

# COMMERCIAL TRUCK AIR CONDITIONING: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

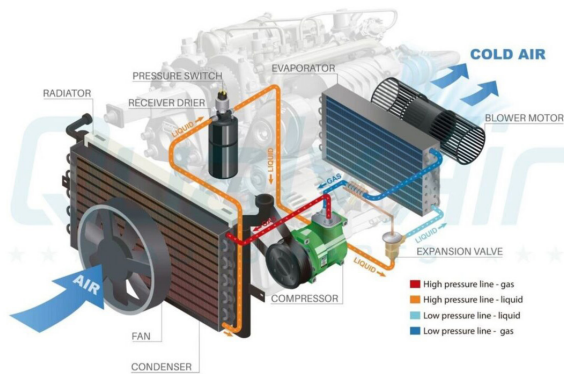


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When the heat becomes unbearable, your truck's air conditioning goes from a nice perk to a total necessity. If you're spending long summer days driving in hot, humid weather, the A/C system can make all the difference in staying comfortable, alert, and safe. Skipping maintenance can lead to weak airflow, unexpected breakdowns, or even full A/C system failure – and that's the last thing you need on a hot, summer day. Here's a guide on how to keep your truck running cool mile after mile.

## 1. UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS

Before diving into maintenance, it's important to know how your truck's A/C system works. The key components include:

- **Compressor:** The heart of the system, this pressurizes the refrigerant
- **Condenser:** Cools high-pressure refrigerant gas into liquid
- **Receiver Drier:** Removes moisture and contaminants
- **Expansion Valve:** Cools refrigerant flow into evaporator
- **Evaporator:** Absorbs heat, with the help of the blower fan, gives cool air to the cab
- **Cabin Filter:** Filters dust, pollen, and other debris before reaching your vents

Knowing how the system works can help you spot problems early.

## 2. SCHEDULE REGULAR SYSTEM INSPECTIONS

A full air conditioning inspection should be part of your routine summer maintenance. During an inspection, technicians typically should:

- Check refrigerant levels and recharge, if low
- Test for refrigerant leaks with UV dye or electronic detectors
- Inspect the compressor and belts for wear
- Make sure all the vents are blowing cold air evenly throughout the cab
- Clean condenser and evaporator coils

**Pro Tip:** Have your A/C inspected before summer begins. Beat the rush and avoid unexpected failures when the heat reaches its peak.

## 3. REPLACE YOUR CABIN AIR FILTER

One simple maintenance step that many drivers overlook is changing the cabin air filter. If you notice weak airflow, a musty/stale smell, and/or if the blower seems louder or works harder than usual, it might be time to replace the filter. It makes it harder for cool air to circulate, which puts extra stress on your A/C system. For most trucks, filters should be changed every 15,000-20,000 miles – or even sooner if you've been driving through dusty areas.

## 4. KEEP THE CONDENSER CLEAN AND CLEAR

Your A/C condenser sits just behind the grille and in front of the radiator, where it's exposed to dirt, bugs, and other debris. If your air conditioning isn't cooling like it used to, look for:

- Warm air blowing out of the vents
- A/C compressor running constantly
- Visible dirt, bugs, or damage on the condenser fins

A dirty or blocked condenser can reduce cooling power and cause the system to overwork. Cleaning it out with gentle water pressure or compressed air can make a big difference.

## 5. WATCH OUT FOR WARNING SIGNS

Be alert for signs that your truck's A/C system may be in trouble:

- Weak or warm airflow
- Clicking, hissing, or squealing sounds from the dashboard
- Strange smells or odors coming from the vents
- Excessive condensation or water dripping inside the cab

These warning signs often point to issues like low refrigerant, a worn compressor clutch, or mold in the evaporator.

## 6. USE THE A/C EFFICIENTLY ON LONG HAULS

Even a perfectly functioning air conditioning system can strain your truck if overused. There are a few things you can do to stay efficient on the road when the temperatures reach a high:

- Crack the windows during start-up to vent the hot air before turning on the A/C
- Use recirculation mode when it's extra hot – it cools the air that's already inside the cab
- Avoid idling with the A/C for extended periods of time

## 7. TRUST OUR CERTIFIED SERVICE TECHNICIANS FOR A/C REPAIRS

When it's time for repairs or replacements, bring your truck to Coopersburg & Liberty Kenworth. No matter what kind of truck you drive, our team can get your A/C system back to peak performance. Our technicians have the expertise, parts, and tools to get you back on the road – cool and comfortably.

## KEEP YOUR A/C ROAD READY FOR SUMMER

Don't let your A/C fail, turning your cab into an oven. Regular truck air conditioning maintenance keeps you comfortable, alert, and safe all summer long. If you're due for a check-up or suspect something isn't right, schedule summer maintenance with any of our Service Departments.