

Homeowner News

News & Information For The Customers Of Coomes Air

Spring, 2008

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Freon[®] is Going, Going, (Almost) Gone

After 2009, production of air conditioners using Freon[®] will cease.

Freon[®] is the trade name DuPont[™] uses for Refrigerant 22, or R-22. For decades, R-22 has been the primary refrigerant used in residential air conditioners. R-22 is a hydrochlorofluorocarbon. If you think that's a mouthful, others agree. We abbreviate it as HCFC.

HCFCs use chlorine, which has been ruled by the *Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer* as a threat to the ozone layer. Thus, the primary refrigerant we've relied upon for residential air conditioning over the last 50 years is disappearing. Fortunately, there is a replacement.

R-410a has emerged as the refrigerant of choice for the future. It is not a direct substitute with R-22. The chemicals and oils are incompatible. Replacing an R-22 air conditioner with an R-410a air conditioner requires a full replacement of all components. Of course, with last year's 30% increase in minimum air conditioner efficiency, any old system requires a replacement of all components, including those found inside and outside the home.

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April Showers bring May flowers and May Day!



To celebrate the return of spring, children in England dance around tall poles, called maypoles, decorated with ribbons. Their dancing wraps the ribbons tightly around the pole.

Buffalo Chicken Dip

This creamy dip tastes just like buffalo chicken wings. It's best served hot with crackers and Celery sticks. Everyone loves the results!

Ingredients:

- 2 (10 ounce) cans chunk chicken, drained
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup Ranch dressing
- 3/4 cup pepper sauce, we prefer-Hooters Original Wing Sauce (Hot)
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 bunch celery, cleaned and cut into 4 inch pieces
- 1 (8 ounce) box chicken-flavored crackers, (we use chicken in a biscuit)



Directions:

Heat chicken and hot sauce in a skillet over medium heat, until heated through. Stir in cream cheese and ranch dressing. Cook, stirring until well blended and warm. Mix in half of the shredded cheese, and transfer the mixture to a slow cooker. Sprinkle the remaining cheese over the top, cover, and cook on Low setting until hot and bubbly. Serve with celery sticks and crackers. Takes about 30 minutes to prepare.



How To Buy Houseplants

- Buy your houseplants from nurseries where you will not only find better quality plants, but better care for the plants in their inventory, and professional advice. Ask the professionals about the best plants for your growing conditions (e.g., exposed to northern light, corner location, etc.).
- Don't be afraid to grow your own plants from seed. This can save money and is quite rewarding.
- When houseplants have insects, they often came with the purchase. Check the underside of leaves carefully before purchase.
- Ask when a new shipment of plants is scheduled. If you can arrive the day of the shipment, you will get a better selection of higher quality plants.
- If you have children or pets, make sure you select plants that will survive being bumped and that are non-toxic if ingested.
- Quarantine new plants for a week or two to ensure they are not diseased and will not affect other plants in your home.

Or call us and we'll provide them with a free subscription and give you a \$10 gift certificate!

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Homeowner News

The Homeowner News is a quarterly publication of Coomes Air. It is provided to our customers free of charge. We welcome your suggestions and ideas. Contact us at:

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Freon[®] is going, going, (almost) gone (cont. from page 1)

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Manufacturers will still be able to produce R-22 for servicing existing systems, but the production quantities will be dramatically reduced. After next year, the production will be limited to 25% of the 1996 production levels.

It was projected that the existing stock of R-22, combined with limited production would be sufficient for servicing existing systems. This assumed that contractors were diligent about recovering, reclaiming, and recycling refrigerant.

In years past, R-22 was so inexpensive, that technicians simply vented it to the atmosphere when servicing equipment and replaced it with new refrigerant. Not only is that expensive today, it's illegal. There are steep fines for venting R-22.

Yet, some contractors must be venting because the stock of recycled R-22 is below projections. For the record, Coomes Air technicians *always* recover and reclaim refrigerant. It's irresponsible to do otherwise.

How A Shortage Impacts You

The looming shortage does not mean we will run out of refrigerant in the near term. It means that prices will increase until demand balances supply. In other words, R-22 will still be available, but the price will increase.

This won't affect you unless your air conditioner leaks. It shouldn't. Air conditioning systems are closed loop systems. Absent leaks, they will not require additional refrigerant. You should not need to "fill up" the air conditioner with refrigerant every year.

Preventing Leaks

Air conditioners are mechanical systems.

To operate efficiently, they require maintenance.

The same maintenance will also reduce the possibility that your air conditioner will develop a refrigerant leak. If you

have not had your air conditioner tuned-up this year, schedule it right away. You will save more on utilities from a well-running air conditioner than you will spend on the tune-up.

Even well-maintained systems can develop leaks from time to time. These should be fixed immediately. Refrigerant leaks will not only will it hurt the ozone layer, they will hurt your wallet.

If the leak cannot be fixed, the air conditioner should be replaced with one of the new models that uses an alternative refrigerant.

Alternative Refrigerants

The air conditioning industry has settled on R-410a as a replacement for R-22. It's a good refrigerant, but is incompatible with R-22. We cannot simply substitute it for R-22. The entire system must be replaced.

The new R-410a air conditioners operate under higher pressures, which means special training is required to install and service them (all of our technicians have received this training).

You might be surprised how efficient these air conditioners are. If your air conditioning system is more than 15 years old, it's possible that we can cut your cooling costs in half with one of these new systems. Call us at 972-296-2604 and we'll prepare a complementary analysis showing how much you can save. We can also improve your indoor air quality and solve any comfort problems (e.g., one room is always too hot or cold).



**\$300
TRADE-IN**

Homeowner News Readers...

If you have an old R-22 air conditioner, show us this newsletter and we will give you a \$300 trade-in towards a new Maytag R-410a system. Offer ends May 31, 2008. We also offer 12 months same as cash financing (wac). Call 972.296.2604 today! .

How to Bring Sky-High Utility Bills Back Down to Earth

Summer's almost here, and that means...

Your air conditioner is about to get cranked up and running at full speed. And your utility company is getting ready to send you monthly love notes, seeking practically every extra dollar you earn.

So, what can you do and how can we help?

In this business, we follow a simple philosophy: you've got to give to get. The way that works around here is like this – if we give your system a full tune up, you get reduced energy use and improved home comfort.

But time is of the essence. We must get to your system before summer sets in and starts wreaking havoc on your utility bills. Call us for...

Complete 50+ point inspection and adjustment to restore your cooling system to factory specs. What's the #1 cause of equipment failure? Dirt and lack of maintenance. It's worth every penny of our normal \$99 price.

Repair-Free Guarantee. If you need any repairs this Summer, I'll refund every single penny of your tune-up! (Fine Print: Summer is May-August. To be eligible for refund, repairs must be made by us.)

And all for only \$79. To get this great deal, give us a call right away. Because we can't perform your SuperTune at this price after May 31, 2008. The summer will be here, with no reason to discount. **Call (972) 296-2604 now!**



The Corner

How To Know You're Getting Older

10. You stop looking forward to your next birthday.
9. You know all the answers, but nobody asks the questions.
8. Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
7. Dialing long distance wears you out.
6. Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work anyway.
5. Your children begin to look middle-aged.
4. You remember this week that last week was your wedding anniversary.
3. You turn out the lights for economic reasons rather than romantic ones.
2. The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.
1. You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

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\$300 Trade-In on a new 410a system!

79.95 Pre-Season Tune Up Special!

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Air Conditioning

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