
Subject: Freon? Car AC?

Posted by [The Mother](#) on Fri, 26 Jul 2013 01:47:00 GMT

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Does anyone know if there is a substitute for Freon that is available to normal people? I mean, I'm pretty sure no one can get real Freon, but there must be substitutes. There's still air conditioning. I've been told that even the substitutes are controlled. I'm not sure I believe that.

I've had one of our cars down to the garage for the air conditioning not cooling. They basically just refilled the coolant, and added dye. They told me to drive it around and see if that worked. If it quits cooling I might have a leak, and the dye will show where! And it cost \$200! It took less time than an oil change! The other old car has exactly the same symptoms, but I just can't justify that kind of money on that old thing.

Does anyone know of a do-it-yourself solution?

Subject: Re: Freon? Car AC?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 26 Jul 2013 06:12:29 GMT

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You can buy the R-134, the dye, a black-light that exposes the leak (if any) and the fittings and gauges to do the work yourself. It's not all that hard.

One thing though - Be careful not to open the high-pressure side to the refill can when the system is mostly charged and running...

Subject: Re: Freon? Car AC?

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sat, 27 Jul 2013 03:41:49 GMT

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Hi, Yes a problem with older vehicles. The R134 will work. There is a type that contains the proper seal conditioner for older vehicles. All the R134 may have it now. For a while there was some that did not work in older vehicles. My experience with the R134 is that it doesn't work as well though in older vehicles. Better than not having it and a lot cheaper than Freon. It is available, but quite costly.

Subject: Re: Freon? Car AC?

Posted by [The Mother](#) on Tue, 30 Jul 2013 21:43:50 GMT

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Thanks both of you for the info!

Subject: Re: Freon? Car AC?

Posted by [Thermionic](#) on Fri, 02 Aug 2013 00:04:28 GMT

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Back around the late '90s or early 2000's, a co-worker told me about a R12 substitute called Freeze 12. My older car's AC system was low on refrigerant, and I charged it with the stuff on his recommendation. It worked superbly; at least as well as real R12. I don't know if it's still available, but if so it's definitely an excellent product.

Thermionic
