Preparing Vaccine Storage Units

Prepare vaccine refrigerators and freezers to maintain stable temperatures. Stabilize temperatures before storing vaccines. The concepts are identical for both refrigerators and freezers.
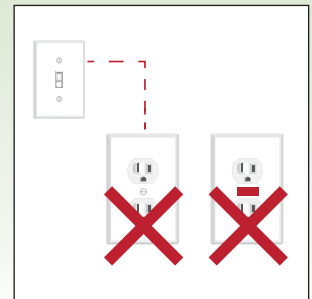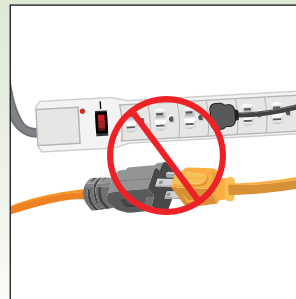
1. Protect the power supply.

DO

- Plug each storage unit into its dedicated wall outlet.
- Secure the plug with a guard or cover and post "Do Not Unplug" signs.
- Label fuses and circuit breakers so the Vaccine Coordinator is alerted if power goes off.

DO NOT USE

- Multi-outlet power strips or extension cords
- Outlets with GFI circuit switches (they have red reset buttons)
- Outlets that are controlled by wall switches

WARNING
DO NOT UNPLUG THE REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER OR TURN OFF THE CIRCUIT BREAKER. EXPENSIVE VACCINE IN STORAGE.
In event of electrical problem, immediately contact: Jenny 555-555-5555
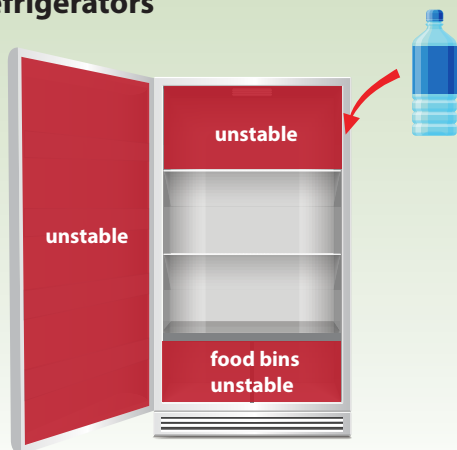
DO NOT UNPLUG!

2. Add plenty of water bottles (refrigerators) or cold packs (freezers only) in unstable areas:
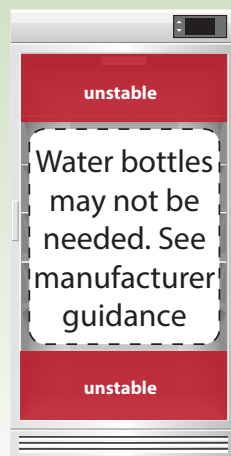
- On the top shelf (don't block air vents)
- On the unit's floor (for household stand-alone units, remove drawers and bins)
- In any door shelves

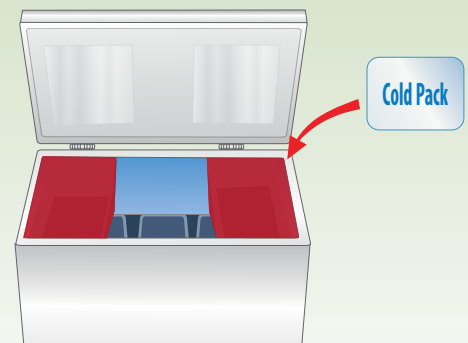**Tip:** Add them along the back wall to prevent vaccines from touching the wall.

Refrigerators

unstable

unstable

food bins unstable

Household-grade

unstable

Water bottles may not be needed. See manufacturer guidance

unstable

Pharmaceutical-grade

Chest freezer

Cold Pack

CDPH

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3. Set up a data logger for each storage unit.

- Place the buffered probe in the center of the storage unit next to vaccines.
- Place or mount the digital display so temperatures can be read without opening the storage unit door.
- Thread the probe's cable through the side of the door and attach it to the digital display.
- Store your backup device's buffered probe in the vaccine refrigerator.

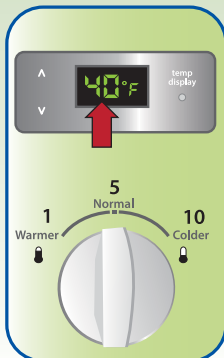## 4. Ensure the data logger is recording.

Tip: Some devices might display "REC" or "RECORDING."
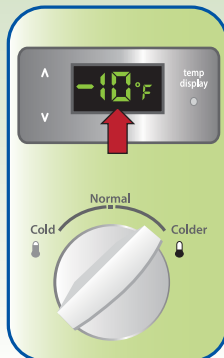

5. Set storage unit temperatures.

For refrigerators.
Set thermostat to 40°F (4°C). If it has a dial, adjust the temperature dial as needed.
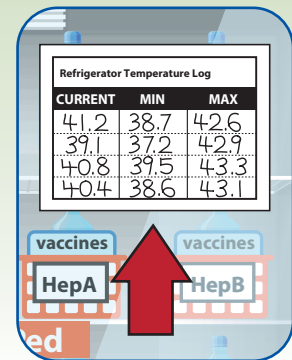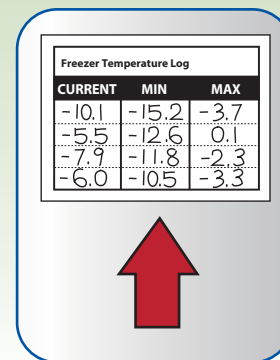

For freezers.
Set thermostat to below 0°F (-18°C). If it has a dial, set it to the coldest.

6. Post temperatures logs.

Post temperature logs on the refrigerator and freezer doors.
Once temperatures have stabilized, record CURRENT, MIN, and MAX temperatures on the logs twice daily.

Freezer Temperature Log

CURRENT	MIN	MAX
-10.1	-15.2	-3.7
-5.5	-12.6	0.1
-7.9	-11.8	-2.3
-6.0	-10.5	-3.3

Refrigerator Temperature Log

CURRENT	MIN	MAX
41.2	38.7	42.6
39.1	37.2	42.9
40.8	39.5	43.3
40.4	38.6	43.1

While Waiting for Temperatures to Stabilize

7. Configure data logger settings using the "Data Logger Setup & Use" job aid.

8. Set up storage units using the "Setting Up Vaccine Storage Units" job aid.

CDPH