

DOC'S BLOCKS
AUTOMOTIVE AIR CONDITIONING REPAIR

Question:

Why does a compressor fail after a repair has been made?

Answer:

When the AC system stops delivering cold air isn't when the compressor started to fail. It started some time earlier and the system was being filled with material ground up in the compressor and sent out into the system. This material causes a restriction in the condenser, which causes pressures to rise and further damage the compressor. It isn't long before the compressor locks up.

Was the reason found that caused the compressor to fail in the first place? Was it corrected?

When a compressor fails, the system must be prepared for reservice. After the defective compressor has been removed, the accumulator and/or receiver dryer must be replaced. While these units are off the vehicle, the balance of the unit must be cleaned out. Any foreign material and oil must be flushed out of the system. Just because the system is flushed out doesn't ensure there is not foreign material still stuck in the condenser. Some condensers can't be cleaned out.

Was the proper oil level reestablished?

When the unit is serviced, the proper amount of refrigerant must be installed according to the minimum amount it requires to operate.

The system must be further tested to determine if there are any problems that may cause the new compressor to fail.

Failure to perform these procedures can cause several compressors to fail on the same vehicle. The compressor will lock up, make a lot of noise, or leak. Most of the time it is called a defective compressor.