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Vaccine Refrigerators

- ✓ Toronto Public Health strongly recommends **purpose-built vaccine fridges** because they maintain consistent temperatures better than other fridges. They are available in different sizes, from under-the-counter to large stand-alone units. Clinics with a large vaccine supply should invest in a purpose-built vaccine fridge.
- ⊘ **Refrigerators with a freezer inside the fridge compartment are not recommended**
Domestic and bar-style fridges with a freezer inside the fridge compartment should never be used to store vaccines. These units, regardless of size, do not provide consistent temperatures. The temperatures rise during the defrosting cycle and vaccines placed close to the vents or freezer are at-risk of damage from freezing.
- ⊘ **Domestic bar-size refrigerators are not recommended**
These units do not provide consistent temperatures.
- ✓ **Domestic refrigerators without a freezer inside the fridge compartment can be used but must be modified as follows:**

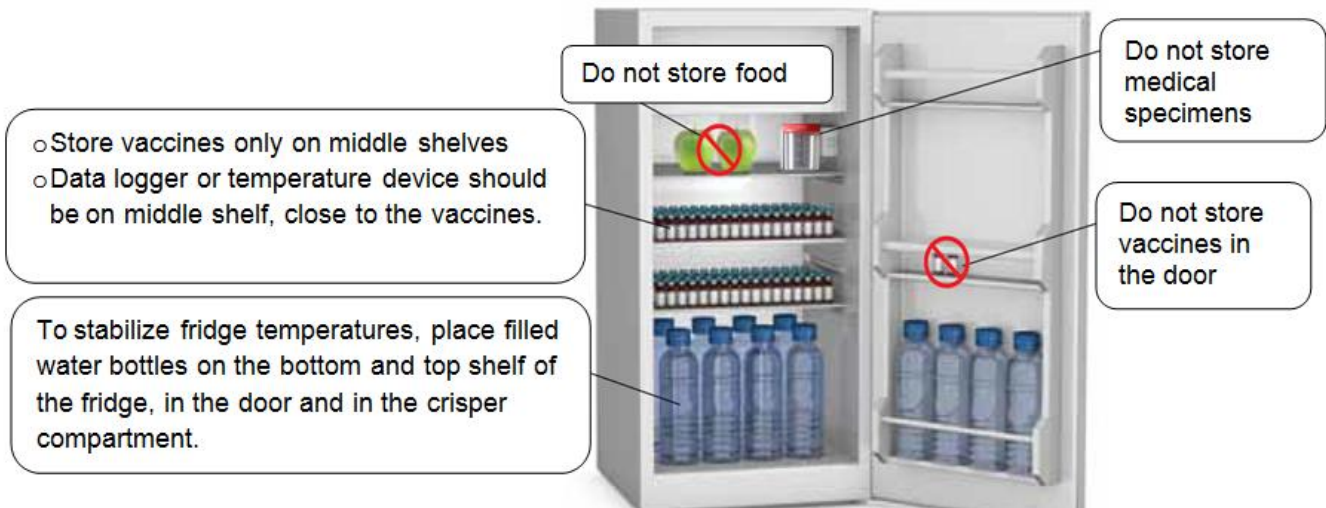


Figure 2: modified domestic fridge
Taken from Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines, page 8

- Ensure fridge is adequate size to store required stock
- Door should be locked and sealed tightly
- Maintain a gap between the fridge and the wall for adequate air flow

Source:

1. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. 2012. Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines
2. Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. May 2014. Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit