

ROBINAIR®

Refrigerant Recovery Machine



Model No. RG3

Operating Manual

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



WARNING : TO PREVENT PERSONAL INJURY AND / OR EQUIPMENT DAMAGE,



ALLOW ONLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO OPERATE THIS UNIT. Before operating the unit, read and follow the instructions and warnings in this manual. The operator must be familiar with air conditioning and refrigeration systems, refrigerants, and the dangers of pressurized components. If the operator cannot read this manual, operating instructions and safety precautions must be read and discussed in the operator's native language.



PRESSURIZED TANK CONTAINS LIQUID REFRIGERANT. Do not overfill storage vessels, because overfilling may cause explosion and personal injury or death. Do not recover refrigerants into nonrefillable containers; use only federally authorized refillable containers (DOT spec. 4BW or 4BA).



HOSES MAY CONTAIN LIQUID REFRIGERANT UNDER PRESSURE. Contact with refrigerant may cause personal injury. Wear protective equipment, including safety goggles and protective gloves. Disconnect hoses using extreme caution.



AVOID BREATHING A/C REFRIGERANT AND LUBRICANT VAPOR OR MIST. Exposure may irritate eyes, nose, and throat. To remove refrigerant from the A/C system, use only equipment certified for the type of refrigerant being removed. Use the unit in locations with mechanical ventilation that provides at least four air changes per hour. If accidental system discharge occurs, ventilate the work area before resuming service.



TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE, USE THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE EXTENSION CORD WITH A MINIMUM SIZE OF 14 AWG. Using an undersized extension cord may result in electrical equipment failure.

TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE, do not use the unit in the vicinity of spilled or open containers of gasoline or other flammable substances.



CAUTION – DO NOT PRESSURE TEST OR LEAK TEST EQUIPMENT OR VEHICLE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS WITH COMPRESSED AIR. Some mixtures of air and refrigerant have been shown to be combustible at elevated pressures. These mixtures, if ignited, may cause injury or property damage.



DO NOT MIX REFRIGERANT TYPES THROUGH A SYSTEM OR IN THE SAME CONTAINER. Mixing of refrigerants causes severe damage to the unit and the system being serviced.



HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRICITY INSIDE THE UNIT HAS A RISK OF ELECTRICAL SHOCK. Exposure may cause personal injury. Disconnect power before servicing the unit.

Additional health and safety information may be obtained from refrigerant and lubricant manufacturers.

EXPLANATION OF SAFETY SIGNAL WORDS



WARNING : Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.



CAUTION : Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury.

CAUTION : Used without the safety alert symbol indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in property damage.

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UNDERSTANDING REFRIGERANT RECOVERY

NOTE: Throughout this operating manual the term “unit” is used when referring to the RG3 refrigerant recovery machine.

Refrigerant recovery is the process of taking refrigerant out of a system and storing it in a cylinder. The following information is critical to achieving the best refrigerant recovery results.

Refrigerant

Identify the refrigerant type and quantity in the system to be serviced.

The unit is approved for use with the following category III, IV, and V refrigerants (per ARI-740) :

R-12, R-22, R-134a, R-401a, R-401b, R-401c, R-402a, R-402b, R-404a, R-406a, R-407a, R-407b, R-407c, R-407d, R-408a, R-409a, R-410a, R-411a, R-411b, R-412a, R-500, R-502, R-507 R-509

Filters and Filter / Driers

CAUTION : Filters prevent contamination from entering the unit, which reduces the risk of damage to the unit and the system being serviced.

The unit is shipped with a filter screen installed behind the inlet fitting. Robinair strongly recommends that a clean filter screen be used for every service job. Failure to use a filter screen will invalidate your warranty.

The unit is also shipped with (1) filter / drier (Part No. 100343) for use at the inlet fitting. However, if there is a need to recover multiple, different refrigerants using this unit, a separate filter / drier must be labeled and used for each individual type of refrigerant.

Valves

⚠ WARNING : To prevent personal injury, open service and cylinder valves SLOWLY to allow rapid shut-off of gas flow if necessary. Once it is determined there is no danger, the valves may be opened fully.

Isolate large amounts of refrigerant and close valves after use, so if a leak should develop anywhere in the system, refrigerant will not escape to the atmosphere.

