

Cooling Unit Diagnostics

Problem

- Refrigerator bottom not cool
- Refrigerator smells of ammonia inside or out
- Refrigerator makes gurgling noises
- Refrigerator paint burned off several inches above chimney
- Visible yellow residue on refrigerator even though cooling appropriately

Discussion

If the refrigerator is not cooling and you have determined that the thermostat is operating normally, most likely the unit has failed. If you smell ammonia, see yellow residue, or hear the unit gurgling, the unit has a leak and will need recharging or replacement. If the paint is burned off as described above, or if the refrigerator is not cool at the bottom of the unit, the unit is likely blocked. To check this, we use a non-contact thermometer with a laser to measure the temperature above the chimney. Normal temperature ranges between 280-300°F. A temperature over 300°F indicates that the unit is blocked.

Courtesy of Clarence Imhoff, Hardware Service Tech