

## Types of Units

It is recommended when purchasing a freezer that you get one with a frost-free or automatic defrost cycle. Please note that VDH Immunization Program cannot endorse or recommend specific products or brands.

- **Pharmaceutical-grade units are recommended.** They were designed for holding biologics, including vaccines.
- **Commercial or Household units are acceptable.** If necessary, combination units maybe be used but frozen vaccines must be store in a separate standalone freezer.
- **Dormitory-style units are not allowed.** These units have one door and both a freezer portion and refrigerator portion behind one single door.

**Tip:** There are several used or remanufactured equipment vendors online. Prices are often 30% to 50% lower than retail. Consider calling your manufacturer of choice and asking about used or “scratch and dent” items.

### Common Pharmaceutical-Grade Manufacturers:

- American Biotech Supply (ABS)
- Helmer
- Follett
- Thermo Scientific

### Common Commercial or Household Manufacturers:

- Whirlpool
- Frigidaire
- Marvel
- Kenmore

## Size Considerations

Large, compact and under-the-counter units are all acceptable if they can hold all of your practice’s vaccines at peak times of year (likely flu and COVID season).

## Next Steps After Receiving the Unit

- 72 hours of in-range readings (2-8°C for refrigerator and -50 to -15°C for freezer) are required for the new unit to be approved to hold state-supplied vaccines.
- Store vaccines in the center of the unit, at least 2-3 inches away from the walls, floor, coils and ceiling of the storage compartment.
- Never store vaccines inside crisper bins, in the unit door or on the unit floor.