



What can you tell me about air conditioning refrigerants?

We're Glad You Asked!

Refrigerants are what make air conditioning possible. Contained within the coils of an air conditioning system, these agents make it possible to cool and dehumidify indoor air. Today, there are several types of refrigerants used in air-conditioning systems. The most common is R22, which will be phased out over the coming years in response to international environmental concerns. Though the transition away from R22 is just beginning, Lennox is one step ahead with a full line of products that use a more responsible, chlorine-free refrigerant.

R22. CURRENT STANDARD.

Acting in accordance with an international treaty called the Montreal Protocol, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has mandated the eventual phaseout of R22 through the Clean Air Act. By 2010, the manufacturing of heating and cooling equipment using R22 will be prohibited, and by 2020 the production of R22 itself must cease.

The main reason for this regulatory action is that R22 is a hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) compound, which contains ozone-depleting chlorine.

R410A. THE REFRIGERANT OF THE FUTURE.



Many of Lennox' newest air conditioners use the EPA-recognized, chlorine-free R410A refrigerant.

Because R410A contains no chlorine, it's ozone responsible. R410A is better suited for use in higher-efficiency equipment because you get a higher heat transfer rate than with R22. R410A allows Lennox, as a manufacturer, to design and make units that are more efficient than ever, like the XC21, the world's first 20+ SEER air conditioner. Choosing an air conditioner or heat pump with R410A not only makes sense environmentally – it may also reward you with energy cost savings.

LENNOX. LEADING THE WAY IN COOLING INNOVATION.



The introduction of cooling systems that use the latest in refrigerant technology reflects our ongoing commitment to developing innovative products that maintain a comfortable home environment, while helping preserve the global environment.

As a result of this commitment, the EPA and U.S. Department of Energy have named Lennox as an ENERGY STAR® Manufacturing Partner of the Year for the third consecutive year. Lennox is the only heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) manufacturer ever to be chosen for this annual award.

R410A Q&A

Question	Lennox Answer
Will an R410A air conditioner cost more than one using R22?	The total cost of installing a new air conditioner is affected by many factors. Some of these factors may affect the cost of installing a unit using R410A. If you are in need of a new air conditioner, ask your local Lennox dealer to inspect your current system and provide you with an estimate so you can make an informed purchase decision.
Do I have to replace my current R22 air conditioner now?	No. The Montreal Protocol does not affect existing units and the production of R22 is not scheduled to be phased out until 2020, so there will be R22 available for the servicing of units for some time to come.
If I buy a new air conditioner or heat pump now, does it have to use R410A?	No. HVAC manufacturers can continue to produce units using R22 until 2010.
If I buy an air conditioner that uses R22 now, will I have to replace it in a few years?	No. Air conditioners using R22 can be manufactured until 2010, and the production of R22 is not scheduled to be phased out until 2020. So you can expect years of serviceable life from an air conditioner using R22.
Will there be another alternative refrigerant for use in the future?	Currently all HVAC manufacturers have approved R410A as the only alternative refrigerant acceptable for use in HVAC residential equipment.
Can I use R410A in my existing R22 air conditioner?	No. The use of R410A in any unit not specifically designed for the refrigerant can damage the unit or cause it to malfunction. Plus, it would void the regulatory approval of the equipment.
If I purchase an air conditioner that uses R410A should I also replace my indoor unit?	Your Lennox dealer will need to inspect the system to see if it will meet the performance requirements for R410A. If the unit is older, it will likely need replacing.



HOME COMFORT SYSTEMS
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