a white, L-shaped magnetic seal strip. The hand is positioned to press the strip into the groove of a white refrigerator door. The background is a blurred view of the refrigerator's interior shelves.

# Changing seals

Inconspicuous and more or less invisible, the magnetic seal is an important part of fridges and freezers. It ensures that the cold air cannot escape from the appliances, and if the seal is faulty your electricity bill can skyrocket and food can go off. We'll show you what you can do to prevent this from happening.

# Reasons for faulty seals

Seals can become porous with age, as the plasticisers they're made up of deteriorate over time leading to seals becoming hard. Other influences can also break the refrigerator seals.

For example, strong cleaning agents can attack seals or sharp objects can cause cracks in the magnetic seal when cleaning. When this happens the seal should definitely be replaced to guarantee the appliances optimal cooling performance.

There are other factors that will mean the seal needs to be replaced, too. For example, UV light, cleaning agents or certain climatic conditions can cause discolouration to the rubber seal. We recommend the seal is replaced and your refrigerator will look brand new again.

## How do you spot a faulty seal?

Your refrigerator seal still looks nice, but not sure whether it's still working properly? Check the following to see if the seal needs to be replaced:

- Your freezer is becoming increasingly icy
- You hear a whistle when you close the freezer door
- Condensation forms on the shelves of your appliance
- There is condensation on the frame of the appliance

## Droplets are forming in your appliance. How do you change the seal?

How you'd replace the refrigerator seal depends on your appliance type

It's easy to order a replacement magnetic seal from our spare parts department, and below is an example of how the seal can be replaced.

1. Carefully remove the seal from the groove at both corners.
2. Carefully pull the door seal out of the groove.
3. Check the groove completely for damage. If damaged, contact customer service.
4. Press the corners of the new door seal into the groove at the top and bottom.
5. Press the new door seal into the groove in sections until the entire door seal is fully fitted.

If your appliance has a different door seal, contact customer service for more information.

## Maintaining seals properly

We've put together a few maintenance tips to ensure that your refrigerator seal lasts as long as possible:

- Only clean the seal with water - you can add a little baking soda if you like.
- Alternatively, you can use a pH-neutral soap like washing up liquid that has been diluted with water.
- Under no circumstances should you use alcoholic, acidic or aqueous solutions (such as vinegar). The same goes for strong degreasers that are commonly used as kitchen cleaners - these attack the seals which can impair the performance of the refrigerator.

# About us

## **High quality refrigerators and freezers as well as digital solutions for a better everyday life**

For more than 60 years, Liebherr-Hausgeräte has been designing and developing refrigerators and freezers for a wide range of customer needs. The product portfolio extends from the fridge-freezer to the classic freezer to the most modern built-in appliances. Liebherr-Hausgeräte also produces optimal storage appliances for wine and cigar lovers. In addition to an extensive range of refrigerators and freezers for private use, Liebherr-Hausgeräte also offers high-quality refrigerators and freezers for the commercial sector, too. Whether for bakeries and confectioneries, laboratories, food retail, beverage and frozen food industry or in the hotel and catering industry, Liebherr has refrigerators and freezers for every requirement imaginable. The portfolio is rounded off with our range of networkable stand-alone and built-in appliances, which can be integrated with existing SmartHome solutions.