Storage Cylinders

⚠ WARNING : A storage cylinder is full when it reaches 80% volume. DO NOT OVERFILL. Due to liquid expansion, the cylinder could explode if filled to more than 80% volume, possibly causing personal injury and equipment damage. Use a scale, such as TIF9010A, to avoid overfilling the storage cylinder.

Hoses

Hoses must be equipped with low-loss fittings and have pressure ratings appropriate for the refrigerant in the system being serviced.

Shut-off Switch

This unit has an internal, high-pressure, shut-off switch. If system pressure rises above 550 psi, the unit shuts off. The shut-off switch automatically resets itself after pressure drops below 400 psi.

⚠ WARNING : The internal pressure shut-off switch does NOT prevent cylinder overfill. If the system shuts off automatically and is connected to a cylinder, the cylinder may be dangerously overfilled. Take immediate measures to relieve the high pressure and / or cylinder overfill situation, or personal injury may result.

Push / Pull Procedure

When recovering large amounts of liquid (over 15 lbs.), use the Push / Pull method described in this manual.

Maximum Vacuum and Recovery Rates

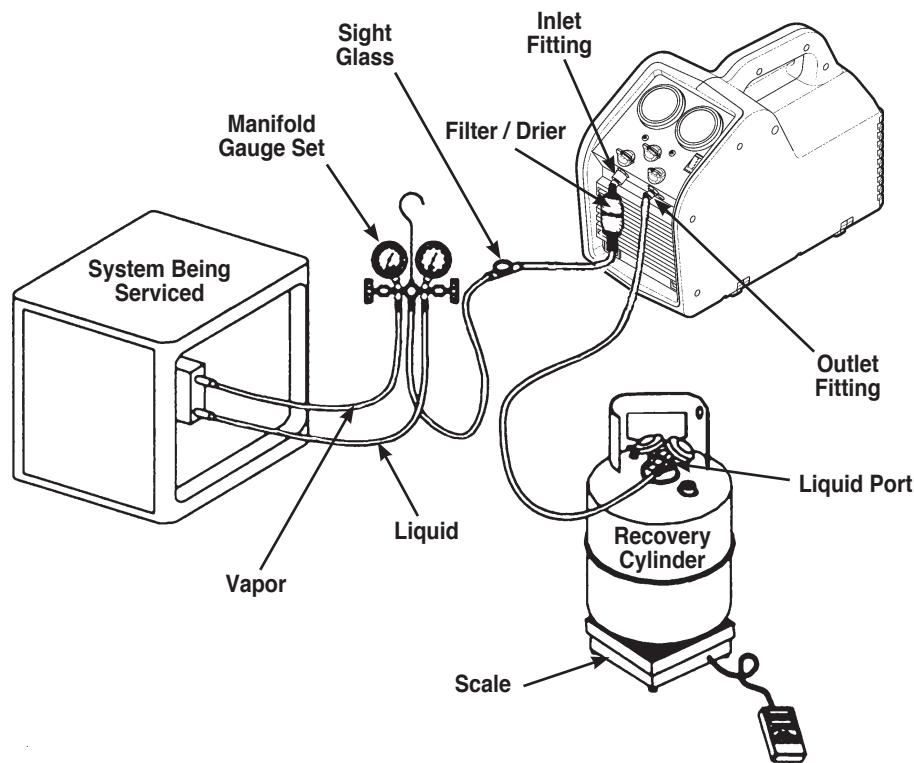
To achieve the deepest final vacuum, use an evacuated recovery cylinder. To maximize recovery rates :

- Use the shortest possible length of 3/8 in. or larger hose. (A hose no longer than 3 feet is recommended.)
- Remove unnecessary hose core depressors, and remove Schrader valves from port connections. Deformed rubber seals and core depressors in hoses, as well as faulty or unnecessary Schrader valves, can restrict flow.

Maintenance

CAUTION : Keep all connections to the refrigeration system dry and clean. Damage will occur if moisture is allowed to enter the system.

STANDARD OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS



The following instructions are for a standard or “common” recovery procedure.

