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› UpStart Components 297216600 Freezer Defrost Thermostat Replacement User Manual

UpStart Components AP-297216600-DL442

UpStart Components 297216600 Freezer Defrost Thermostat Replacement

User Manual

1. INTRODUCTION

This user manual provides comprehensive instructions for the safe and effective installation, operation, and maintenance of the UpStart Components 297216600 Freezer Defrost Thermostat Replacement. This component is designed to be compatible with Kenmore/Sears 253.24092102 Refrigerator models and other appliances requiring part numbers such as 216731000, AP4374171, and 218969902.

The defrost thermostat plays a crucial role in your refrigerator's defrost cycle, preventing excessive ice buildup on the evaporator coils and ensuring efficient cooling performance. Proper installation is essential for the longevity and correct functioning of your appliance.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING: Risk of Electric Shock and Injury.

- Always disconnect power to the refrigerator or freezer before attempting any installation, repair, or maintenance. Unplug the appliance from the wall outlet or turn off the circuit breaker.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gloves, to prevent injury from sharp edges or components.
- If you are unsure about any step or procedure, consult a qualified appliance technician.
- Ensure all connections are secure and properly insulated after installation.
- Keep children and pets away from the work area during installation.

3. PRODUCT DESCRIPTION AND COMPONENTS

The UpStart Components 297216600 Freezer Defrost Thermostat is a high-quality replacement part designed to restore the defrost function of your refrigerator or freezer. It is engineered for durability and ease of installation.



Components



Figure 3.1: The UpStart Components 297216600 Freezer Defrost Thermostat, showing its compact design and wiring.

Key Features:

- Ultra durable, high quality material resists wear and tear over time.
- Easy at-home installation.
- An affordable way to extend the life of your machine.
- Compatible with various part numbers including 216731000, AP4374171, 1483781, 216731000, 216872200, 218673001, 218673008, 218969901, 218969902, 5304404743, 5404404743, 7216872200, AH2350702, EA2350702, PS2350702.



Figure 3.2: A closer view of the thermostat, highlighting the part number label and electrical connections.

4. INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Replacing a defrost thermostat requires careful attention to safety and proper procedure. Always refer to your appliance's specific service manual for detailed instructions, as procedures may vary slightly by model.

Tools You May Need:

- Screwdrivers (Phillips and Flathead)
- Nut drivers or socket set
- Wire strippers/crimpers (if new connectors are needed)
- Needle-nose pliers
- Multimeter (for testing, optional but recommended)

Step-by-Step Installation:

1. **Disconnect Power:** Unplug the refrigerator from the wall outlet or turn off the circuit breaker supplying power to the appliance. Verify power is off using a non-contact voltage tester.
2. **Access the Evaporator Cover:** Locate the freezer compartment. You will need to remove shelves, ice maker components, and the rear panel covering the evaporator coils. This panel is typically held in place by screws.
3. **Locate the Defrost Thermostat:** The defrost thermostat is usually clipped onto one of the evaporator coil tubes. It will have two wires connected to it.
4. **Disconnect the Old Thermostat:** Carefully disconnect the wires from the old thermostat. Note their orientation if

necessary, though for a simple two-wire thermostat, polarity is usually not an issue. Unclip the thermostat from the evaporator tube.

5. **Install the New Thermostat:** Clip the new UpStart Components 297216600 thermostat onto the same evaporator coil tube in the same location as the old one. Connect the wires securely. Ensure the connections are tight and insulated.
6. **Reassemble the Appliance:** Carefully reattach the evaporator cover, ice maker components, and shelves. Ensure all screws are tightened.
7. **Restore Power:** Plug the refrigerator back into the wall outlet or turn on the circuit breaker.
8. **Test Operation:** Allow the refrigerator to run for several hours to ensure it is cooling properly and the defrost cycle is functioning as expected. Listen for the compressor and fan to operate.



Figure 4.1: The defrost thermostat showing its wiring, ready for installation or after removal.

5. OPERATION

The 297216600 Freezer Defrost Thermostat operates automatically as part of your refrigerator's defrost system. It is a bimetal thermostat that senses the temperature of the evaporator coils. When the coils reach a certain cold temperature (typically below freezing), the thermostat closes, completing a circuit that activates the defrost heater. Once the coils warm up sufficiently to melt frost, the thermostat opens, deactivating the heater and allowing the cooling cycle to resume.

There are no user-adjustable settings for this component. Its function is entirely automatic and integrated into the appliance's control system.

6. MAINTENANCE

The UpStart Components 297216600 Freezer Defrost Thermostat is a sealed unit and requires no routine maintenance. Its durable construction is designed for long-term reliability.

To ensure the overall health of your refrigerator's defrost system, it is recommended to:

- Keep the freezer door sealed properly to prevent excessive frost buildup.
- Regularly clean the condenser coils of your refrigerator to maintain optimal cooling efficiency.
- Ensure proper airflow around the appliance.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If your refrigerator or freezer is experiencing defrost-related issues after replacing the thermostat, consider the following:

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Excessive ice buildup in freezer	Defrost heater failure, defrost timer failure, or new thermostat not properly installed/faulty.	Verify thermostat connections. Test defrost heater and timer (requires multimeter and technical knowledge). Ensure door seal is intact.
Freezer too warm / not cooling	Defrost system stuck in defrost cycle (rare for thermostat alone), fan motor failure, refrigerant issue.	Check if evaporator fan is running. Inspect condenser coils for cleanliness. Consult a technician if cooling issues persist.
Refrigerator running constantly	Could be related to defrost system not cycling correctly, or other components like main control board or compressor.	Ensure thermostat is properly clipped to the evaporator coil. Check for proper door sealing.

If troubleshooting steps do not resolve the issue, it is recommended to consult a qualified appliance repair technician.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Detail
Brand	UpStart Components
Model Number	AP-297216600-DL442
Part Number	297216600

Attribute	Detail
Compatible Part Numbers	216731000, AP4374171, 1483781, 216731000, 216872200, 218673001, 218673008, 218969901, 218969902, 5304404743, 5404404743, 7216872200, AH2350702, EA2350702, PS2350702
ASIN	B082P754WV
First Available	December 12, 2019

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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