

Alfresco Glass Door Fridge Buyers Guide

It's important to know some relevant information about the product you are considering purchasing. As a direct licensed importer, we find that consumers are often under informed when it comes to information required for them to make an educated decision when looking to purchase a fridge for their indoor or outdoor entertaining area.

Important Facts to Consider

Commercial vs Domestic - Glass door fridges are geared up completely differently to a normal household domestic fridge. Glass doors units do not possess the same level of insulation that a solid door has, therefore they have to deal with additional heat in the fridges interior as it makes its way through the glass. This process creates longer compressor running times, and the need for additional hot air to be removed from the cabinet. Fans that perform these functions have to be larger, work harder and longer, and therefore generate additional noise compared to a domestic fridge.

Direct Sunlight - Sunlight definitely impedes a fridges performance. It is recommended that the unit be in a covered area and in no way in contact with sunlight or other variables that will heat up the area in which the fridge is to perform. Always aim to place your unit in the best location to avoid burnout and excessive power bills from non-stop running. As an estimate, a glass door fridge works approximately 30% harder than a normal solid door fridge. Therefore you want to keep it out of direct sunlight (heat) as much as possible.

Ventilation - All of our units are designed to vent 100% from the front, meaning that you can place them in a cabinet with a gap of only a few centimetres. We recommend 10 – 15mm on either side, 30 – 40mm at the top and at least 60mm at the rear. Front venting fridges require air to circulate so the cooler air is drawn in at the bottom and then rises from the rear and out at the top. Air cannot move in two directions in the same space, meaning there must be room around the fridge to circulate. Failure to provide the recommended space around a unit will make the fridge work harder, lower its life expectancy, and increase your energy consumption.

Condensation in Humid Areas - It is quite normal for glass door fridges to condensate. The higher the relative humidity, the more likely that condensation will form on glass doors. Even if the ambient temperature is mild at 25°C, the relative humidity can be as high as 80%, meaning that doors will still have low levels of condensation build up. On very hot days in conjunction with high levels of relative humidity bring large levels of condensation to glass doors. A similar effect is a windscreen on a car.

Noise Levels - All commercial style fridges make noise. The level of noise and what is perceived as 'noisy' will vary with an individual. Most commercial under counter 1, 2 & 3 door models run between 49 and 55 decibels (Db). A small domestic fridge will run at around 36Db to give a comparison of actual noise.

Power Consumption - One of the most asked questions is how much is it going to cost me? The simplest answer is that a glass door fridge will cost you close to 2 times what a domestic solid door fridge will cost to run. The variables are many, but that's a standard comparison based on Domestic vs Commercial. There are many features on the units that we have implemented to save energy so take time to look at these on each listing when making your decision.

Power Usage - Each of our units has a **KWh/24Hrs** rating. This represents the energy (kilowatts) that the fridge will use over 1 full day (24Hrs). It is calculated in most cases where the ambient temperature is 32°C - so the energy used will be considerably less in lower operational temperatures. In Western Australia, an average cost of a **KWh** is approximately 0.25c. A unit that draws **2.0KWh/24Hrs** will cost 0.50c per day or \$182.50 per year to run. Remember that new fridges run far more efficiently and effectively than old fridges. So while that old 20 year fridge may still be running great, it is also costing you a small fortune to run!

How are fridge works

A fridge works and chills much better when it is filled with product. The reason is that the fridge only needs to chill around 25% of the air volume of what it would have to regularly chill if the fridge was empty. When first operating a new fridge, it's best to load it up and let it run flat out for 24Hours without opening the door. This effectively runs it in, and it will then settle into its normal mode where the thermostat will limit the running time of the compressor.

If ambient temperatures rise to high levels (such as 36°C +) your unit will take far longer to chill down. Each unit will also work comparatively harder and require more energy to meet the same chilling levels.

An electronic thermostat control in most commercial fridges has a variance of 4-7°C. This means that if you set the unit to be 4°C and the variance on the control is 4°C, then it will turn OFF at 5°C, but the air temperature inside the cabinet will need to get to 8°C before it starts up again. The display can often get to 7- 8°C before the cooling process kicks in and you may naturally panic, but this is perfectly normal as the probe is measuring the air temperature and not the temperature of your drinks. Without being too technical the air temperature may get to 8°C, but the drinks will only be at 4°C from when the compressor cut out, so they will only need a little tickle to be back at 4°C.

The compressor cuts in and out as the fridge goes through the normal operation of running, and it is not unusual for a compressor to kick on and off up to 10 times per hour. It all depends on how low the temperature is set, the ambient temperature, the variance on the controller, and how many times the door is being opened and closed.

All fridges should NOT BE SWITCHED ON for a minimum of two hours after relocation, transport, or moving.

Oil and gas in the compressor is relocated to the walls of narrow piping and ducting. Gravity and a level fridge are a requirement for the oil and gas to return to their operational position. Failure to let a fridge "settle" can result in compressor failure and an expensive repair which is not covered under warranty. We recommend that a fridge never be transported laying down or on its side.

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An electronic thermostat control in most commercial fridges has a variance of 4-7°C. This means that if you set the unit to be 2°C and the variance on the control is 4°C, then it will turn OFF at 2°C, but the air temperature inside the cabinet will need to get to 6°C before it starts up again. The display can often get to 7- 8°C before the cooling process kicks in and you may naturally panic, but this is perfectly normal as the probe is measuring the air temperature and not the temperature of your drinks. Without being too technical the air temperature may get to 8°C, but the drinks will only have two degrees to 4°C from when the compressor cut out, so they will only need a little tickle to be back at 2°C.

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