

*DOC'S BLOCKS*  
**AUTOMOTIVE AIR CONDITIONING REPAIR**

**Question:**

What does burnishing a clutch mean?

**Answer:**

When clutch hubs and pulleys are made, the marks of the machine bits are left in the surface of the mating plates. These are high spots that are similar to LP record grooves or threads that reduce the mating surface of the two pieces.

They can, in some circumstances, cause the clutch to slip. This would cause the clutch to burn up.

Clutches should be burnished before the system is operated.

If charging the system from twelve-ounce cans, put the first can of refrigerant in under its own pressure, then start the engine and burnish the clutch. When using a service center, the entire charge can be installed before the engine is started.

The procedure to burnish the clutch is as follows;

After refrigerant is installed into the system, unplug the wire from the clutch coil if possible, start the engine, and turn the unit on. Then touch the clutch wire to the field coil and release it a few times to allow the clutch to slip and polish its self. If the compressor field coil wires are not accessible, start the engine and turn the AC unit on and off several times to let the clutch polish itself.

Clutches that are not burnished might have the tendency to slip and chirp when first installed. If for some reason the load of the compressor is a little high, the clutch could burn up.