

**Wheels:** Frank sent an e-mail that says that the air conditioning on his 1987 Toyota Tercel works, but doesn't blow as cold as he would like. He has seen small tanks of refrigerant in parts stores but does not know which kind he needs. Frank doesn't have an owner's manual after 15 years and can't find the specifications or type of refrigerant inside the engine compartment. Can you advise?

**Halderman:** Unfortunately, it is illegal for you to service your own air conditioning. You must have a certificate allowing you to purchase R-12, which is the refrigerant that your vehicle uses. There may be a fault in the system that does not require the addition of refrigerant. A trained and certified service technician should be able to inspect and check the system. Changing over to the currently used refrigerant, R-134a, may be possible but there are often compressor failures due to the differences in the oils used to lubricate the system.

