Chadwell SUPPLY

MULTIFAMILY REFRIGERANT

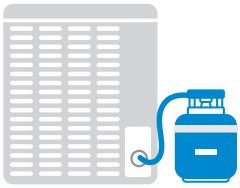
Recover, Recycle, Reclaim?

What's the difference?



These three terms—recover, recycle, reclaim—sometimes create confusion, because they sound similar, and some of the processes overlap. Let's clear up any confusion by defining these terms and walking through how each of them is used in multifamily HVAC.

Recovery is the process of removing refrigerant from a system. The refrigerant is then recycled and put back into the same system or taken to a special processing center to be reclaimed for resale. The key differences between recycling and reclaiming refrigerant are how the refrigerant is processed and who is doing the work. Let's take a closer look at each step.



Recover

Removing refrigerant

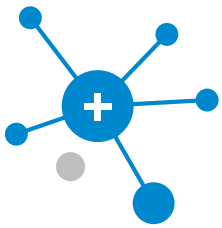
- Recovery simply means removing refrigerant in any condition from a system.
- The refrigerant is stored in a labeled recovery cylinder.
- Recovered refrigerant can either be recycled or reclaimed.



Recycle

Recover, filter, and reuse on-site

- Handled on-site by maintenance teams.
- Recycling is cleaning and drying the refrigerant before reusing it.
- Run the refrigerant through a filter drier to remove oil, moisture, acidity, and other contaminants.
- Recycled refrigerant may be returned to the system it was recovered from or added to another system owned by the same person.



Reclaim

Recover and contact Chadwell Supply for pickup

- Process is completed off-site using special equipment.
- Refrigerant is analyzed and separated into original components.
- Pure refrigerants are cleaned, blended refrigerants are fractionated and cleaned.
- Refrigerant brought back to "new" chemical state is packaged for resale.

What do I do with a full recovery cylinder?

Tank Swap

Order a Tank Swap online or reach out to your Territory Manager. Chadwell Supply will pick up the recovered refrigerant and deliver an empty recovery cylinder.

- Recovery tanks must be labeled
- No mixed refrigerants
- Minimum of 18 lbs. (tare weight)

Don't need a new tank?
Order a swap without the tank.

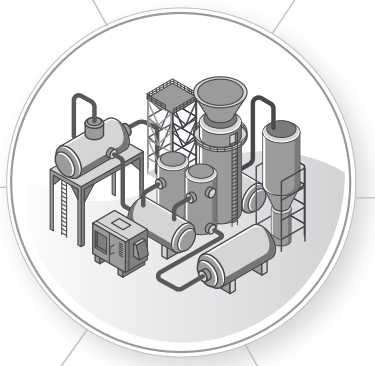
Only need an empty tank?
Order a recovery cylinder.

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The Refrigerant Reclamation Process

From "Recovered" to "Like New"



Stage 1 Recover

- Recover refrigerant from the system
- Store in a properly marked recovery cylinder
- Order a tank swap from Chadwell Supply

Stage 2 Tank Swap

- Chadwell Supply picks up the full tank and delivers an empty recovery cylinder
- Refrigerants must not be mixed
- Required minimum weight 18 lbs.
- Don't need a new tank—order a "tank swap" without a recovery cylinder

Stage 3 Reclaim

- Full recovery cylinders are taken to a processing plant
- Refrigerant is analyzed to determine type and purity
- Pure refrigerants are cleaned and dried
- Blended refrigerants are fractionated (separated into component parts), and each component is cleaned and dried
- Refrigerants are brought up to AHRI Standard 700 specifications
- Refrigerants not fit for resale are properly disposed

Stage 4 Repackage

- Reclaimed refrigerant is packaged for resale
- Refrigerant is sold to suppliers
- Empty recovery cylinders are processed and shipped back to suppliers

Stage 5 Recharge

- Customers purchase refrigerant
- Refrigerant is charged into HVAC systems

Learn more:
ChadwellSupply.com/pk-hvac