

# ELECTRONIC DETECTORS ZERO IN ON LEAKS

Like opinionated mother-in-laws, refrigerant leaks are an unfortunate – but inevitable – part of life. Fortunately, making quick use of an electronic leak detector at the beginning of a service call can save time and hassle in finding and repairing them (the leaks – you are on your own with the mother-in-law).

Why use an electronic leak detector? While other methods like a vacuum leak test or pressure decay test can identify a leak, they only confirm its presence – but cannot pinpoint its origin. In contrast, an electronic leak detector tells you exactly where the leak is coming from.

If you suspect a leak, follow these four easy steps to get your operator back in the cab:

1. **Use the electronic leak detector during the initial inspection.** For many, the first instinct is to recover the refrigerant before getting to work. But emptying the refrigerant will make it difficult to detect a leak. Instead, test for leaks right away before moving on to other areas.
2. **Read the instructions.** It sounds simple, but reading the instructions of your electronic leak detector is crucial, as slight differences between sensors can impact the accuracy of your reading, identifying the key features and settings – such as the default sensitivity, the recommended distance from the area being tested and how quickly you should move the sensor – right away can save you a big headache later on.
3. **Adjust the sensitivity.** Start on a low-to-medium setting to avoid false readings, and then adjust if necessary.
4. **Keep moving.** Do not hold the detector still over one area for too long – this might cause it to recalibrate, affecting the accuracy of your reading. Refer to the instructions for the recommended speed of motion for your particular sensor.