Setup Procedure

1. Place the unit on a flat, level surface.
2. Verify a clean filter screen is installed behind the inlet fitting.
3. Connect a hose from the outlet fitting of the unit to the liquid port on the recovery cylinder.
4. Connect a hose from the inlet fitting of the unit to the output port of a manifold gauge set. Robinair recommends using a sight glass and a filter / drier in this line.
5. Connect a hose from the liquid (low pressure) side of the manifold gauge set to the liquid side of the system being serviced.
6. Connect a hose from the vapor (high) side of the manifold gauge set to the vapor side of the system being serviced.
7. Verify the inlet and outlet valves on the unit are closed.
8. Place the recovery cylinder on a scale (such as TIF9010A) to avoid overfilling the cylinder.

⚠ WARNING : A storage cylinder is full when it reaches 80% volume. **DO NOT OVERFILL.** Due to liquid expansion, the cylinder could explode if filled to more than 80% volume, possibly causing personal injury and equipment damage.

Tech Tips

The unit will perform at its peak when voltage entering the machine (while operating) is between 115 – 122 VAC.

Lower supply voltages may result in difficulty starting under high head pressure, reduced performance, and / or motor overheating.

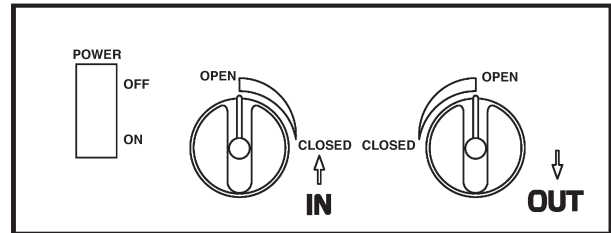
Use an outlet that does not have other appliances (such as lights, machines, etc.) plugged into it.

Do not use an extension cord unless needed. If an extension cord is used, it must be 14 AWG minimum and as short as possible to reduce voltage drops.

STANDARD OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Recovery Procedure

1. Connect the unit to an appropriate 115 V outlet.
2. Slowly open the liquid valve of the recovery cylinder while watching hoses and connections for leaks.
3. Open the liquid valve on the manifold gauge set.
Note: Opening the liquid valve removes liquid from the system first, greatly reducing recovery time.
4. Open the outlet valve on the unit.
5. Toggle the power switch to the ON position.
6. Slowly open the inlet valve on the unit. *Note: If the unit begins to “knock”, slowly throttle back (close) the inlet valve until the noise stops.*
7. Once the liquid has been removed from the system, open the vapor valve on the manifold gauge set to finish evacuating the system.
8. Run the unit until the desired vacuum is achieved.
9. Close the vapor and liquid valves on the manifold gauge set.
10. Turn the inlet valve on the unit to the CLOSED position.
11. Toggle the power switch OFF.



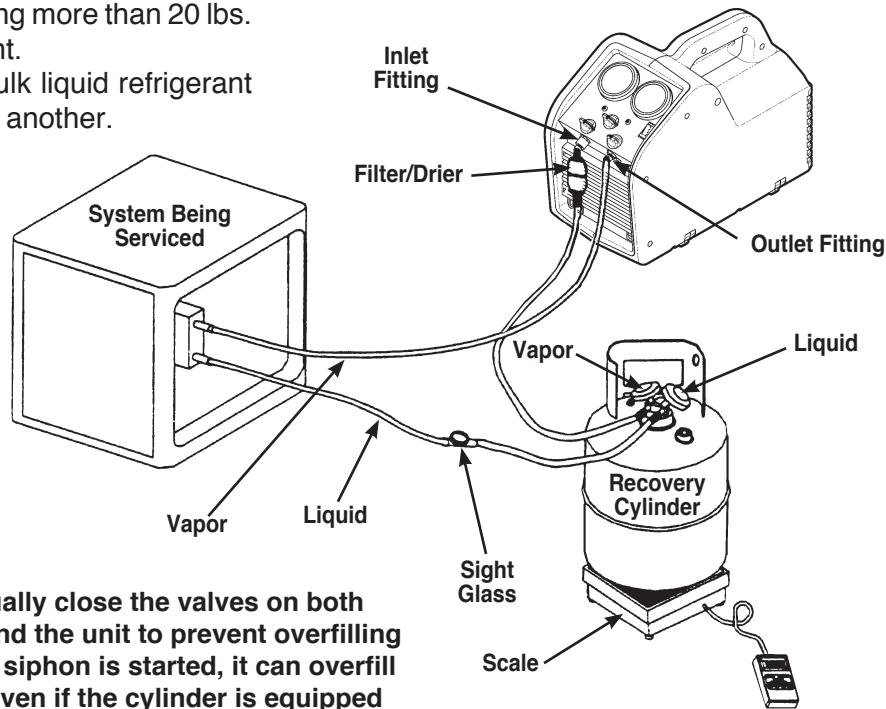
OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR BULK LIQUID SYSTEMS

“Push – Pull” Procedure

The push – pull method removes bulk liquid from a system using the pressure differential created by the unit. This method works only with large systems where the liquid is readily accessible; it may not work on systems that contain less than 15 lbs. (6.8 kg) bulk liquid.

