

TRASH COMPACTOR TROUBLESHOOTING CHART



THE PROBLEM	POSSIBLE REASONS	WHAT YOU CAN DO
You can't turn on the compactor.	No power is reaching the outlet. The electrical cord is defective. The safety lock is not on. The drawer is open. The motor is overloaded. There is a defective switch. There is a loose electrical connection.	Check the fuse box/circuit breaker. Test the cord and replace it if damaged. Turn on the safety lock. Remove anything that keeps it from closing. Remove the wall plug and allow 10 minutes for the motor to cool. Then, check the drive chain or drive belt and look for broken gears and worn ram screws. To find the switches on your unit, check the owner's manual. Then, test each switch. Check every wire and connection.
Unit starts but blows a fuse or trips the circuit breaker.	There are too many appliances on one circuit. A cord or plug has a short circuit. A switch has a short circuit. A motor has a short circuit.	Run the unit on its own circuit. Test the plug and cord for continuity. Test the switches for continuity. Call a qualified contractor.
The motor runs but the trash isn't compacted.	The drive chain is loose or broken. The gears or pulleys are loose. The ram is seized up.	Check the chain for problems, then adjust or replace it. Check the gears and pulleys, then tighten or replace them if necessary. The ram screws need lubrication. If the screws are stripped, they must be replaced.
The compactor is unusually noisy.	The drive chain is too loose. The unit needs to be lubricated. Some parts are loose.	Tighten the chain. Lubricate the unit. Check and tighten every bolt and screw.
The unit smells unusual.	The deodorant is empty. The aerosol nozzle on the deodorant is clogged.	Replace the deodorant. Ream the nozzle out with thin wire.
You can't get the compactor to stop running.	The top-limit switch is defective. There is a defect in the start/stop switch.	Pull the plug and check the switch for continuity. Check the switch and replace it if necessary.
Trash spills out of the unit.	The bag isn't in the right position.	Check the position of the bag and the clips that hold it.
You can't get the drawer to open.	The ram stalled.	Make sure the compactor is plugged in and that the door is completely closed. Then, unplug it and look for a broken belt, chain or pulley, or drive screw.

REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER TROUBLESHOOTING CHART



THE PROBLEM	POSSIBLE REASONS	WHAT YOU CAN DO
The refrigerator has stopped running, no sound can be heard and the light is out.	There is no power at the outlet. The power cord is damaged.	Check the fuse box/circuit breaker. Check the outlet with VOM or a lamp. Replace the cord.
The refrigerator has stopped running, the light is on and you hear occasional clicking.	The condenser coils are dirty. The condenser fan is defective (frost-free type). The voltage reaching the unit is incorrect. There is a defect in the thermostat. There is a defect in the compressor.	Clean the coils. Check the fan. Check the voltage with a VOM, then call the power company if it's not between 105 and 125 volts. Test the thermostat and replace it if necessary. Call a qualified contractor.
The refrigerator constantly cycles on and off.	The wrong voltage is reaching the unit. There is a defect in the compressor. The refrigerant is leaking. The condenser coils are dirty.	Run the unit on its own circuit and check the voltage at the outlet. Call a qualified contractor. Call a qualified contractor. Clean the coils with vacuum only.
The refrigerator doesn't cool well or runs all the time.	The thermostat is on the wrong setting. The condenser coils are dirty. The door gasket is damaged. The door sags. There is heavy frost accumulation. The door is open too much. The weather is hot and humid. The light is on inside. The insulation in the door and sides is wet. The room is too warm. The evaporator fan is damaged. The condenser fan is damaged. The defrost timer is defective. The refrigerant has leaked out.	Change the thermostat temperature. Clean the coils. Check the gasket. Straighten the door. Defrost the unit more often. Open the door as little as possible. If the unit runs continuously but cools well, there is no problem. Check the door switch. Open the unit on a dry day and let it dry out. Also, repair or replace cracked door jambs and panels. Move the refrigerator to a cooler place or start cooling the room. Check the fan for damage. Check the fan for damage. Check the timer for defects. Call a qualified contractor.
Frost forms rapidly on the unit does not defrost at all.	The door is open too much. The door sags. The door gasket is damaged. Foods are left uncovered. The drains are clogged. The defrost timer, heater or thermostat is damaged.	Open the door as little as possible. Straighten the door. Test the gasket and replace it. Cover or seal all foods, especially liquids. Open and clean all drains. Check the timer, heater and thermostat for defects.
The refrigerator makes an unusual noise.	The unit is not sitting level. The drain pan rattles. The compressor mounts are hard or broken. The fan blades are blocked by something.	Adjust the position of the unit. Move the pan so it doesn't touch sides of the unit. Replace the mounts. Check the evaporator and compressor fans for obstructions.
The refrigerator smells unusual.	The drains are clogged. The drain pan is dirty.	Open the drains and flush them. Clean the pan and disinfect it.
Water is leaking underneath or inside the unit.	The drain hose or drain pan is broken. The drains are clogged or the pan is full.	Replace the broken parts. Open the drains or empty the drain pan.