

ADVERTORIAL

# Cool air conditioning choices

## Save money and the environment

Air conditioning is cool. But did you know that a poorly purchased and installed air conditioner which leaks refrigerant will need to work harder and results in increased running costs and damage to the environment?

### AIR CONDITIONING IN YOUR HOME

It is important that you purchase an air conditioner that is the right size for your home and your needs. If it is too small it will need to work extra hard, shortening its life and costing you money. If it is too big it may cause the system to cycle on and off more than it should, increasing wear and tear and running costs.

When it comes to fluorocarbon refrigerated air conditioning systems, only ARC-licensed technicians are legally allowed to install and maintain the air conditioners. Technicians licensed through the ARC are appropriately qualified to do the job. To determine whether you're A/C system uses a fluorocarbon refrigerant, refer to its product manual or contact the supplier/manufacturer.

To identify an ARC licensed technician or an authorised business, look for the Tick or AU number (E.g. AU 22401) on advertising, or ask to see their Refrigerant Handling Licence card. The card will tell you what services they are entitled to perform. Some licences allow only installation/decommissioning of split system A/C while others cover all air conditioning services.

### BUYING AN AIR CONDITIONER? CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

- Type of home - brick, weatherboard, cladding etc.
- Insulation
- Floors – are they covered e.g. with carpet or bare e.g. floorboards?
- Windows – which direction do they face, are they tinted, double glazed?
- Number and size of rooms that you want cooled
- Energy efficiency. Look at the Energy Rating label. The more stars, the more energy efficient

- Discuss installation with your salesperson. If they have installers, ask if they are ARC-licensed. If they don't provide installation, you can find licensed technicians near you at [www.lookforthetick.com.au](http://www.lookforthetick.com.au)



Always use ARC licensed technicians to install and service refrigerated air conditioners

### Air conditioning in your car

If your car's air conditioner isn't cooling as it should, it may be losing refrigerant and require re-gassing. The problem needs to be diagnosed and, if a leak is evident, must be repaired before the air conditioner is re-gassed. Topping up an air conditioner which is leaking fluorocarbon refrigerant, without first repairing the leak, is illegal.

Technicians with an ARC Automotive Air Conditioning licence will be able to advise what sort of refrigerant your car's air conditioner uses. And only individuals with Automotive Air Conditioning licence can legally handle fluorocarbon refrigerant in the service or repair of your car's air conditioner.

### Tips to keep your car's air conditioner running cool include:

- **Run the air conditioner for a few minutes every couple of months. This will help to keep the system lubricated and all the parts running smoothly.**
- **Keep the windows closed when your air conditioner is on.**

• **Get your your vehicle's A/C serviced regularly by a technician with an ARC Automotive Air Conditioning licence. A poorly maintained A/C can increase your fuel use costing you money.**

### Why is leaking refrigerant bad for the environment?

Just 1kg of fluorocarbon refrigerant leaking into the atmosphere has the same greenhouse gas impact as two tonnes of carbon dioxide. This is the equivalent of driving a family sedan for six months!

If emitted into the atmosphere, the fluorocarbon refrigerant gas contained in most air conditioners can be extremely harmful to the environment as it contributes to global warming and may damage the ozone layer. The use of fluorocarbon is regulated by the Australian Government's Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995.