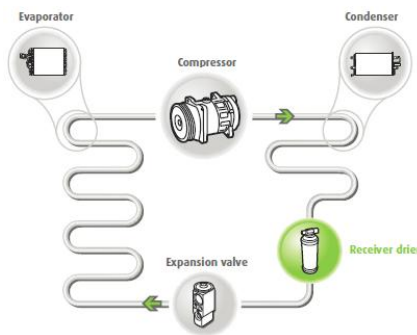


Q&A

"I have been told that I need to change my cars air conditioning receiver drier on a regular basis. Is this true and how often should I have it changed?"

Christine Phillips-Bacon - Car Owner - Andover, Hampshire

The receiver drier is an important component in your air conditioning circuit. Although they can be found in several different locations, they are usually fitted between the air conditioning loops condenser and expansion valve.



The receiver drier serves several important functions:

- 1) It acts as a temporary storage container for oil and refrigerant when neither are needed for system operation (such as during periods of low cooling demand). This is the "receiver" function of the receiver drier.
- 2) Most receiver driers contain a filter that can trap debris that may be inside the A/C system.
- 3) It contains a material called desiccant. The desiccant is used to absorb moisture (water) that may have gotten inside the A/C system. Moisture can get into the A/C components from humidity in the air. This is the "drier" function of the receiver drier.



When should the receiver drier be changed?

If there is too much moisture in the air conditioning loop then it will cause damage and failures to other components. Moisture can cause corrosion, as well as possibly contaminate and degrade the performance of the compressor's lubricating oil.

The receiver drier should be replaced any time the system is opened to the outside atmosphere (when the loop loses its vacuum). This includes if there is a leak in the air conditioning loop or the loop is open during service. The desiccant in the receiver drier is only capable of absorbing a certain amount of moisture. When the inside of the system and/or the receiver drier are exposed to the atmosphere, the desiccant can become very quickly saturated from humidity in the air. If this occurs, the desiccant is no longer effective and cannot perform its function of absorbing moisture in the loop.

Additionally, the filter inside the receiver/drier could be restricted by debris that may have been inside the system. This could diminish refrigerant and oil flow.

Valeo recommends the receiver drier be replaced every 3 years, regardless of services. Regularly replacing the filter prevents serious failures and the costly replacement of the other components in the air conditioning loop. The receiver drier must be replaced whenever the circuit is opened.

To find out more information about Valeo air conditioning components please visit www.valeo-techassist.com