PLAN AHEAD AS HVAC REGULATIONS ARE CHANGING. THE R-22 “FREON” PHASEOUT: WHAT IS IT, AND WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Homeowners with older air conditioning systems may soon be facing a difficult choice: replace their entire air conditioning system or to continue to pursue increasingly costly and hard-to-find R22 refrigerant when it’s time for AC service. Standards for types of refrigerants used in air conditioning repair and maintenance are changing. The most common and least expensive refrigerant will soon be phased out. When the phase-out is complete in 2020 (next year!), R22 refrigerant will no longer be available.

R22 refrigerant, sometimes known as R22 Freon or HCFC-22 Freon, is an environmental danger because it contributes to the depletion of the ozone layer. The U.S. government has placed restrictions on R22 and has issued the requirement that R22 refrigerant must be eliminated from use in cooling systems by the year 2020. At this point, R22 will no longer be manufactured and cannot be used as a refrigerant in new air conditioning systems. R22 is being replaced by R-410A, a safer material which is the current, compliant standard refrigerant in air conditioning equipment.

At John Nugent & Sons, we make it our business to provide clients with affordable, professional services and solutions. Our mission is to keep your air conditioners working properly and reliably, and to save you stress and money. Contact John Nugent & Sons to have a comfort specialist come out to speak with you about your options for replacement.

It’s Not All Bad News!

Any system installed before 2010 is likely to be using R-22, while more recent systems could be using alternatives. But if you know that you’re using R-22, there are some things you need to be aware of going forward. The price of R-22 has skyrocketed in the past decade, and it is scarce already.

This is not all bad news! In fact, you stand to gain substantially from replacing soon. The available alternatives for R-22 use more modern technology and options like R410a have already shown advantages in system efficiency and performance. Add in the fact that an AC system installed 10+ years ago is already approaching the due date for a replacement, and you’re in a solid position to replace your air conditioner at just the right time ... and just in time.