

Wheels: Jim writes, “I have a 1994 Ford Taurus with 108,000 miles and the air conditioning went out. I had the compressor unhooked and drove it with no air. Now the bearings are freezing up and I have quit driving it as I know it will wear out the serpentine belt. A new compressor will run \$800 and a used one would run \$50 plus \$200 for installation. I don’t have the \$800, but I’m afraid a used one might do the same thing as this one. Do I have any other alternative?”

Halderman: If there is still some refrigerant left in the system, it must be removed by a licensed professional. A service technician could also try to “convert” your vehicle to one that did not have factory installed air conditioning and simply remove the compressor and install a new accessory drive belt that does not include the compressor. This is not a do-it-yourself type job but the cost should be a lot less than a new compressor.

