



## **Refrigerant changes to your AC system what should you know?**

Capitol Supply and Service is the leading Manufactured Housing HVAC company in the state of Michigan and our goal is to provide customers with all the necessary tools and knowledge to make the right choice when it comes to HVAC services and equipment. With the summer season approaching, we found it necessary to answer some of the common questions regarding your air conditioning system and the impact of the R22 phase out. So let us explain!

### **What is the R22 phase out?**

#### **R22 Phase out timeline and updates:**

The phase out of R22 refrigerants has been in the works since 2010, with the official halt on production and import of HCFC-22 in the U.S. on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. This is obviously affecting the cost of R22 refrigerant making it an expensive commodity on the market and when used to top up leaking AC equipment.

## **Here's what happened and what to expect:**

Starting in 1996, all air conditioners used either R22 or R410A refrigerants and both were widely available. Therefore, it was relatively inexpensive to recharge a system after a leak was detected and repaired.

Starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, all new equipment manufactured in the U.S used only R410A refrigerant as mandated by the EPA. Manufacturers still produced R22 refrigerant but only for recharging and servicing of existing equipment and they also began reducing production. Over the next decade, manufacturers produced less and less R22 refrigerant each year and all production ceased on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Since then, it has been illegal to manufacture or import R22 in the U.S. but, HVAC companies could still buy existing inventory or use recycled or recovered refrigerant.

A complete ban on all HCFCs refrigerants will take place on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2030.

Today, R22 is very expensive, so you almost always need to replace your AC system if it uses R22 refrigerant and has a leak or needs a major repair.

## **Why is R22 refrigerant phased out?**

Hydrochlorofluorocarbons or HCFCs are the chemicals that are mainly used in refrigerants. Unfortunately, the release of HCFC deplete the Earth's protective ozone layer and contributes to climate change. R22 is a HCFC refrigerant that is often used in air conditioning equipment. To protect Earth's ozone layer, the US has started phasing out R22, along with other refrigerants in 2010.

## **What does the R22 phase out means for our customers?**

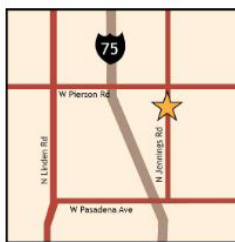
**The good news** is that you don't need to replace your air conditioner just because it uses R22 Freon (refrigerant) as long as is still working properly.

**The bad news** is that manufacturers no longer produce R22 as part of an EPA-led phase out initiative. So, if your system is not working properly and has started to develop leaks, we highly recommend replacement of the system with a new more efficient 410A system.

The best decision a homeowner can make is to replace the old R22 system proactively to avoid higher costs in the future. By taking the proactive approach not only will you eliminate unwanted expensive repairs but also help protect the environment from the long-term damage of R22.

### How can Capitol Supply and Service help?

Don't wait until R22 refrigerant is completely gone to replace your old AC system. Our team of licensed technicians are available 24/7 to answer any questions you have about R22 refrigerants or any other heating and cooling related problems. Visit us on the web at [www.capitolsupplyandservice.com](http://www.capitolsupplyandservice.com), call 1-800-484-1125 or visit one of our five strategically located stores.



**FLINT, MICHIGAN**

3431 N. Jennings Rd.  
Flint, MI 48504  
Fax: 810-785-9458



**GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

122 54th St.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49548  
Fax: 616-532-7574



**CHESTERFIELD TWP., MICHIGAN**

51895 Chesterfield Rd.  
Chesterfield Twp., MI 48051  
Fax: 586-468-8924



**TAYLOR, MICHIGAN**

12443 Delta Street  
Taylor, MI 48180  
Fax: 734-403-2449



**LANSING, MICHIGAN**

4412 S. Creyts St.  
Lansing, MI 48917  
Fax: 517-322-2805