

Building fridges into cabinetry is not a simple thing to do. We will try to explain all the relevant details of the right way to do it in order to ensure you get longer use and better performance from your bar fridge.

To break down the categories in general and a brief description we have;

 'Front Venting' Compressor Units – These units have a 'grill' at the front and 99% of the time the application is under a bench. Because they actually VENT through the front grill, so you can have 'minimal room' around the fridge, meaning the install will look much neater and seamless etc. Most times 5-10mm is plenty as a gap around the sides and top, these types have a fan in rear section that draws room temperature air in one side and blows hot air out the other.



* Ensure from your supplier that the unit can be fully built in, there are many units on the market that claim to be 100% front venting, yet most are only 'semi front venting' and still need more room for breathing, especially in alfresco areas. Just because it has vent at the front doesn't mean it will work when built in like above.

2. Non 'Front Venting' Compressor Units – These do not breathe from the front so room needs to be allowed around the units to ensure air can circulate 'around' them, often gaps at sides and top is sufficient but any other venting that can be done at REAR (if possible) will also help greatly. Creating what we call a 'chimney' effect, having 2 x points of air flow, AIR IN and AIR OUT. *See final section that includes motel hotel installs for more on that way of venting, as it can be used for these types as well.

So depending on the model you need a minimum of 30-50mm around the units and 100mm at rear. This can be less if you are able to provide an 'exit point' for air at the rear of the fridge, this could be the rear, the side or even the top of fridge. By having air IN and air OUT you will create the effect you need to expel the unwanted hot air that builds up during normal operation. Doing this right at the start protects your compressor a lot more and life span will definitely be extended.

- 3. Integrated Into Cabinet with ANOTHER DOOR in front of fridge This is the toughest install and there are many ways this can be achieved;
 - a) Let's say you have a Front Venting Compressor unit, and want to have another 'cabinet door' in front of that, we 100% need to make sure the grill area can still breathe normally. A general under bench unit could actually sit at ground level and the cabinet door can be fitted in front, BUT the grill becomes part integrated into your skirting (the part that is generally under your door with cabinetry), see diagram. Another way is to add a GRILL to the cabinet door that mirrors the grill size of fridge, hence allowing air to flow in/out just as it would in a normal open cavity.



b) Any Non Front Venting Compressor units along with all Hotel/Motel Mini Bar Units need a special install that is 100% for sure. The diagrams below give you an idea of different ways to vent these in order to ensure we create that 'chimney effect' to allow hot air that has built up to disburse. The important things to note here are that each 'actual vent', needs app 200cm2 of size, so 20cm x 10cm = 200cm2 as a minimum. Please note that with unit installs where fridge needs vent in rear floor area (example A, B, E and F) the hole needs to be clear for up to 8-10cm of the 'depth' of fridge. So the feet stop about where hole starts but it's clear under the rear part of fridge. This is because units have all the working parts in rear 10cm of the fridge, all the heat is built up right there. See how platform is 'shorter than fridge' so air rises through rear.



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