

# Keeping in your car

How to manage your vehicle's  
air conditioning, save money  
and help the environment.



**Australian Government**

**Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water**





# Keeping cool in your car

## IS YOUR CAR KEEPING ITS COOL?

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 found it needs to be repaired before the air conditioner is re-gassed.

People who service/repair car air conditioners containing fluorocarbon refrigerant gas (found in most automotive air conditioning systems) must hold an appropriate licence issued by the Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC).

## WHY?

Only an ARC licensed technician can legally handle fluorocarbon refrigerants in the service or repair of your car's air conditioner. ARC licensed technicians and businesses have proven themselves to be qualified and equipped to do the job.

The ARC licence scheme was introduced in 2005 to help minimise releases of refrigerant gases into the atmosphere. These contribute to global warming and damage the ozone layer.

## Benefits of using ARC-licensed technicians:

- professional and qualified technician
- must adhere to industry codes of practice and any relevant standards
- reduced gas leaks = increased system performance and decreased running costs.
- doing the right thing by the environment and the law

Visit **[lookforthetick.com.au](http://lookforthetick.com.au)** and use the business directory to find a licensed technician to service your vehicle's air conditioner nearest to you.

## WHY IS LEAKING REFRIGERANT BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

Just 1kg of fluorocarbon refrigerant leaking into the atmosphere has the same greenhouse gas impact as two tonnes of carbon dioxide. That is the equivalent of driving a family sedan for six months!

If emitted into the atmosphere, fluorocarbon refrigerant gas can be extremely harmful to the environment. The use of fluorocarbon is regulated by the Australian Government's Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management legislation.

## GAS REFILLS (TOPPING UP)

Topping up an air conditioner with fluorocarbon refrigerant which is leaking gas, without first repairing the leak, is not allowed under the Australian codes of practice for refrigerant handling. 'Topping up' is bad for the environment. If the technician hasn't checked for, and repaired, any leaks there is a risk refrigerant will release into the atmosphere. Only individuals with an appropriate licence can legally handle fluorocarbon refrigerant in the service or repair of your car's air conditioner.

### Tips to keep your car's air conditioner running cool:

- run the air conditioner for a few minutes every couple of months. This will help to keep the system lubricated and all the parts running smoothly
- keep the windows closed when your air conditioner is on
- get your vehicle's air conditioning serviced regularly by a technician with an ARC Automotive Air Conditioning licence. A poorly maintained air conditioner can cost you money

## LICENCES AND AIR CONDITIONING

The ARC issues one licence for technicians who work on mobile air conditioning systems.

- Automotive Air Conditioning Licence – entitles the holder to handle refrigerant for any work on air conditioning equipment fitted to the cabin of a motor vehicle.



## ABOUT THE ARC

The Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC) is contracted by the Australian Government under Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management legislation and is responsible for granting licences nationally to individuals and businesses who handle fluorocarbon refrigerants. Businesses or individuals who handle fluorocarbon refrigerants, as used in car air conditioners, must hold a licence issued by the ARC.

For further information, go to [lookforthetick.com.au](http://lookforthetick.com.au)

## Further information

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

### Australian Refrigeration Council

Level 1, 818 Whitehorse Road  
(Locked Bag 3033)  
Box Hill VIC 3128

### Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

GPO Box 3090  
Parkes ACT 2601  
**rac@dcceew.gov.au**