

Fridge Noise Diagnostic Checklist - Kitchener-Waterloo

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Normal fridge sounds (nothing to worry about)

- Compressor humming (steady, low tone)
- Evaporator fan (airy sound from freezer compartment)
- Gurgling / dripping during or after defrost cycle
- Thunk of ice falling into ice bin
- Single click when compressor starts or stops
- Thermal popping / cracking (plastic expanding with temperature changes)

Sounds that need attention

Rapid-fire clicking (no sustained hum to follow)

Likely cause: Failing start relay on compressor

Action: Shake relay - if it rattles, replace it. DIY-friendly on many models.

Repair cost: \$100 to \$200

Compressor running louder / straining hum

Likely cause: Dirty condenser coils (most common), or failing compressor

Action: Clean condenser coils first. If noise persists, call a technician.

Grinding from freezer compartment

Likely cause: Ice buildup on evaporator fan blades, or worn fan motor

Action: Unplug, defrost 24 hours. If noise returns quickly, defrost heater is failing.

Repair cost: \$150 to \$280 (fan motor), \$150 to \$300 (defrost heater/thermostat)

Buzzing from ice maker area

Likely cause: Low water pressure or partially blocked water inlet valve

Action: Check water line for kinks; verify supply water pressure (20+ psi required).

Chemical smell + hissing

Likely cause: Refrigerant leak

Action: STOP USING. Unplug fridge, call a licensed technician immediately.

When to call immediately

- Chemical smell or unusual odour from fridge
- Grinding that continues after 24-hour manual defrost
- Clicking with no running interval (fridge not cooling at all)
- Any noise accompanied by temperature loss

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