



R22 REFRIGERANT PHASE OUT

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**BY LAW ALL OZONE-DEPLETING R22
AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS BECOME
UNSERVICABLE AT THE END OF 2014
- TIME IS RUNNING OUT**
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WHY REPLACE YOUR R22 AIR CONDITIONING?

Any air conditioning system over 10 years old probably uses R22 refrigerant, an ozone-depleting CFC which is now banned in new systems across the EU. By law R22 systems become unserviceable at the end of 2014 and it will be illegal to repair them. Spare parts and recycled R22 are already in short supply and increasingly expensive, often resulting in repairs being impossible or uneconomic.

Modern replacement systems use environmentally responsible refrigerants and are up to 60% more energy efficient, so the energy savings quickly repay their installation costs.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

1. Do nothing - The regulations do not prohibit the continuing use of R22 equipment but the ageing equipment will use more energy than necessary, will require careful maintenance and is likely to fail at some point, requiring an urgent replacement.

2. Use recycled R22 - The use of recycled R22 is a potential way of extending the life of old air conditioning. However recycled R22 is scarce, expensive and will be banned at the end of 2014.

3. Replace R22 with a 'drop in' alternative - Potential alternative refrigerants include R410a, R404A, R407c, R417A or even Propane or CO₂. Unfortunately none offers directly equivalent cooling characteristics and often reduce the performance of the system or raise concerns regarding pipework pressure, lubricant compatibility and leak containment (particularly in the case of Propane or CO₂).

4. Replace with a new installation - This is a surprisingly cost-effective option.

HOW CAN A NEW SYSTEM BE CHEAPER?

Any R22-based air conditioning system is at least 10 years old so will employ obsolete fixed-speed compressor technology. A modern, digital inverter-controlled replacement will bring significant ongoing energy savings and CO₂ reductions of up to 60%, delivering rapid payback.

Secondly, a number of manufacturers have introduced 'Replacement Technology' enabling the original pipework to be reused, greatly simplifying the installation and reducing disruption to a building's occupiers or damage to its finishes.

New air conditioning is also far less likely to suffer breakdowns and the associated costs of downtime and repairs. It will also often offer the added benefit of a manufacturer-backed multi-year warranty.

An often overlooked further benefit is that most modern air conditioning systems incorporate heat pump technology, thereby enabling them to provide clean, highly energy-efficient winter heating as well as comfort cooling in the summer.

Finally, the Government's aim of radically reducing the UK's CO₂ emissions has led to the introduction of the Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme (www.etl.decc.gov.uk). This enables companies replacing an existing air conditioning system with a more energy-efficient installation to offset the entire cost of the project against taxable profits.

OUR COMMITMENT

At Andrews Air Conditioning Services we are experts in the design, installation and repair of all types of fixed air conditioning systems, combining a full nationwide capability with the kind of friendly and cost-effective service you might expect from much smaller companies. Andrews Air Conditioning is a subsidiary of Andrews Sykes Plc, the UK's largest specialist provider of temporary and permanent temperature control, air treatment and fluid pumping services, so you can be sure we have the expertise and resources to match our reputation.

If you are a building owner or occupier concerned about meeting your environmental responsibilities, Andrews Air Conditioning offers free, impartial advice to help you develop an effective R22 replacement programme.