



R-22 is Now Expected to Run Out in 2022—Develop a Plan for Your Equipment ASAP.

Following the EPA's phaseout of R-22—which halted all future production and import of the refrigerant beginning in 2020—suppliers were predicting their stockpiles, combined with properly recovered or reclaimed refrigerant from contractors, would be sufficient for servicing R-22 for years to come. *But recent reassessments state that R-22 may be completely unavailable in 2022.*

Next Steps for Equipment Owners

To help eliminate the risk refrigerant shortages pose to your facility, it is important to develop a plan for your R-22 equipment. We begin by helping you assess your systems and update your equipment list—so that you have the information necessary to make decisions around prioritization and funding—before offering guidance around replacement, conversion, and emergency solutions.

Developing a Proactive Strategy

We work with clients to develop forward-thinking plans, customized to their equipment and facility needs. Typically, this includes **three elements**:

1. Replacement:

For most equipment, the best choice is to replace the unit as soon as funding allows, ideally before 2025 when new refrigerant regulations will lead to increased costs. We can help assess your systems and prioritize replacements based on age, condition, and application.

2. Proactive Conversion:

For certain critical equipment—where any downtime presents a significant problem—we recommend proactive refrigerant conversion to help manage potential risk. Equipment that utilizes large quantities of R-22 may also warrant conversion.

3. Have a Plan for Emergency Conversions:

For equipment that's yet to be replaced or proactively converted from R-22, addressing even minor repairs would also require an emergency refrigerant conversion.

We can help clients assess the many approved R-22 alternatives and identify the refrigerant best suited to their application, balancing conversion costs with impacts to performance. We caution against the use of reported “drop-in” refrigerants, as all alternatives require some system modifications.

Getting Ahead of the Regulatory Changes

We can help you develop a proactive strategy for phasing R-22 out of your HVAC systems, allowing you to make informed, cost-effective decisions about whether equipment should be replaced, converted, or repaired.

We can also guide you through other regulatory changes designed to reduce the use of refrigerants with higher global warming potential (GWP), including the HFC phasedown, beginning in 2022.

BENEFITS OF REPLACING R-22 EQUIPMENT

All R-22 equipment is nearing the end of its useful life, and replacing aging equipment proactively has a number of benefits:

- » Improved system reliability resulting in lower repair costs
- » Enhanced functionality available from new equipment
- » Reduction in energy use
- » Reduction in carbon emissions
- » Lower equipment costs
- » Lower cost of installation, avoiding emergency replacement charges