This method is used :

- on systems with receiver cylinders.
- on systems containing more than 20 lbs. (9.1 kg) of refrigerant.
- when transferring bulk liquid refrigerant from one cylinder to another.



⚠ WARNING : Manually close the valves on both the storage cylinder and the unit to prevent overfilling the cylinder. Once the siphon is started, it can overfill the storage cylinder, even if the cylinder is equipped with a float level sensor. The siphon can continue even when the unit is turned off.

Liquid Recovery

1. Place the unit on a flat, level surface.
2. Connect a hose from the outlet fitting of the unit to the vapor port on the system being serviced.
3. Connect a hose from the inlet fitting of the unit to the vapor port of a recovery cylinder. Robinair recommends using a filter / drier in this line.
4. Connect a hose from the liquid side of the recovery cylinder to the liquid port of the system being serviced. Robinair recommends using a sight glass in this line as a method of determining when the liquid has been removed.
5. Place the recovery cylinder on a scale (such as TIF9010A) to avoid overfilling the cylinder.
6. Verify inlet and outlet valves on unit are closed.
7. Open the recovery cylinder valves.
8. Open the outlet valve on the unit.
9. Toggle the power switch ON.
10. SLOWLY open the inlet valve on the unit.
11. When the weight reading on the scale stops increasing, close the inlet valve on the unit first; then close the liquid valve on the recovery cylinder.
12. Toggle the power switch OFF.
13. Close the valves on the recovery cylinder, and close the outlet valve on the unit.
14. Proceed to *Vapor Recovery*.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR BULK LIQUID SYSTEMS

Vapor Recovery

1. Place the unit on a flat, level surface.
2. Connect a hose from the inlet side of the unit to the liquid port of the system being serviced.
3. Connect a hose from the outlet side of the unit to the liquid port on a recovery cylinder.

CAUTION: The recovery cylinder should be on a scale to avoid overfilling the cylinder.

4. Open the liquid valve on the recovery cylinder.
5. Open the outlet valve on the unit.
6. Toggle the power switch ON.
7. Slowly open the inlet valve on the unit.
8. Run the unit until the desired vacuum is achieved.
9. Close the inlet and outlet valves on the unit.
10. Toggle the power switch OFF.
11. Close the ports on the recovery cylinder.



Tech Tip

For a faster recovery procedure, recover from both the liquid and vapor ports of the system being serviced by using a tee fitting or manifold gauge set in the hose setup.

PURGE NON-CONDENSABLE GAS FROM A STORAGE CYLINDER

1. Allow the storage cylinder to sit undisturbed for 24 hours to allow air to rise to the top.
2. Connect a manifold gauge set to the cylinder. Read the amount of pressure in the cylinder as indicated by the output pressure gauge.
3. Determine the ambient temperature in the room.
4. Refer to a refrigerant pressure / temperature chart and find the ambient temperature. Read across the chart to the corresponding pressure for the type of refrigerant in the cylinder. Determine how that relates to the reading on the gauge.
5. If the pressure reading in the cylinder is higher than the pressure shown on the chart, **VERY SLOWLY** crack open the vapor port valve. (This is done slowly to cause as little turbulence inside the cylinder as possible.)
Watch the pressure on the gauge decrease. To prevent venting, add 4–5 psi (0.26–0.34 bar) to the pressure shown on the chart. When the gauge corresponds to that pressure, close the vapor port valve.
6. Allow the cylinder to sit for 10 minutes and then check pressure again.
7. Repeat the process, if necessary.

RECOVERY CYLINDER INFORMATION

Type of Cylinder

Use only authorized, refillable, refrigerant storage cylinders. Federal regulations require refrigerant to be transported only in containers meeting DOT specs. 4BW or 4BA.

NEVER use a standard disposable 30 lb. (13.6 kg) cylinder (the type of container in which new refrigerant is sold) to recover refrigerant.

