

NEWS RELEASE FROM TROUTMAN SHEET METAL

Information below is taken from a 2008 Nordyne handout

Before purchasing your next cooling system, take the time to learn about its refrigerant.

When shopping for a new air conditioning system or heat pump, refrigerant may not be on your list of priorities. But since a new cooling system could last as long as 15 years, the decision you make today will impact the ability to service your equipment in the future. Here's what you need to know about refrigerant types and phase-out guidelines to make an educated purchase.

R-22. The traditional refrigerant.

For more than four decades, R-22 has been the air conditioning and heat pump refrigerant of choice. Unfortunately, R-22 is a hydrochlorofluorocarbon, or HCFC, and depletes the Earth's protective ozone layer and contributes to global warming. Because of its damaging effects, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is phasing out usage of R-22 along with other HCFCs in accordance with the Montreal Protocol.

If your equipment currently contains R-22, you will still be able to have it serviced. However, as availability of R-22 declines, the cost to service your equipment may rise. What's most important is overall proper maintenance to reduce the environmental impact of your R-22 refrigerant.

The R-22 phase-out timeline.

January 1, 2010

Equipment manufacturers will no longer produce new units charged with R-22. Many already offer a complete range of products featuring earth-friendly R-410A refrigerant.

While some R-22 products will be in production until December 31, 2009, most manufacturers have already stopped making R-22 units in their more efficient models.

R-22 will only be available to service older cooling systems.

January 1, 2020

Chemical manufacturers will no longer be able to produce R-22. Use of existing R-22 refrigerant, including refrigerant that has been recovered and recycled, will be allowed beyond 2020 to service existing systems.

R-410A. The new standard.

Equipment manufacturers are replacing R-22 with non-ozone-depleting R-410A refrigerant. Choosing a cooling system that uses this alternative refrigerant ensures you will not have servicing or charging issues in the future. It's important to factor the refrigerant along with the reliability, price and warranty when selecting a new system.

More refrigerant questions? Ask you heating and cooling professional about the changeover to ozone-friendly R-410A.