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# FACTSHEET

## Air conditioners, fridges and refrigerant recovery

### Do the right thing by:

- ✓ the environment
- ✓ your hip pocket
- ✓ the law

If you recycle or crush air conditioners or refrigerators, chances are these systems will still contain fluorocarbon refrigerant gas. To reduce the risk of this gas discharging into the atmosphere you should ensure all refrigerant is recovered from these systems prior to their recycling, repair or destruction.

Do the right thing by:

**The environment** – If released into the atmosphere, fluorocarbon refrigerant gases can damage the ozone layer and contribute to global warming. The ozone layer protects life on earth by absorbing ultra-violet (UV) radiation from the sun. UV radiation is linked to skin cancer, genetic damage and immune suppression in humans and other living organisms.

**Your hip pocket** – Refrigerant contractors currently receive \$3.00 per kilogram for waste Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Synthetic Greenhouse Gases (SGG) recovered and provided to participating Refrigerant Reclaim Australia wholesalers.

**The law** – Discharging fluorocarbon refrigerant is illegal under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* and potential penalties of up to \$132,000 for individuals and \$660,000 for corporations may apply.

**All you need is a licence through the Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC) to legally recover the refrigerant, or you can hire a licensed technician to do the job for you.**

### Do the refrigerant recovery yourself

The Restricted Refrigerant Recoverer Licence (RRRL) is available through the ARC for people wanting to recover fluorocarbon refrigerant from decommissioned systems. A Restricted Refrigerant Trading Authorisation is also required. To [read more and apply for the licence](#), visit [www.arctick.org/RRRL](http://www.arctick.org/RRRL) or call 1300 884 483.

### Hire an ARC-licensed technician to do the job for you

ARC-licensed technicians and authorised businesses have proven themselves qualified and competent to work with fluorocarbon refrigerant gas. By law, anyone wanting to install, repair or decommission refrigerators and air conditioners containing fluorocarbon gas, must hold a licence through the ARC. Visit the [ARC business directory](#) at [www.lookforthetick.com.au](http://www.lookforthetick.com.au) to locate an appropriately licensed person near you.

The Commonwealth *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* and the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995* (the Regulations) control the manufacture, import, export, use and disposal of fluorocarbon refrigerant.

The ARC administers the refrigeration and air conditioning licence scheme on behalf of the Australian Government, and conducts regular investigations of businesses. Inspectors may turn up unannounced and at any time to check that businesses working on or handling air conditioners, fridges and freezers are complying with the law.

Visit [www.arctick.org/RRRL](http://www.arctick.org/RRRL) to find out more about the ARC, refrigerant recovery and the penalties for discharging refrigerant gas.

