



**Australian Government**

**Department of Sustainability, Environment,  
Water, Population and Communities**



## FACT SHEET 1

# What are You Doing with Your Contaminated or Unusable Refrigerant?

Under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas management Regulations 1995, it is a requirement for the refrigeration and air conditioning industry to recover, return and safely dispose of ozone depleting and synthetic greenhouse gas refrigerants.

- To enable the recovery process, the industry created Refrigerant Reclaim Australia (RRA) to establish and develop an Australia-wide program to take back used and unwanted refrigerant in order to prevent its emission into the atmosphere
- When you return recovered refrigerant to a wholesaler they weigh and decant it into large cylinders and collect a rebate to you, paid for by the RRA
- RRA then arranges for the refrigerant to be collected from the wholesaler, tested and then destroyed using the plasma-arc process that transforms it into salts and water.

## How to Dispose of Refrigerant

If you are a contractor or tradesperson and need to dispose of contaminated or unusable refrigerant follow the four easy steps below:

- Rent, buy or take on deposit a recovery cylinder from a refrigeration gas wholesaler.
- Use the cylinder to recover used and contaminated refrigerants from systems serviced\*
- Drop full cylinders into the refrigeration wholesaler, who weighs recovered refrigerant
- Take back emptied or new cylinders from wholesaler.
- Collect credit for each kilo of recovered refrigerants.

*\*RRA recovers only non-flammable, non-toxic refrigerants. Returning other material involves serious safety issues and could lead to severe injury or death for contractors or wholesalers.*

For more information visit [www.refrigerantreclaim.com.au](http://www.refrigerantreclaim.com.au) or call Refrigerant Reclaim Australia on (02) 6230 5244.