

insider info.

Refrigerant Substitution Warning

At this time no OE Automotive or Mobile Air Conditioner Manufacturers recommend the use of alternative refrigerants (e.g. FREEZE 12 or FRIGC FR12). More importantly, the vehicle manufacturer's warranty will be void if refrigerants other than the ones intended (R12 and R134a) are used.

There are potential cross contamination problems caused by different refrigerants that are not mixable:

- Permanent refrigerant recovery machine damage.
- Containers of contaminated refrigerant that cannot legally be reused.
- New refrigerants cannot be vented into the atmosphere because they are still listed as potential ozone depleters.
- Disposal fees for getting rid of the contaminated substances.
- New refrigerants cannot be recycled with the current recycling systems dedicated for R12 and R134a.
- No leak detection devices for alternative refrigerants are available at this time.

Dealer technicians and sublet shops repairing A/C systems must be aware of customers who may have A/C systems that are contaminated with mixes of products which can be dangerous, as well as destructive to expensive recovery and recycling machinery.

Refrigerant contamination has been labeled as "the plague," because once you receive contaminated refrigerant, you can potentially contaminate vehicles that were not contaminated previously.

To avoid the costly consequences, the manufacturers of Subaru air conditioning systems recommend the purchase of refrigerant identifiers. Such devices are available through Robinair and Nuetronics, as well as other refrigerant tool suppliers.

Note: One extremely important feature of one of the refrigerant identifiers is the ability to alert the technician of a flammable substance in the A/C.