

Refrigerator Water

This is a re-write of an article I did previously. I am running out of ideas but some residents tell me to recycle some of my older articles because there are new people and some of the older ones have forgotten I wrote it anyway. Almost all my past articles are available on the web via the Fairways web site or directly to my page at <http://www.bellboatbob.com/fairwaysmaintenance.htm> - If you have an idea for an article or want me to research something mechanical you can email me at rmattsso@optonline.net.

Now, back to Refrigerator Water. I have had a problem with the water dispenser on my refrigerator



refusing to work. I did figure it out and have since found out I'm not the only one that this has happened to. On a lot of refrigerators the water dispenser spout is directly below the ice dispenser door. If the little ice dispenser door gets some dirt or ice on it or if the return spring gets weak, the cold flow of air coming from the continuously

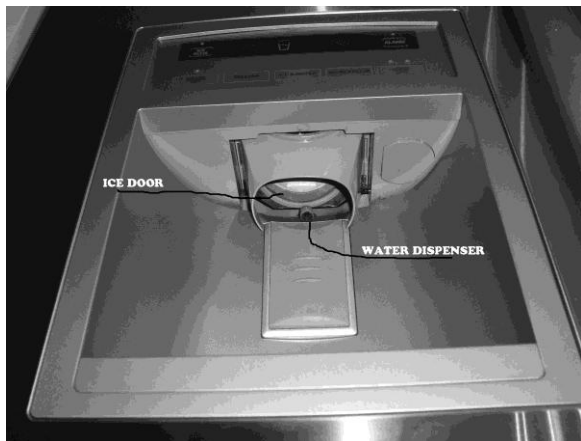
open ice cube door freezes the water line. It can also cause ice to form on the ice cube delivery chute. It wouldn't hurt to wipe the door and its rubber gasket occasionally with a warm water wash cloth. While you're at it, do the chute also if it is accessible. If the water dispenser line does freeze up on you, get



the ice dispenser door to close one way or the other by cleaning it, scraping it or moving it open and closed Then aim a hair dryer at the water outlet tube. Keep the blower setting at medium and move it back and forth so you don't damage the plastic. Direct heat may damage the plastic parts. The blower can get hot enough to distort the

plastic if you leave it in one place too long. This can take five minutes or more. Another problem that

can just about stop the water flow or at least send the spray in every direction except your glass is if a black mold type of substance builds up just inside the spout. Take a paper towel and wipe and squeeze the spout and pull out the gunk. Then run at least a glass of water through it. One way to tell if the line is frozen and not a bum solenoid is to listen when you press the water dispenser, it should click or make a low buzzing sound, then you know it is working. At least once a week or so fill two or three glasses with ice and dump them so the ice in the storage bin doesn't get all stuck together and also prevent the cubes from evaporating and getting smaller and cloudy. If you have a sink disposal unit, start the unit and drop the ice cubes in the drain. This cleans it out. And make sure the cubes are dropping down into the storage box and not stuck at the top near the actual ice maker causing the lever to think the storage



bin is full. Know where your on/off switch is if you have one as it can accidentally be moved to 'off' and will not make cubes. If your water is running slowly from the dispenser or the cubes are not making as fast as they were, check your water filter. The filter should be changed at least every six months.

Sometimes you can tell just by the taste that it is time to change it. In fact, if you wait too long, your old refrigerator water filter may actually be growing bacteria and mold. Refrigerators that have the water dispenser and the ice dispenser alongside each other instead of on top of each other most likely will not have the same freezing problem but debris on the door could still form ice in the drop chute if the door does not close properly, so keep it clean anyway.

Bob Mattsson