



Information supplied by the
Australian Refrigeration Council Ltd



Australian Government

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FACTSHEET

What are you doing with your contaminated or unusable refrigerant?

Under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas management Regulations 1995, it is a requirement for the refrigeration and air conditioning industry to recover, return and safely dispose of ozone depleting and synthetic greenhouse gas refrigerants.

- To enable the recovery process, the industry created Refrigerant Reclaim Australia (RRA) to establish and develop an Australia-wide program to take back used and unwanted refrigerant in order to prevent its emission into the atmosphere
- When you return recovered refrigerant to a wholesaler they weigh and decant it into large cylinders and collect a rebate to you, paid for by the RRA
- RRA then arranges for the refrigerant to be collected from the wholesaler, tested and then destroyed using the plasma-arc process that transforms it into salts and water.

**RRA recovers only non-flammable, non-toxic refrigerants. Returning other material involves serious safety issues and could lead to severe injury or death for contractors or wholesalers.*

How to Dispose of Refrigerant

If you are a contractor or tradesperson and need to dispose of contaminated or unusable refrigerant follow the four easy steps below:

- Rent, buy or take on deposit a recovery cylinder from a refrigeration gas wholesaler
- Use the cylinder to recover used and contaminated refrigerants from systems serviced*
- Drop full cylinders into the refrigeration wholesaler, who weighs recovered refrigerant
- Take back emptied or new cylinders from wholesaler
- Collect credit for each kilo of recovered refrigerants.

Before decanting to RRA supplied cylinders the Recovered Refrigerant must first be tested for flammable substances using suitable gas analyzer.

When the refrigerant gas analyzer indicates a level of 5% or greater Hydrocarbon and/or 40% or greater flammable HCFC/HFC/HFO, Recovered Refrigerant must only be decanted into an approved cylinder suitable for flammable refrigerants using apparatus and equipment appropriately rated for use with flammable refrigerants.

Hydrocarbon refrigerant include: R290 – Propane, R600 – butane, R600a – Isobutane.

Flammable HCFC/HFC/HFO refrigerants include: R32, R40, R142b, R143a, R152a, R1234yf, R1234ze.

For more information visit www.refrigerantreclaim.com.au or call Refrigerant Reclaim Australia on (02) 6230 5244.

