

DOC'S BLOCKS
AUTOMOTIVE AIR CONDITIONING REPAIR

Question:

What must be done to prepare a system for repair?

Answer:

In this day of the retrofit, there are a number of things that should be done to prepare the system for reassembly. There are three different oils in use. Mineral oil is used with R-12, ester or pag oil used with R-134a as well R-12. Mineral oil can't be used with R134a because of the chemical differences between the refrigerant and the oil.

When repair work is being done, there is no knowledge of the type of oil in the system or the amount of oil. Compressors and systems require a specific amount of oil. If over charged, under charged, or the oils mixed, damage could result to the compressor. If the vehicle is five years old or older, it is recommended to replace the dryer. The system should be flushed out with a good solvent type flush. This will remove the oil in the system and if lucky, any foreign material that may be in the system as the results of a compressor failure..

The secret word while working on an AC system is "clean". Be clean and work clean. If not, the system will fail prematurely.

Remember, compressors and dryers can't be flushed out. Replace the dryer and drain the oil from the compressor. If there seems to be dirty oil in the compressor, replace the compressor.

If replacing the compressor, look for a reason the compressor failed.