



Source: Epta

Putting doors back on chillers is an 'easy win' for retailers

Retrofitting doors on chillers

Putting doors back on chillers has been a big trend over recent years as it can result in significant energy savings.

Refrigeration and HVAC experts Epta are pros at retrofitting. UK marketing manager Rory Kroon says that while it's quicker and easier to fit Epta doors onto Epta cabinets, the company has successfully rolled out door retrofits on a wide range of third-party chillers too.

"We specialise in designing tailored solutions to suit the specific footprint and airflow of each cabinet," he explains.

As for the cost of fitting doors versus savings as a result of this, Kroon says every store is different.

"What might be typical for one store, may be completely different for another. That said, we generally quote an average energy saving of 40% with our standard Epta door kit. In some case studies, such as with our recent Co-op one, retailers have seen savings as high as 60%, particularly where Epta doors were fitted to Epta cabinets and broader store-level improvements were in place. Most retailers see a full return on investment within 12 months."

The actual work in putting the doors back on doesn't need to disrupt business either. Kroon says a forecourt store can usually be completed in one evening. "We'd just need to cordon off the working area to keep staff and customers safe while our teams are on site."

Once the doors are back on, he says it's important to communicate the changes to shoppers. "Simple messages like "This door is saving 40% energy" or "You wouldn't leave your fridge door open at home" can go a long way in helping customers understand the change and appreciate its benefits."

If a retailer doesn't want doors added there are other options available to help save energy. Kroon points to shelf-edge technology (SET) which channels airflow back into the cabinet, making it ideal for fresh produce and high-traffic areas. And the Dual Air Curtain which adds a second invisible barrier of air, acting like a door without any physical obstruction: "This is a great fit for impulse lines or particularly busy sections of the store," he says.

"Sliding doors are another smart solution, especially in areas with tight aisles or limited space where hinged doors might not be practical."

Kroon says that when it comes to refrigeration, one of the most effective steps a retailer can take is to upgrade to the latest generation models.

"Newer models are built to meet stricter energy standards and often come with smart control features that help reduce running costs.

"It's also worth looking beyond just the energy label. Two cabinets might share the same rating, but their actual energy consumption can vary quite a bit. Checking the kilowatt-hour figures gives a much clearer picture of performance.

"Regular maintenance also goes a long way. Simple actions like cleaning condenser coils and checking door seals can make a real difference to long-term efficiency.

"And finally, using night blinds on open cases outside trading hours is a quick, low-cost way to help trap cold air and reduce energy waste."

Epta has just launched a new ecommerce site, which is specifically designed for independent convenience and forecourt operators, giving them direct access to premium off the shelf solutions for their store. All products are stocked in the UK, which means delivery is guaranteed in five working days.