

e-advantage



An A/C PM Routine Anyone Can Do

There are two things every truck or equipment owner believes about A/C: repairs are expensive and you can't do the work yourself.

Generally, that's true. But it doesn't take special tools or skills to perform a basic A/C inspection and identify problems before they turn into major repairs. If you sell to fleets and equipment owners, pass along this list of PM items anyone can do:

- Check cab air filters for dust, hair, carpet fibers, and other contaminants. Dirt can restrict air flow and interfere with the evaporator core. Vacuum away dirt if necessary and replace the filter annually.
- Inspect the coolant hose. With the system off, squeeze the hose near the end, between your thumb and fingers, to gauge its firmness. Feel for scruffs, gouges, bulges, abrasions, moisture, or excess dirt and grime, especially around fittings, clamps, and connections. Replace a hose that's spongy or showing signs of wear.
- Carefully remove dust, bugs, mud, and other debris from the condenser fins and tubes. Use a fin comb, compressed air, or soap and water.

Don't use a high-pressure hose, which can damage fins and disrupt the airflow across the condenser.

- Check the sight glass on the drier's moisture indicator. A blue dot means the refrigerant is dry; pink, white, or grey indicates acid or moisture in the system. In general, the drier should be replaced once a year or every time the A/C system is opened. Mark the installed date on the new drier so it's easy to see.
- Locate the compressor. With the system off, feel for oil or dirt around the shaft seal and for glazing or cracking on the belts. At the same time, look for discoloration on the face of the clutch hub. Any one of these is a sign of heat or potential failure and should be checked by a qualified A/C technician.
- Every vehicle needs to have its oil changed so make A/C inspections part of that routine. Whether it's done by the mile, by the month,



or by the operating hour, use oil-change intervals as an opportunity to perform a basic visual check of the compressor and belt-drive system, condensers, receiver-driers, expansion valve, evaporators, and other components.

- Opening the system for A/C repair is not a do-it-yourself job. An A/C technician can perform a manifold gauge check and, if necessary, test for leaks, recharge the system, and replace the receiver drier.

Your Red Dot catalog has a PM schedule (or you can download one [here](#)). It's important to see a qualified technician for any repair or annual inspection, but anyone can perform basic PM throughout the year—and prevent downtime and costly repairs in the process.

Red Dot News

Yellow Jacket 'Direct'

Our direct-ship program with Ritchie Engineering gives you access to the entire line of Yellow Jacket service tools and equipment at competitive prices—everything from refrigerant filters to sniffers to complete recovery and recycling units.

Here's how to take advantage of Yellow Jacket Direct:

1. Download a credit application and send it to Ritchie Engineering. Upon credit approval, you'll have a direct account with special pricing on Yellow Jacket products.
2. Terms of sale are net 30 days (1% discount on net 15 days). No service charge if account is paid within terms.
3. Prepaid freight applies to orders valued at \$2,500 or more placed within the continental U.S. destined to one location (excluding Alaska and Hawaii). Ritchie reserves the right to control the routing.

MANUFACTURING CAPABILITIES

Bruce Channer to Retire

Bruce Channer, our CFO, vice president, and a key member of our senior management team for nearly 47 years, announced that he will retire effective June 30.

"I could retire at the end of a calendar year but then the days are shorter, my grandkids are in school, it's rainy, and the fly-fishing isn't any good," Bruce says. "I'm looking forward to a summer at the cabin with my grandkids."

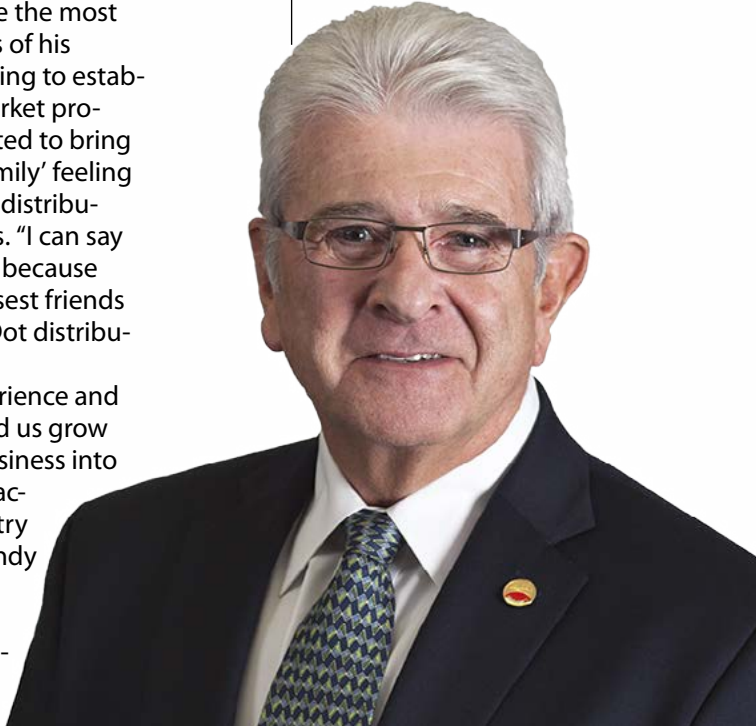
For Bruce, one the most rewarding parts of his career was helping to establish our aftermarket program. "We wanted to bring the Red Dot 'family' feeling to a network of distributors," Bruce says. "I can say we had success because some of my closest friends today are Red Dot distributors."

"Bruce's experience and foresight helped us grow from a small business into a global manufacturer and industry leader," said Randy Gardiner, chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Red Dot. "He's

guided the company virtually every step of the way and his contributions cannot be overstated."

Bruce, 67, and his wife, Sheryl, live in West Seattle where they are involved in numerous church and community groups, including the West Seattle Lions Club and the YMCA.

Bruce's retirement is part of a succession plan at Red Dot. A new CFO will be announced this month.



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Need to reach someone in customer service but not sure who?

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Add it to your address book. Your email will reach all of us in aftermarket customer service.

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All times are in the Pacific Time Zone