HCFCs and the Ozone Layer

The stratospheric ozone layer shields the Earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation. Emissions of certain synthetic chemicals—including CFCs, halons, and HCFCs—destroy the ozone layer, and have created an "ozone hole" over the South Pole.

Through the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer*, the United States committed to a collaborative, international effort to regulate and phase out ozone-depleting substances. While the US phased out of CFCs and halons in the mid 90's, we now must reduce HCFC consumption in a step-wise fashion.

Phaseout of R-22 and R142b

HCFC-22 (also called R-22) and HCFC-142b are the next two HCFCs that the United States will phase out. The schedule to phase out HCFCs is:

January 1, 2010
Ban on production, import and use of HCFC-22 and HCFC-142b, except for continuing servicing needs of existing equipment

January 1, 2015
Ban on production, import, and use of all HCFCs, except for continuing servicing needs of refrigeration equipment

January 1, 2020
Ban on remaining production and import of HCFC-22 and HCFC-142b. After 2020, the servicing of systems with R-22 will rely on recycled or stockpiled quantities

January 1, 2030
Ban on remaining production and import of all HCFCs

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Ozone Web Site
http://www.epa.gov/ozone/
EPA Stratospheric Ozone Information Hotline
1.800.296.1996

ENERGY STAR Web Site
http://www.energystar.gov/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 6205J
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460-0001

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Disclaimer:
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Phasing Out HCFC Refrigerants To Protect The Ozone Layer

What you need to know when *servicing or replacing an air conditioner* in your home

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency