

Fridge Not Cold, Freezer Fine: A Diagnostic Checklist

Before you call anyone (2 minutes)

- Confirm the fridge temperature setting is 3 to 4 C (37 to 40 F).
- Open the freezer and listen for the evaporator fan running.
- Put a glass of water in the fridge with a thermometer for 4 hours.
- Check that vents inside the fridge are not blocked by food.

Common causes, ranked

- Evaporator fan motor failed or stuck (very common).
- Defrost system failure causing frost over the coils.
- Damper or air baffle stuck closed between freezer and fridge.
- Control board failure (rare in newer models, more common past 8 years).
- Door gasket leaking warm air (often overlooked).

Safety boundaries

- Defrost timers, fan motors, and damper assemblies are routine repair territory.
- Sealed system work (compressor, refrigerant lines, evaporator coil leaks) requires a refrigerant-licensed technician.
- Never bypass a thermal fuse or limit switch. They are there for a reason.

When to call us

- Fan is silent and you cannot reach the evaporator panel safely.
- Frost keeps returning within 7 to 10 days of manual defrost.
- Fridge temperature climbs above 5 C overnight despite a working freezer.
- Sealed-system symptoms: oily residue on the back, compressor running constantly, frost only on part of the coil.

This guide is informational only. If a repair involves refrigerant lines, sealed systems, gas, or electrical work beyond a unit's user-serviceable parts, call a licensed technician. Always disconnect power at the breaker before any internal inspection.

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