Working Pressure

Recovery cylinders are designed for different working pressures. Robinair strongly recommends the use of 400 psi (27.6 bar) cylinders.

⚠ WARNING: To prevent personal injury, do not exceed the rated working pressure of the cylinder. At minimum, the RG3 requires the use of a 350 psi (24.1 bar) recovery cylinder.

NOTE: The use of a 400 psi (27.6 bar) cylinder is mandatory when recovering R-410A refrigerant. Refer to the Parts and Accessories section of this manual for more information.

If you expect temperatures in excess of 135° F (57° C), consult the refrigerant supplier.

Capacity

Safety codes state that closed cylinders should not be filled with liquid over 80% of volume. (The remaining 20% is called head pressure room.)

Do not exceed 80% of cylinder capacity. Robinair recommends the use of the TIF9010A Refrigerant Scale for monitoring cylinder capacity.

Refrigerants

Cylinders and filter / driers should each be designated for only one type of refrigerant.

If you must use a cylinder previously used for a different refrigerant, prepare the cylinder by completely emptying it, perform an evacuation, purge it using dry nitrogen, and then perform another evacuation.




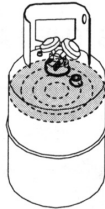
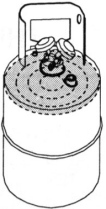
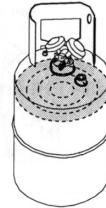
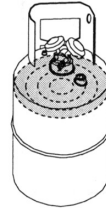
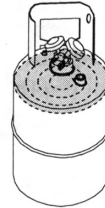


Storage

Store refrigerant cylinders in a cool, dry place.

Leakage

Some cylinders have valves that were not correctly seated when manufactured. Keeping caps on the valves will guard against refrigerant leakage.

⚠ WARNING : To prevent personal injury, never transport an overfilled cylinder. Refrigerant expands when it gets warm and may cause an overfilled cylinder to explode.

Storage Cylinder Temperature	60°F 15.6°C	70°F 21.1°C	100°F 37.8°C	130°F 54.4°C	150°F 65.6°C
STARTING WITH CYLINDER 80% BY VOLUME					
Space Occupied by Liquid	80%	81%	83%	90%	94%
STARTING WITH CYLINDER 90% BY VOLUME					
Space Occupied by Liquid	90%	92%	96%	100%	

