

REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION

Refrigerant 134a (R-134a) Systems

In effort to avoid the use of CFC refrigerants that may harm the ozone layer of the atmosphere, Ford Motor Company has introduced a new refrigerant system on some 3.0L Taurus vehicles that requires the use of a Non-CFC based refrigerant known as R-134a. This new type of refrigerant has many of the same properties as R-12 and is similar in form and function. However, R-134a is a hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) based refrigerant while R-12 is a chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) based refrigerant. Because of the absence of chlorine in its molecular structure, the use of R-134a refrigerant will not have any harmful effects on the ozone layer of the atmosphere.

Most Taurus/Sable vehicles use A/C systems that require the use of R-12 as a refrigerant. If there are no special R-134a identifying tags on the A/C system components and refrigerant lines, the system requires the use of R-12 refrigerant.

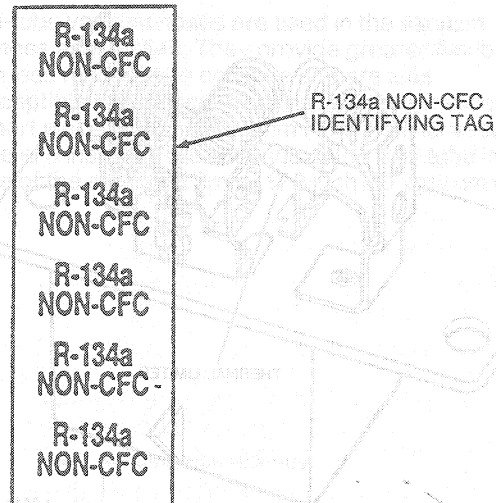
Ford Motor Company has begun producing some 3.0L Taurus vehicles that have new A/C systems requiring the use of R-134a refrigerant. R-134a A/C systems have special service requirements that will be outlined later. R-12 refrigerant and components can only be used in R-12 systems while R-134a refrigerant and components can only be used in R-134a systems.

Identifying R-134a and R-12 Systems

CAUTION: Do not add R-12 refrigerant to an A/C system that requires the use of R-134a refrigerant. Do not add R-134a refrigerant to an A/C system that requires the use of R-12 refrigerant. These two types of refrigerant should never be mixed. Doing so may cause damage to the A/C system.

NOTE: R-134a A/C systems can also be identified by a gold colored A/C compressor clutch and green colored O-rings used throughout the system.

In order to determine which type of A/C system a particular vehicle has, inspect the A/C system major components and refrigerant lines. If the system components have yellow R-134a NON-CFC tags as shown below, it is an R-134a system requiring the use of R-134a refrigerant.



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If the A/C system has any of the R-134a identifying characteristics outlined, R-134a refrigerant is the only type of refrigerant that can be used in the A/C system. If the A/C system is not identified as an R-134a system as previously outlined, it is an R-12 system requiring the use of R-12 refrigerant.

R-134a System Components

CAUTION: R-12 and R-134a components are not interchangeable. Do not replace components from an R-134a system with components for an R-12 system and vice versa. Mixing components from these two types of systems may cause component failure and damage to the A/C system.

The major components of R-134a A/C systems are similar to those used previously on Ford R-12 fixed orifice tube type systems. R-12 and R-134a components are similar in design and function. As a result, all Removal and Installation procedures outlined for R-12 components can be used for R-134a components.

Control Assembly Blower Knob, Manual A/C

Removal and Installation

1. Grasp blower knob and pull it rearward from control assembly bezel.
NOTE: Do not use a sharp instrument to pry the knob off the potentiometer shaft as damage to the surface of the bezel is likely to occur.
2. If the D-shaped spring clip which seats inside back end of knob remains on potentiometer shaft when knob is pulled off, remove it using needlenose pliers.