

DOC'S BLOCKS
AUTOMOTIVE AIR CONDITIONING REPAIR

Question:

Are replacement compressors shipped with oil in them?

Answer:

There was a time when mineral oil was the only oil used. All compressors were shipped with oil in them. Most were filled with the amount of oil for the system. It was required to drain the oil and reinstall the correct amount into the compressor if only the compressor was being replaced. If the system had been flushed out, this step wasn't necessary.

When R-134a and retrofit came about, three different oils were now in use. The two used with R-134a are synthetic oils.

At that point, most manufacturers started shipping compressors dry of oil. There is a label on the compressor or the box stating that there is no oil.

If a compressor does come through with oil in it, it could be old stock with mineral oil in it. In the case of some remanufacturers, they may be dry or have PAG or Ester oil in them.

Because the oils can't be mixed, it is advised that all compressors should be drained and the oil level be reestablished with the same oil being used in the system. It's important that the system oil level is as accurate as possible.