

Gurgling Fridge Checklist (Halifax Homeowners)

Max Appliance Repair Halifax - 2026 Homeowner Guide

Signs the gurgle is normal

1 Brief gurgle when the compressor cycles

Refrigerant settling in the coils. Expected, nothing to do.

2 Soft trickle every few hours

Defrost water draining to the pan. Fine as long as it stays contained.

3 Hiss or pop from the back

Parts expanding and contracting with temperature. Normal.

4 Louder for a day after moving the fridge

Refrigerant needs time to settle. Give it 24 to 48 hours.

Signs to call a technician

1 Gurgle plus food that is not cold

Possible low refrigerant or defrost fault. Protect your food and call.

2 Loud, constant gurgling

A noise that never settles is not the same as a brief cycle.

3 Gurgle plus a puddle

Clogged or cracked defrost drain. Check, then call if unclear.

4 Gurgle plus a sweet or chemical smell

Possible refrigerant leak. Stop running it and call right away.

Two-minute checks first

1 Glass-of-water test

Cold after a few hours and holding ice means the gurgle is almost certainly normal.

2 Level and clearance

Level the fridge and leave a few centimetres from the wall so it can breathe.

3 Clean the coils

Vacuum condenser coils twice a year to keep the compressor quiet.

Questions? Visit maxappliancerepairhalifax.ca to get in touch.