SCHU'S NEWS

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I hope that everyone is getting ready for fall and making plans for the winter journey to warmer climates. This month I thought that I would review an area that seems to be a reoccurring topic in Customer Service, refrigerator maintenance. Here is some information from Dometic that I want to share with you.

Refrigerator Use & Maintenance

- As the refrigerator is the most used and relied upon appliance in the motorhome, regular service & maintenance is very important.
- The refrigerator operates by heat applied to the boiler system and it is of paramount importance that this heat be kept within the necessary limits and be properly applied. Keeping the unit properly cleaned and tuned will ensure that the heat exchange is kept within the required limits. This heat exchange applies to all operating modes. Although regular service & maintenance will vary depending upon usage, the manufacturer recommends yearly service. A certified Dometic Refrigeration Technician should perform this service & maintenance.

Here are some suggestions to keep your refrigerator running between scheduled service.

- Be sure to check the burner flame for proper appearance. The flame should be light blue. If it has a yellow tip, this means it is burning incorrectly and should be serviced. Most important thing to do is to keep burner clean. Check to be sure there is no spider web, insect nest, soot or rust on or around the burner. If there is, knock it off with a small screwdriver and clean the area with compressed air or by blowing through a soda straw.
- For proper ventilation, keep the area behind your refrigerator clear. Check the upper and lower vents and the area between vent openings for any obstructions such as a bee or bird's nest. Don't put any filters, covers or plastic bags over the vents to the refrigerator unit. Never store anything behind refrigerator. Refrigerators are designed to be operated as they come from the factory, with no filters, plastic bags or anything else covering or blocking the vents. If the ventilation is restricted, a build-up of excess heat results, and the refrigerator cannot function properly.
- Check all connections in the LP gas system (at the back of your refrigerator) for gas leaks by applying a non-corrosive commercial leak detector solution at all connections.
- Cleaning of the RV refrigerator is similar to the home type counterparts with one difference; RV refrigerators are more vulnerable to high heat. This means that vegetable bins cannot be put in dishwashers, and attempting to speed up a defrost cycle with the aid of a hair dryer will result in damage which could necessitate a new refrigerator.

2. Clean the interior using two tablespoons of baking soda dissolved in one quart of warm water. Rinse and dry. (A few drops of vanilla in rinse water will leave fresh pleasant odor after cleaning.)
3. Clean all removable parts with warm water using a mild detergent.
4. Another area that needs a look at is the door seal. It should be clean and tight. If there are tears or gaps in the seal, you are losing cold from the unit. The same applies for a door that is warped and leaking air.
5. Frost is the enemy. If heat has to go through a big layer of frost, it's inefficient. The refrigerator doesn't care and will continue to try to cool it to do its best. Mild or cold weather is not much of a factor, but in warm weather it has to work much harder. Frost is always at highest place in coldest areas. How often should you defrost? In warm weather you'll need to do it more frequently.
6. Always store the RV with the refrigerator and freezer doors propped open to prevent mildew.

- Operating temperatures: Dairy will keep at 43 degrees. Household refrigerator will give you around 40 degrees. 38-40 degrees should be optimal for RV refrigerator. If you want to know food temp, find an aquarium thermometer for 99 cents and keep one in a glass of water. Olive jar works well. That water will be the same temp as your food. You'd be amazed how steady the food temperature is compared to the air temperature.
- A properly serviced and maintained refrigerator should provide years of trouble free service. To receive a brochure on maintaining the Dometic refrigerator, call the Communication Center of Dometic Corporation at 514-294-2511.
- You can find the closest authorized service center by calling the locater service at: 1-800-544-4881. Today's warranty is 2 yrs labor, parts and freight to original owners; third year parts and freight only.

Which one are you?

Some one said there are two kinds of people in the world.

There are those who wake up in the morning and say, " Good morning, Lord"

And those that wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."