

The Phase Out of R-22

The longtime industry standard refrigerant used in most air conditioning and heat pump systems.

The 1990 Clean Air Act mandated that the refrigerant R-22 must be phased out. Per U.S. EPA regulations, new R-22 cannot be used in new systems effective in 2010, although service quantities of the refrigerant may be produced until 2020.

Recently, the government proposed an accelerated phase-out of R-22 which has caused the cost of R-22 to go up over 400% in the last two months. Additionally, our suppliers have restricted the quantity of R-22 we can purchase.

Here's what this means to you:

If your system is over 8 years old:

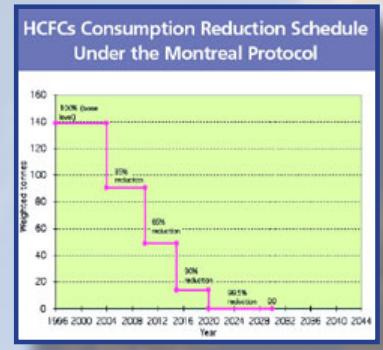
This may be time to look at replacing your system with a newer one that uses the only approved refrigerant: R-410a.

If your system has R-22 and is operating well:

We will take care of you. We have stockpiled enough R-22 for repairs, even though you should expect higher repair bills due to the sharp increase in cost.

If your system has R-22 and the outside unit (compressor) fails:

It can sometimes be replaced with a replacement R-22 part, but you will be faced with higher R-22 and repair costs in the future. Outside and inside units need to match in size. Replacing your outside unit with an R-22 part is typically a lower cost 'Band-Aid' fix. This may be an option for you, especially if you are not able to afford a new system at this time.



A Side Note About Puron

Carrier was the first manufacturer to develop indoor cooling products using Puron refrigerant as early as 1996. (Puron is Carrier's branded name for R-410a.) As other companies worldwide raced to upgrade to the new refrigerant, Carrier had the experience of having introduced the first air conditioners with an alternative refrigerant - years before other manufacturers caught up.

Many people refer to all refrigerants as FREON, which is a trade name of DuPont. The EPA uses the term HCFC-22, but it is more commonly known as R-22, and is a hydrochlorofluorocarbon.

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