MOISTURE IN YOUR GAS REFRIGERATOR*

Moisture accumulation in a refrigerator is primarily a result of one or more of the following:

- **The air is very humid --** Humidity is the amount of water (moisture) in the air. Warm air holds much more water than cool air. In fact, 100 degree air can hold nearly ten times the amount of water as air at 32 degrees (This is why the air is always drier in the winter.). Warm, moist air is introduced every time the refrigerator door is opened. As this air is cooled, the moisture must condense. Condensation that occurs in an environment below freezing will create frost or ice.
- **Warm food placed in the refrigerator --** Warm, uncovered food releases moisture that will condense.
- **Uncovered containers of liquid –** Moisture will continually evaporate from uncovered containers, including water pitchers and ice cube trays. This moisture will condense on cooler surfaces.
- **Thermostat turned too high –** If the thermostat is turned too high, the refrigerant will move through the evaporator too quickly, causing the fins to become too cold. Excessive ice buildup will result, reducing cooling efficiency.

Frost on the fins and condensation on surface areas are always the result of moisture introduced into the refrigerator. This moisture comes only from the air and items placed in the refrigerator. **Your refrigerator does not produce water;** it does condense moisture that is already present. While poor door seals can contribute to air exchange, frequent door opening is generally the cause.

Helpful Hints

- Limit how often the door is opened. This is especially critical during hot, humid weather.
- Put lids on food and liquid containers before placing them in the refrigerator
- Wipe condensation off cold containers with a dry towel prior to placing them in the refrigerator.
- Adjust the temperature knob to keep food between 36 and 40 degrees F (generally between settings #2 and #3). Turning the control higher or to MAX will not necessarily make your refrigerator colder, particularly if the temperature probe is encased in ice on the fins. A control turned too high or to MAX will actually decrease the refrigerator's cooling ability.
- Allow hot food to cool before placing it in the refrigerator. Limit ice making in the freezer.
- Assure proper air circulation around and behind the refrigerator. This can often be improved by installing a register behind the refrigerator, which will allow cooler basement air to flow past the cooling unit. Proper air circulation will not only improve performance but will increase the life of your refrigerator.

*Courtesy of Lehman Hardware & Appliances Inc. Newsletter, June 2013, Vol. 1, Issue 4.