TROUBLESHOOTING



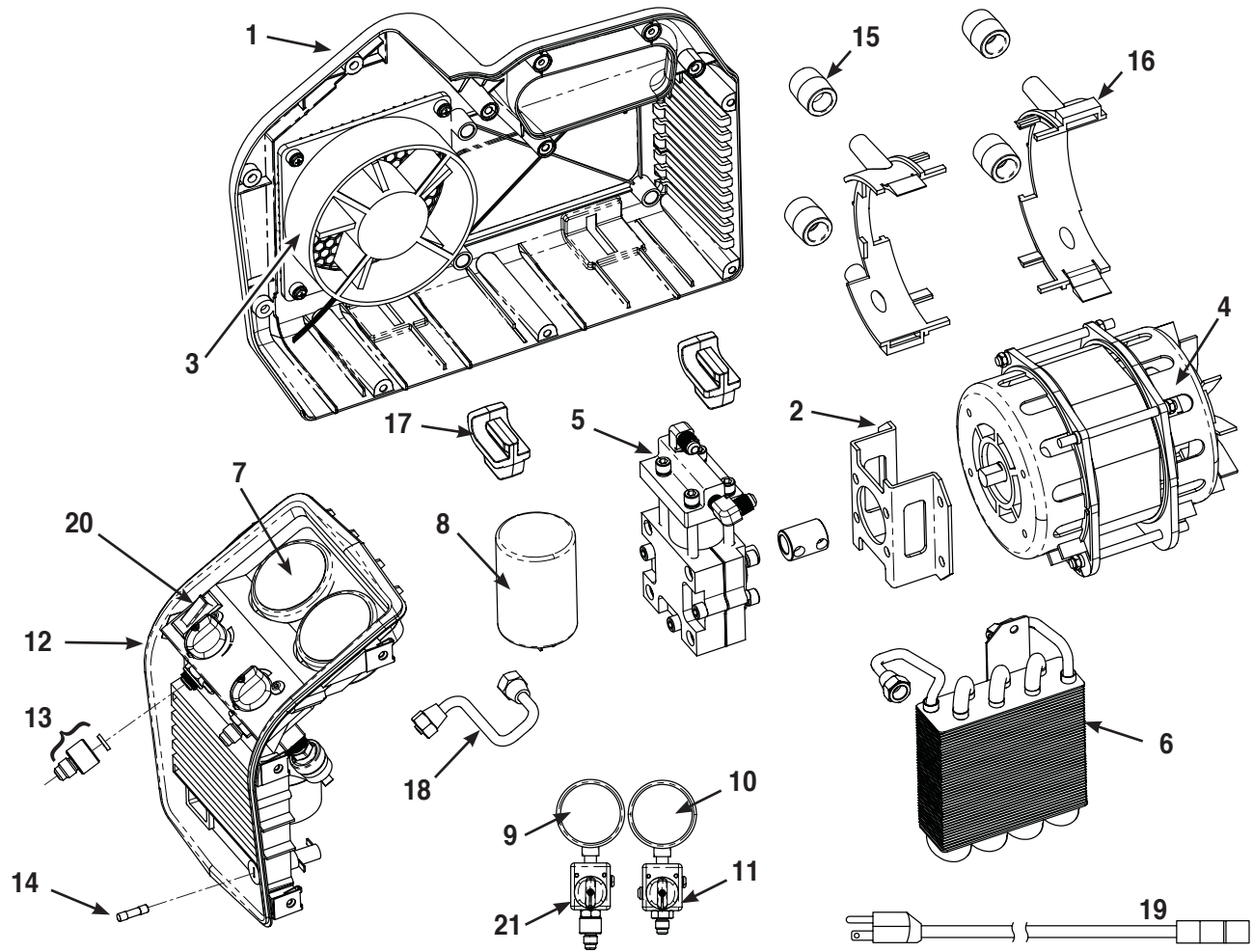
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Symptom	Possible Cause	Possible Solution
Unit will not turn on	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Power cord not plugged in. 2. Bad power outlet. 3. Unit is in high-pressure shut-off. 4. Motor is in thermal overload. 5. Blown or bad fuse. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check power cord at wall and unit. 2. Try a different outlet. 3. Reduce head pressure to below 400 psi (27.6 bar). 4. Allow motor / unit to cool down. 5. Check / replace fuse.
Compressor tries to start, but just buzzes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low voltage at power source. 2. Extension cord too long, or too small. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Locate / use better outlet. 2. Reduce length of extension cord. Increase size (gauge) of extension cord (14 AWG minimum).
Unit pumps into high-pressure shut-off	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Output valve on unit is closed. 2. Recovery cylinder valve closed. 3. Head pressure too high. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check output valve. 2. Check recovery cylinder valve. 3. Check output hoses for restrictions or kinks. Reduce head pressure.
Slow recovery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trapped liquid in system. 2. Restriction in refrigerant flow path. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Momentarily cycle system compressor to move trapped refrigerant. 2. Check inlet hose for restrictions or kinks. Remove Schrader valves and core depressers from hoses (if possible). Use larger hoses.
Blown fuse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electrical short in wiring. 2. Mechanical binding. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check for and replace damaged wires and / or electrical connectors. 2. Repair or replace compressor.

REPLACEMENT PARTS



Item No.	Part No.	Qty.	Description
1	570895	1	Case Kit (both halves)
2	SK-3001	1	Interface Kit (motor-compressor interface, coupler, hardware)
3	SK-3003	1	Fan
4	SK-3004	1	Motor Kit (motor, capacitor, hardware)
5	565504	1	Compressor
6	SK-3006	1	Condenser
7	565502	1	Gauge Lens (1 ea.)
8	565617	1	Motor Start Capacitor
9	SK-3007	1	Low-side Gauge Kit (low-side gauge, lens)
10	SK-3008	1	High-side Gauge Kit (high-side gauge, lens)
11	SK-3005	1	High-side Manifold Kit
12	565501	1	Front Bezel
13	SK-6001	1	Inlet Fitting / Filter Screen Kit (inlet fitting, filter screen, o-ring)

