

Chapter Seven: Fridge improvement : Having spent the hot 4th of July on the hook, it seemed like the fridge was just not getting as cold as it should be. I have an indoor-outdoor thermometer on the boat, and I placed the "outdoor" sensor in the fridge. At the bottom of the box it was in the upper 40's. That might be okay for a weekend, but too hot for keeping food longer. With the sensor up by the cold plate, it would read down to 40 and sometimes a little less. Obviously, one of those battery-powered fans specially made to move refrigerator air would be a big help.

On the other hand, the compressor under the sink makes a good amount of heat, which I'm sure drifts around and warms the fridge box itself. There is one air vent on the seat side of that cabinet, but it is down low, and that does not do well for hot air, which rises. I got two new air vents like the two on the blower vents in the cockpit outside of the companionway. I drilled a 2 7/8-to 3-inch hole just below the fridge pump switch. (I suppose the higher it is, the better.) The cooler air now comes in the original, low, vent. The heat comes out the new, higher, vent. Normal fore-to-aft air flow through the cabin can now blow through the galley cabinet also. You can actually feel the heat coming out, so I assume it would help warm the cabin when out on those chillier days/nights. I'm sorry to say the first vent I put in was in the door under the sink. If I'd first done the one by the switch and felt the air coming out, I probably would not have done the one in the door. I think I'll still put some insulation under the cabinet to block air drift to the box area from the compressor side.