

UpStart Components AP-297216600-DL1264

UpStart Components 297216600 Freezer Defrost Thermostat
Replacement Instruction Manual

Model: AP-297216600-DL1264 | Brand: UpStart Components

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the UpStart Components 297216600 Freezer Defrost Thermostat. This component is designed as a replacement part for compatible Frigidaire refrigerators, including model FKFH21F7HWB, and functions to regulate the defrost cycle within the freezer. Understanding its function and proper installation is crucial for maintaining your appliance's efficiency.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING: Risk of electric shock. Always disconnect power to the appliance before beginning any repair or installation.

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves and eye protection, during installation.
- Ensure the work area is well-lit and clear of obstructions.
- If you are unsure about any step or lack experience with appliance repair, consult a qualified technician.
- Keep children and pets away from the work area.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

- 1x UpStart Components 297216600 Freezer Defrost Thermostat



Components



Figure 3.1: Main product image showing the UpStart Components branding and the defrost thermostat with its wiring.

4. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

This section outlines the general steps for replacing a defrost thermostat. Specific disassembly and reassembly procedures may vary depending on your refrigerator model. Always refer to your appliance's service manual for detailed instructions.

1. **Disconnect Power:** Unplug the refrigerator from the wall outlet or turn off the circuit breaker supplying power to the appliance.
2. **Access Freezer Compartment:** Open the freezer door and remove all food items, shelves, and drawers to gain access to the rear panel.
3. **Remove Rear Panel:** Locate and remove the screws holding the rear panel of the freezer compartment. Carefully

detach the panel to expose the evaporator coils and other components.

4. **Locate Old Defrost Thermostat:** The defrost thermostat is typically clipped onto one of the evaporator coils and has two wires connected to it. It may be covered by a plastic housing.
5. **Disconnect Wires:** Carefully disconnect the wires from the old defrost thermostat. Note their orientation if necessary, though they are usually non-polarized.
6. **Remove Old Thermostat:** Unclip or detach the old thermostat from the evaporator coil.
7. **Install New Thermostat:** Clip the new UpStart Components 297216600 defrost thermostat onto the evaporator coil in the same location as the old one. Ensure it is securely attached.



Figure 4.1: Close-up view of the 297216600 defrost thermostat, highlighting the part number label and the electrical connector.

8. **Reconnect Wires:** Connect the wires to the new thermostat.



Figure 4.2: Angled view of the defrost thermostat, showing the red and white wires, the thermostat body, and the female connector.

- 9. **Reassemble:** Reattach the rear panel, ensuring all screws are tightened. Replace shelves, drawers, and food items.
- 10. **Restore Power:** Plug the refrigerator back into the wall outlet or turn on the circuit breaker.
- 11. **Test Operation:** Monitor the refrigerator's performance over the next 24-48 hours to ensure proper cooling and defrost cycles.

5. OPERATING PRINCIPLE

The defrost thermostat is a crucial component of your refrigerator's automatic defrost system. It functions as a temperature-sensitive switch. When the evaporator coils in the freezer reach a specific low temperature (typically below freezing), the thermostat closes, completing an electrical circuit. This activates the defrost heater, which melts any accumulated frost on the coils. Once the coils reach a higher temperature (typically above freezing, around 40-50°F or 4-10°C), the thermostat opens, deactivating the heater and allowing the refrigeration cycle to resume. This cyclical process prevents excessive frost buildup, which can impede cooling efficiency and lead to higher energy consumption.

6. MAINTENANCE

The UpStart Components 297216600 Freezer Defrost Thermostat is designed for long-term, reliable operation and typically requires no routine maintenance. To ensure optimal performance of your refrigerator's defrost system, it is recommended to:

- Keep the freezer compartment clean and free of excessive ice buildup.
- Ensure proper airflow around the evaporator coils by not overpacking the freezer.
- Regularly clean the condenser coils of the refrigerator to maintain overall efficiency.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your refrigerator's defrost system after replacing the thermostat, consider the following common problems:

- **Excessive Frost Buildup in Freezer:** If the freezer coils are heavily frosted, the defrost thermostat may not be closing to activate the defrost heater, or the heater itself may be faulty.
- **Refrigerator Running Constantly:** A malfunctioning defrost system, including the thermostat, can cause the compressor to run more frequently as it struggles to maintain temperature due to frost insulation.
- **Food Spoilage in Freezer:** If the defrost system is not working correctly, the freezer may not maintain proper freezing temperatures, leading to food spoilage.
- **No Defrost Cycle:** If the defrost heater never turns on, the thermostat or the defrost timer/control board could be at fault.

If these issues persist after verifying proper installation, it is recommended to consult a qualified appliance technician for further diagnosis and repair.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Part Number	AP-297216600-DL1264
Brand	UpStart Components

Manufacturer	UpStart Components
Compatible Part Numbers	216731000, AP4374171, 1483781, 216872200, 218673001, 218673008, 218969901, 218969902, 5304404743, 5404404743, 7216872200, AH2350702, EA2350702, PS2350702

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

This product is an UpStart Components Brand replacement part. Any warranties for this product are offered solely by UpStart Components. This product is not affiliated with any original equipment manufacturer (OEM) brands and is not covered under any warranties offered by the original manufacturers.

For support or warranty inquiries regarding this UpStart Components product, please contact UpStart Components directly through their official channels.

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