



If you have older HVAC equipment that uses R-22 refrigerant (Freon), it is worth knowing that it is in the process of a worldwide phaseout. As of January 1, 2020, R-22 will no longer be produced or imported due to its harmful effects on the ozone layer. After 2020, only recovered, recycled or reclaimed R-22 will be available. Taking a proactive approach to the situation going forward, there are basically three options:

OPTION 1

CONTINUE WITH EXISTING SYSTEM

UPSIDE	DOWNSIDE
Least expensive in the short term—if your system is under eight years old, free of refrigerant leaks, properly maintained, and operating well.	Regular inspections, preventive maintenance and coil cleaning are imperative
	R-22 will become more and more expensive and harder to obtain the closer it gets to Jan 2020
	Availability of recovered, recycled, and reclaimed R-22 will impact its pricing
	Could face long waits for an emergency replacement
	Even if leak free, costly repairs might not make sense for an older system

OPTION 2

RETROFIT EXISTING SYSTEM TO USE A NEW REFRIGERANT

UPSIDE	DOWNSIDE
Delays the expense of replacement Might make sense for equipment that's still in good condition	Technical limitations may prohibit a retrofit
Less expensive repairs that require refrigerant New refrigerant (MO99) will not be as expensive in the short term.	Comfort may be compromised Retrofits can reduce the cooling capacity of the system
	Higher energy costs Loss in cooling capacity—longer run times for equipment, increasing energy needs and driving up electric bills
	Could void the manufacturer's warranty Some not supporting the use of new refrigerants in equipment that were designed to use R-22



OPTION 2

REPLACE EQUIPMENT WITH AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT SYSTEM THAT USES NEW REFRIGERANTS

UPSIDE	DOWNSIDE
Eliminates the risk of an expensive emergency repair	Expense. Especially if your system seems to be working fine, even though it is aging
Less expensive repairs that require refrigerant New refrigerant will not be as expensive in the short term.	
Won't get stuck without air conditioning If you replace proactively, you can replace on your own schedule.	
New systems are more energy efficient and less expensive to operate.	
Discontinuing use of R-22 is the environmentally responsible thing to do.	

