

# Why Your Air Conditioning Unit is Blowing Warm Air

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It's hard to believe that air conditioning has only been a standard feature on most cars and trucks since 2010. That's less than a decade of cool summer driving. While we enjoy driving with our windows down as much as the next person, there are certainly some hot summer days ahead that cry out for cooler climates, and that's where a high-functioning air conditioning unit in your car or truck can be your very best friend.

The reason air conditioning was an option whereas heat has always been standard is because your engine generates heat automatically. If the car is running, warm air is there for the taking, and simply needs vents and a filter to allow that air into the cabin to warm it up. Air conditioning, on the other hand, is a more complicated system that involves electronic components, refrigerant, and a compressor to turn the warm air into cold.

A more complicated system to run can also be a more complicated system to break, which is why keeping your air conditioning system running smoothly is always a good idea, especially this time of year.

The telltale sign that there is a problem with your air conditioning system is when you turn on the air conditioning and only warm air blows out of the vents. The most common culprit of this is a **refrigerant leak**. Because air conditioning is a sealed system, you won't see a pool of liquid underneath the car to tell you there is a leak. Instead, that warm air will likely be your only clue. When a technician checks the system to confirm the issue, he or she may see an oily residue on one of several components of the system. Recharging the refrigerant is then an easy fix.

Another potential culprit is a worn-out **compressor**. The compressor is the heart of the air conditioning system, and circulates refrigerant throughout several stages of operation, creating the cooling effect. Maintaining a healthy compressor is easy: use it, even in the off-season. Don't worry, you don't need to run the air conditioning in winter, just the defroster, which you probably do anyway. They are parts of the same system.

A larger, more difficult to diagnose culprit of warm air in the air conditioning system is a problem with the **electrical system**. The air conditioning system overall is largely electrical, and wires can and do fail. Luckily, our technicians have the means to check and fix these issues. Electrical issues are of most concern, because a failure in the electrical system can cause the system to shutdown as a fail

safe, causing potentially unsafe conditions for the driver.

Sometimes, the warm air can be a culprit simply of a faulty **blend door**, which is the flap inside the system that changes when you switch from hot air to cold, heat to air conditioning. Sometimes the door doesn't function as it should, and instead of drawing in air from outside the vehicle to turn cold, it draws heat from the engine, causing the wrong temperature air to come through. This is an easy fix here at Jones!

If you happen to have a malfunctioning air conditioning system, bring your vehicle in to Jones so we can diagnose and fix the problem. Recharging the refrigerant is the most likely solution, and one that we do not recommend ignoring. While we know that air conditioning is not vital to operating a vehicle, resolving this issue when it's a smaller problem is better than letting it go until you have a compressor failure, which is a much more expensive repair. Let us help you stay cool and content on the road all summer long.

[http://www.ehow.com/about\\_6455921\\_history-automobile-air-conditioning.html](http://www.ehow.com/about_6455921_history-automobile-air-conditioning.html)



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