

1. Types of Equipment Units

- **Pharmaceutical-Grade (Recommended):** Purpose-built for holding biologics and vaccines.
 - *Common Manufacturers:* American Biotech Supply (ABS), Helmer, Follett, Thermo Scientific.
- **Commercial or Household (Acceptable):** If you use a combination unit, frozen vaccines must be stored in a separate standalone freezer.
 - *Common Manufacturers:* Whirlpool, Frigidaire, Marvel, Kenmore.
- **Dormitory-Style (Not Allowed):** Units with a single exterior door containing both a refrigerator and freezer section are strictly prohibited.

 **Freezer Tip:** When purchasing a freezer, choose a unit with a frost-free or automatic defrost cycle. *Note: The VDH Immunization Program does not endorse specific brands.*

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2. Size and Buying Considerations

- **Capacity:** Large, compact, and under-the-counter units are all acceptable if they can hold your practice's peak inventory (typically during flu and COVID seasons).
- **Cost-Saving Tip:** Look for used or remanufactured equipment vendors online, where prices are often 30% to 50% lower than retail. You can also call manufacturers directly to ask about "scratch and dent" items.

3. Set-Up and Next Steps (After Receiving the Unit)

- **The 72-Hour Rule:** You must record 72 hours of stable, in-range temperature readings before the new unit can be approved to hold state-supplied vaccines.
 - Refrigerator Range: 2°C to 8°C
 - Freezer Range: -50°C to -15°C
- **Proper Placement:** Store vaccines in the center of the unit, at least 2 to 3 inches away from the walls, floor, coils, and ceiling.
- **Prohibited Storage Areas:** Never store vaccines inside crisper bins, in the unit door, or directly on the floor of the unit.