

# comfortable LIVING

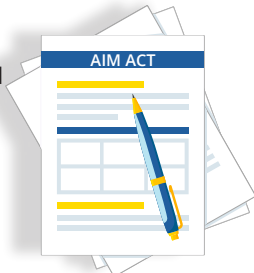


## New Refrigerant Regulations: What Homeowners Need to Know

It's finally here. The **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** has introduced new refrigerant regulations aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. What does this mean for you? These regulations mean manufacturers are phasing out certain kinds of hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants used most commonly in air conditioning and refrigeration systems.

Research has shown these particular HFCs, particularly R410A, may contribute to global warming when released into the atmosphere, so they've been banned. In other words, new HVAC systems will now be required to use products with other, more advanced formulations.

According to the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act that was signed into law in 2020, R410A and similar high GWP (Global Warming Potential) production is to



be reduced 85% by 2036. Whether or not that happens remains to be seen, but homeowners with existing HVAC systems and those planning new installations should take note. Cost, maintenance, and environmental impact of home cooling systems will all be affected.

### Transition to Eco-Friendly Alternatives

As you might expect, the transition away from older HFCs has led to the introduction of eco-friendly refrigerants like R32 and R454B, both of which have been rated as HFCs with lower Global Warming Potential (GWP) values than their predecessors. New HVAC systems may use one of these newer refrigerants. Your existing system probably doesn't, however, and for now, that's okay too. However, homeowners should be aware of the change, and that these products

*continued on page 2*

## Inside

**Easy Dump Cake: Angel Food Pineapple Recipe**

**New Refrigerant Regulations: What Homeowners Need to Know**

**Pets and Air Quality**

**Joke Time**

**Winter Mystery Message**

**Coupons**





# Joke Time!

Q: Why did the coffee file a police report?

A: Because it was mugged!

Q: What happens when it rains cats and dogs?

A: You have to be careful not to step on a poodle.

Q: What happens when you cross a shark with a snowman?

A: Frostbite!



*New Refrigerant Regulations continued from page 1*

are more flammable than their predecessors, which adds complexity and cost to their installation procedure.

### Potential Cost Implications

Unfortunately, with this gradual phase-out of conventional HFCs, the cost of these "older" refrigerants is expected to rise. Homeowners may come up against this added expense when repairing existing air conditioning. And while retrofitting your HVAC to accommodate these new refrigerants may seem like an option, the reality is that it is usually an expensive, impractical process. Ultimately, for most homeowners, replacing an aging system with one that uses low-GWP refrigerants may ultimately be cheaper.

### Maintenance and Safety Considerations

If you're a homeowner with older HVAC, maintain your current equipment to get the most from your heating and cooling. When it is time to replace your system, keep in mind that these newer refrigerants are also more flammable. Insist on a licensed and trained HVAC technician to install and service these newer models. Be sure leak detectors are included to handle the flammability issue.

### Moving Forward



In the coming years, the impact of these new refrigerant regulations will continue to affect both homeowners and HVAC professionals. Stay informed with Air-Tro. We're committed to helping you maintain indoor comfort all year round.

## Pets and Air Quality: Best Practices for Furry Friends

Here at Air-Tro we love pets! And while they offer many health benefits, cats, dogs and other critters present some challenges for those with allergies. But first, let's consider the good things that come with pet ownership:

### Improved Physical Health (for people!)

People with pets walk and engage in active play more often. Petting an animal has been shown to lower blood pressure and reduce stress, as well. People who count a four legged friend as a member of their family have also demonstrated improved cardiovascular health and reduced risk of heart disease.

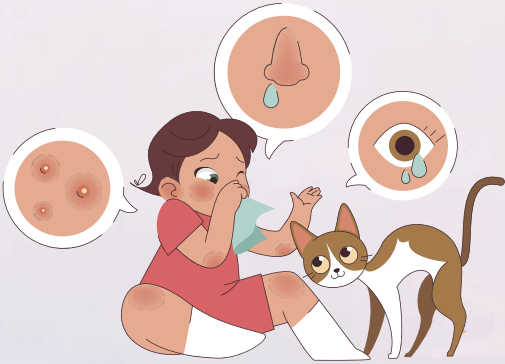
### Improved Mental Health

Studies have shown that interaction with a friendly animal reduces cortisol levels in humans and increases in oxytocin levels.

Owning a pet lessens feelings of loneliness and isolation among at-risk groups, including the elderly. Finally, having the unconditional love of a dog or cat improves a sense of well being, self esteem and overall mood among pet owners.



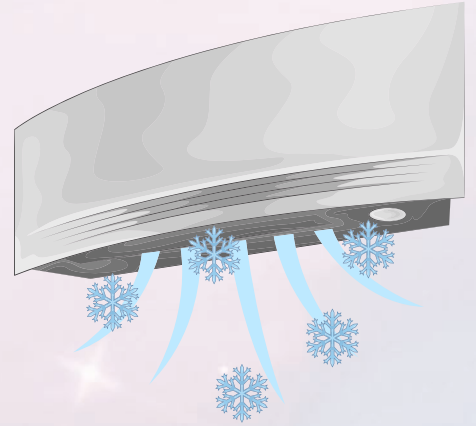
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surfaces regularly where pet dander or hair accumulates: countertops, coffee tables, etc.

**Air Purification**

Consider installing air purification equipment in your central air conditioning system. Ask your HVAC expert for advice on the many options and products available.



**Pet Grooming**

Brush your dog or cat regularly. Special pet food formulations, along with shampoos and sprays for your pet are also available to reduce dander accumulation in the home.

Nevertheless, there is a catch. Fur and dander can be real problems for pet owners and susceptible family members. Managing potential pet allergens is crucial. However, with a little planning, you can mitigate these effects fairly easily.

**Regular cleaning**

Using a vacuum with a HEPA filter makes a real difference. Make sure to wipe



You can take real steps to reduce, if not eliminate these allergens. When you consider how much love comes along with having a dog or cat, we think it's a reasonable trade-off in most cases.

# Winter Mystery Message

Unscramble these words to find a special coded message.

- 1. TSROF  \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. WNEKALOFS \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. TSIAGKNIE \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. TLNEABK \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. HLICL  \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. ETALOCOHCTOH \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. OZEN  \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. RYLFUR \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. GNIKSI \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. NMAWONS \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. RFACS  \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. EILCIC \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. YODLIAH \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. ELCAERPIF \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWER KEY: 1. FROST 2. SNOWFLAKE 3. ICE SKATING 4. BLANKET 5. CHILL 6. HOT CHOCOLATE 7. ZONE 8. FLURRY 9. SKING 10. SNOWMAN 11. SCARF 12. ICICLE 13. HOLIDAY 14. FIREPLACE **CODED MESSAGE: FEEL COZY INSIDE**

# Coupons



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