



## How to Make Old Fridge or Freezer “Art Works”

As part of the ENERGY STAR® Make a Cool Change: Recycle Your Old Fridge (or Freezer) Campaign<sup>1</sup>, partners may host an activity involving the decoration of old, recycled fridges, freezers, or their doors. The purpose of creating these unique art works is to promote participation in the campaign and to be a conversation starter with consumers.

If a whole fridge or freezer is used, the refrigerant and other materials must be removed and recovered according to federal and state laws before decorating it. Doors should also be adjusted so that no one could become trapped inside of it. Another option is to create freestanding art doors, which are easier to move around.

### Supplies:

- A representative old fridge or freezer
- Wrenches, screw drivers, lubricant (i.e. WD-40®)
- Cleaning solution
- Straight brackets, approximately 20 inches in length (for connecting the top and bottom doors)
- 2 “L” brackets (for standing the fridge or freezer door upright on the floor)
- Door surface primer (depends on the door surface and art medium used)
- Art medium (i.e. acrylic paint, mosaic pieces, paper, recycled-content items, or whatever creative media inspires your team!)

### Basic Instructions:

1. Doors can be removed by unbolting them from the body of the unit. If the bolts are really tight, try WD-40® lubricant on the bolts, let it soak into the threads for a little while, and try it again. Be sure to properly recycle the remaining part of the fridge or freezer.
2. After both the top and bottom doors are removed, lay them, face down, on a protective drop cloth. Clean the doors, as needed.
3. Attach the top door to the bottom door, using straight metal brackets, a drill and heavy-duty screws. The brackets should have at least 2 screws in the top section plus 2 screws in the bottom section. Note that the rubber seal around the inside of the door may need to be removed to allow the bracket to be installed flush with the interior door surface.
4. Sturdy L-brackets can be attached at the bottom to create a freestanding door panel. Be sure to place the brackets at such a level so that the door leans to the back, and will not tip over.
5. Once the door is standing upright, the surface can be primed and prepared for decorating.



Have fun decorating your fridge or fridge doors.

<sup>1</sup> Formerly the ENERGY STAR Recycle My Old Fridge Campaign, at [www.RecycleMyOldFridge.com](http://www.RecycleMyOldFridge.com).

The front and back of a finished door example is shown below. This one took about 5 hours to create from start to finish, and uses acrylic paint and acrylic gesso as the primer.