Item No.	Part No.	Qty.	Description
14	565500	1	Fuse
15	550503	1	Grommet (1 ea.)
16	SK-3009	1	Motor Clamp Kit (4 pieces)
17	550502	1	Foot (1 ea.)
18	565616	1	Inlet Tube
19	551628	1	Power Cord
20	EL1310	1	Power Switch
21	SK-3010	1	Low-side Manifold Kit
	100343	1	Filter / Drier (not shown)
	100345	6 in.	Blue Hose (not shown)

Rebuild Kits

SK-3011	Compressor Rebuild Kit (piston seals, valves, springs, o-rings)
SK-6007	Valve Rebuild / Replacement Kit (inlet / outlet valves, springs, o-rings)

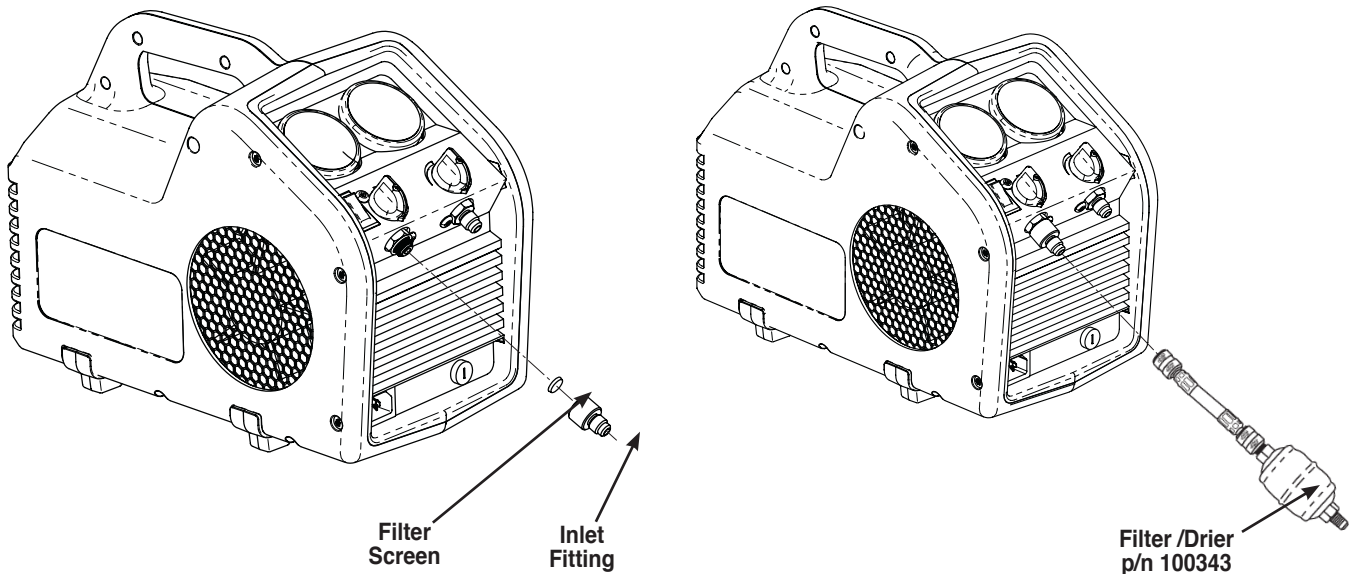
MAINTENANCE

⚠ CAUTION : To prevent personal injury, disconnect the unit from the power supply before performing maintenance.

Installation of the Filter and Filter / Drier

1. Before performing a refrigerant recovery, inspect and clean the filter screen in the inlet fitting on the unit. Replace the filter screen (p/n SK-6001) if necessary. A filter screen greatly reduces the risk of damage to the unit by preventing foreign material from entering the unit and the system being serviced. Failure to use a filter screen will invalidate the warranty.

Also use an in-line filter / drier (p/n 100343) in the inlet line.



Burned-out System

1. Use two high-capacity filter / driers in series when recovering from a “burned-out” system. Robinair recommends Alco type EK-162-F or Sporlan type C-162-F filters.

When you have finished recovering from the system, flush the unit with a small amount of clean refrigerant and refrigerant oil to purge any foreign substances left in the unit.

Storage

1. Empty refrigerant from the unit into a storage cylinder. Liquid refrigerant left in the unit’s condenser may expand, causing damage to components.
2. Completely evacuate the unit of any residual refrigerant and purge it with dry nitrogen before putting it in storage for a long period of time.