

Safety Precautions

The air-conditioning system contains the safety refrigerant R 12. This refrigerant is colorless, and almost odorless. At normal temperatures it is non-poisonous, non-inflammable, and non-explosive when mixed with air in any proportion. In spite of this, the following safety precautions must be observed whenever work is done on the air-conditioning system:

1. Avoid any contact with liquid refrigerant. Skin injuries should be treated in the same manner as frostbite. Wear goggles to protect the eyes. If, in spite of this, refrigerant strikes the eye, consult a doctor immediately.
2. When repairs are carried out on the air-conditioning system, the system must be drained. Vaporized refrigerant must not be discharged in enclosed spaces; it is heavier than air and may cause suffocation by displacing the air in car pits.
3. **By no means** may parts of the system be cleaned with hot steam. Use only nitrogen, refrigerant R 12 or R 11 for cleaning.
4. Never weld on or near the closed system. Quite irrespective of whether or not the system contains refrigerant, the heating effect produces very high overpressure which may cause damage to the system or even lead to an explosion. Refrigerant R 12, which at normal temperatures is absolutely non-poisonous breaks down into hydrogen chloride and hydrogen fluoride. Among other components, these decomposition products are noxious and all due care should therefore be taken.
5. If any part of the air-conditioning system has been damaged or developed leaks, e.g. if the car has been involved in an accident, the system must be kept switched off or the compressor will suffer damage due to lack of cooling and lubrication.