

Keeping in your car

HOW TO MANAGE YOUR VEHICLE'S
AIR CONDITIONING, SAVE MONEY AND HELP
THE ENVIRONMENT



Australian Government

**Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities**





Keeping cool in your car

IS YOUR CAR KEEPING ITS COOL?

Your car's air conditioner can be a little more complicated than you might think.

Sure it's all about cooling, but when it's not working efficiently it's probably losing refrigerant and it won't only be the temperature in your car that will be uncomfortable. If components in the air conditioning fail due to lack of refrigerant the cost of repair will probably make your hip pocket feel uncomfortable as well. Also, if the refrigerant in your car's system is a fluorocarbon, it's a synthetic greenhouse gas and when leaked into the atmosphere will contribute further to global warming making the environment uncomfortable for everyone.

If your car air conditioner isn't cooling as it should, it's probably not working correctly and may be losing refrigerant. The problem will need to be diagnosed and if a leak is evident it needs to be repaired before the air conditioner is re-gassed. Simply topping up an air conditioner leaking fluorocarbon refrigerant is illegal and will harm the environment by continuing to leak refrigerant into the atmosphere.

Only a licensed technician can legally handle fluorocarbon refrigerants in the service or repair of your car's air conditioner. **To find a licensed technician for your car, log on to www.lookforthetick.com.au**

A licensed car air conditioning specialist is qualified to tick all the boxes:

- Test for refrigerant leaks
- Replace any damaged components
- Repair a faulty system
- Replace the refrigerant (it is illegal to top up an air conditioning system)

LIFTING THE BONNET SHOULD PROVIDE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CAR AIR CONDITIONER

Most car owners know what fuel and oil to use in their vehicle and when the next service is due. What about the air conditioner? The majority of today's vehicles use a fluorocarbon refrigerant, which is a synthetic greenhouse gas, and if released to the atmosphere contributes to global warming. Ensuring your car's air conditioner is serviced or repaired by a qualified and licensed technician will help reduce emissions of synthetic greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

The next time you lift the bonnet to refill your windshield washer reservoir, have a look for the label that lets you and your air conditioning service technician know what type of refrigerant is in the car's air conditioning system as well as other important information.

After your car's air conditioning has been serviced or repaired the service technician must attach or adhere a durable label in a prominent position under the bonnet showing, at least, the following information: name of the service organisation, name of the service technician and their refrigerant handling licence number, date of the air conditioning service, date of the last filter change, type of refrigerant in the system, type of oil in the system and type of dye if added.

Vehicle Registration Number: **KYZ 123**
Make: **Ford Falcon** Year: **2009**
Service Provider: **Citizen Service and Repairs**
Technician: **John Citizen** RHL No.: **L059900**
Service Date: **10/10/10** Refrigerant Type: **R134a**
Date Filter Changed: **10/10/10** Lubricant Type: **PAG**
Dye Type (if added): **N/A** Next Service Due: **10/10/11**

lookforthe tick.com.au



This label not only assists the service technician who performs the next service, it can also confirm a suitably qualified and licensed technician has undertaken the service. You can check the licence type and currency of a licensed technician on www.lookforthe tick.com.au using the licence check facility; simply enter the technician's surname and licence number which should be on the 'under bonnet' label. This provides you with the confidence your car's air conditioning has been serviced by an automotive air conditioning specialist committed to minimising the risk of fluorocarbon refrigerant emission into the atmosphere, reducing its contribution to global warming.

So the next time you lift the bonnet, do more than fill the windshield washer reservoir. Have a look at: what type of refrigerant is in your air conditioning system, if it's been serviced and who did the servicing. If that information isn't there, ask your service provider why not.

WRECK YOUR CAR, NOT THE ENVIRONMENT

When you've outgrown your old car and you plan to dispose of it, don't forget the refrigerant in the air conditioner. If the refrigerant is a fluorocarbon it will need to be 'recovered' from the air conditioner by a licensed technician before the car is dismantled or recycled. Why not ask the auto parts or metal recycler if their technicians or contractors are licensed to legally remove the fluorocarbon refrigerant from the air conditioner in your old car? If the auto parts or metal recycler does not offer fluorocarbon refrigerant degassing services you can search for a licensed technician on the ARC's consumer website www.lookforthe tick.com.au

Licensed technicians are appropriately trained in the recovery of refrigerant, and using an approved technician will ensure that refrigerant will be removed without venting it into the atmosphere. Fluorocarbon refrigerants used in car air conditioners are synthetic greenhouse gases and venting them into the atmosphere contributes to global warming. The recovered refrigerant will be forwarded to Refrigerant Reclaim Australia (RRA). RRA will arrange to have the refrigerant destroyed by Australia's only approved facility in an environmentally sound manner.

Further information

Contact ARC Customer Service on **1300 884 483**
or go to **www.arctick.org**

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