

Why is The Price of R-22 Refrigerant So High?

Since January 2012 the price of R-22 refrigerant, which is used in many air conditioning systems, has risen as much as 400%—and we don't know how high it might go. These are direct costs that we have to pay and we have no choice but to pass those costs along, which is why your refrigerant may cost more now than during previous service calls.

Here's Why

The U.S. EPA controls how much R-22 can be produced and imported each year through annual allocations. For the last two years the agency has reduced the supply in the hopes of increasing the price of R-22 in order to encourage higher recycling and reclamation rates. This policy, along with a delay in setting permanent allocations for the future, created uncertainty in the marketplace and forced the manufacturers to increase their prices.

What's Next?

The U.S. EPA reduced the annual allocation of R-22 in 2012 by about 45% with a short term, temporary allocation. In March of 2013, the EPA finalized the allocations for 2013 and 2014 with an additional overall reduction of 7%. These allocation reductions will continue until 2020 when the production of virgin R-22 will cease.

As a professional contractor, our goal is to provide you with the best possible products and services at the best possible value. Unfortunately, we have no control over the cost of a commodity like R-22 refrigerant.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

ACCA is the nationwide nonprofit association of professional heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration contracting businesses. For more than 40 years, ACCA has provided education and research in support of efficient, safe and healthy heating and cooling systems. We invite you to visit us at www.acca.org.



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