



How to troubleshoot Your Air Conditioning

Step 1

Look for leaks in the system. You may have lost refrigerant in the air conditioner due to a leaky compressor or O-ring seal. There may be a leak in the air conditioner hose. Before you recharge the refrigerant, identify the leak and repair it.

Step 2

Attach air conditioner service gauges to determine if the cooling system has adequate pressure. Even if there is adequate refrigerant in the system, low pressure causes problems.

Step 3

Determine if the compressor's magnetic clutch is engaging. This may be a mechanical problem with the clutch, or it may not work because the refrigerant is low. If the clutch works but doesn't turn the compressor, the air conditioner compressor needs replacement.

Step 4

Check for blown fuses. Also, check the wiring. Fixing a blown fuse may only be a temporary fix if you can't resolve the underlying problem.

Step 5

Measure the temperature of the air in the car. If the air conditioner blows cold air for just a little bit, the system has moisture in it and is freezing up.

Step 6

Listen for excessive noise. It's usually the compressor, but it could also be a hose or belt that needs replacement.