

TIPS FOR HANDLING REFRIGERANT

It is never a bad time to remind technicians about care and safety around refrigerants. Here are three tips to pass along:

1. **Exposure to refrigerant can irritate the eyes, nose and throat, and contact with R-134a in liquid form can cause frostbitten skin.** Wear safety glasses and use non-leather gloves (refrigerant can freeze skin where it contacts leather).
2. **Test for hydrocarbon blends.** Sold as cheap substitutes for R-134a, hydrocarbon blends may contain propane, isobutene, and other flammable gases. Keep cigarettes out of the shop and check for system leaks before doing any job that requires an ignition source (or may generate one).
3. **Dedicate equipment.** When servicing R-134a, R-12 and 1234yf systems, tools that come into contact with refrigerant (such as charging equipment and gauge sets) must be dedicated to one refrigerant or cross-contamination can occur.

