



2025  
spring home & garden  
improvement

# spring home improvement

## Homeowners' Handbook NAVIGATING NEW HVAC REFRIGERANTS

(Family Features) Homeowners may not realize it, but one compound impacts their lives nearly every day: refrigerant. Capable of transforming from liquid to gas and back again, it absorbs and transfers heat as a key part of air conditioning and heat pump systems that keep you comfortable no matter the weather.

As part of your air conditioner or heat pump system, it helps transfer heat and humidity out of your home for cooling or draws heat from outdoor air and brings it inside for heating. However, while concerns about climate change heat up, gov-



ernment leaders are enacting policies that enforce greater control over the anticipated global warming potential (GWP) of refrigerants.

In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is limiting the GWP of refrigerants in equipment

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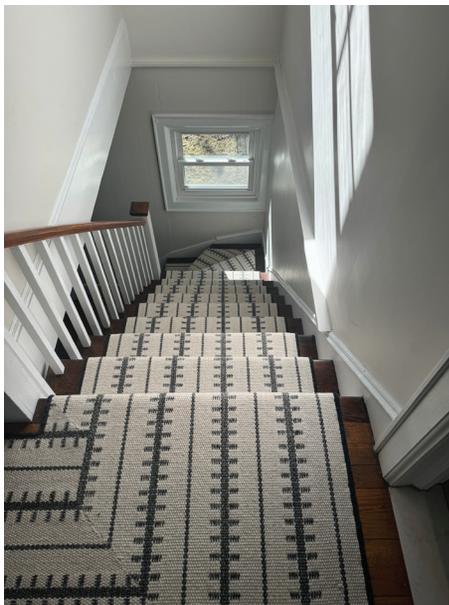
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### Homeowners' Handbook NAVIGATING NEW HVAC REFRIGERANTS

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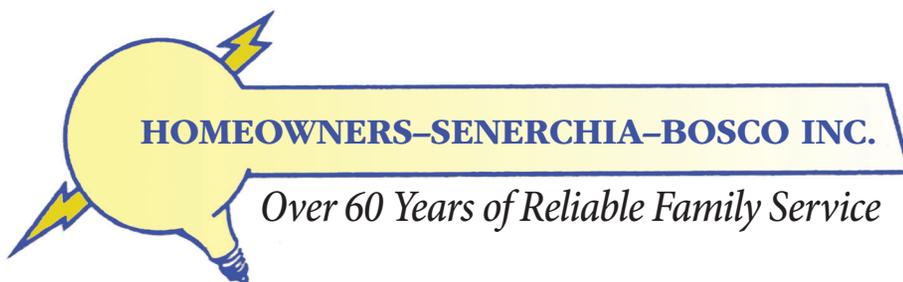
starting in 2025. At the same time, the EPA is implementing a phasedown on the supply of existing, higher GWP refrigerants.

The changes include a phasedown of high-GWP refrigerants commonly used in home air conditioning and refrigeration, introduction of alternative refrigerants with lower GWP that maintain efficiency and requiring manufacturers to comply with new standards for energy efficiency and environmental impact.

Despite these policy updates, you may not necessarily need a new air conditioner or heat pump. Here's what homeowners need to know, courtesy of the experts at Carrier, a world leader in high-technology heating, air conditioning and refrigeration solutions:



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### Environmental Awareness and the Impact on Existing Home Systems

Transitioning away from high-GWP refrigerants contributes positively toward reducing your carbon footprint. These anticipated changes aim not only at reducing environmental impact but also at promoting technological advancements in heating and cooling solutions that benefit both consumers and the planet over time. If you have an existing system using older refrigerants like R-22 or R-410A, it can still be serviced; however, it's possible repair costs may increase due to reduced availability.

### Maintenance and Servicing

Regular maintenance becomes more crucial as systems age. Ensure your HVAC technician is knowledgeable about the new requirements and safely handling different types of refrigerants.

### Considerations for New Purchases

When purchasing a new air conditioner or heat pump, be sure to check for energy efficiency ratings that align with the updated regulations and look for models using low-GWP refrigerants. For example, Puron Advance from Carrier will replace existing refrigerants in all its residential ducted and ductless and light commercial products. This innovative refrigerant, also known as R-454B, not only meets the EPA's anticipated GWP limits for refrigerants but exceeds the new requirements with a GWP of 466, a 75% reduction compared to R-410A.

### Incentives and Rebates

If you're shopping for a new air conditioner or heat pump, keep an eye out for government incentives or rebates aimed at encouraging homeowners to upgrade their systems in compliance with new standards.

### Consult Professionals

Owning a home is a lot of work on its own, and EPA regulations on your cooling and heating systems may be the furthest thing from your mind. If you believe you're due for service or a new system, engage HVAC professionals – like the trusted experts at Carrier – who are up to date on regulatory

changes. Always check local regulations for specific details applicable in your area since policies can vary by region beyond federal guidelines.

To find more information on the changes or connect with an HVAC professional, visit [Carrier.com/Residential](http://Carrier.com/Residential).



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