2012-2020 Chevrolet Sonic - AC Not Blowing Cold /

2012-2020 Chevrolet Sonic | Moderate | 30-60 minutes | $45 DIY

TOOLS

DIY AC recharge kit with gauge for the correct refrigerant type Safety glasses and chemical-resistant gloves Cabin thermometer Flashlight and leak-inspection light

PARTS

Correct refrigerant DIY kit with gauge (R-134a or R-1234yf as labeled) $45.00
AC leak-detect dye (optional) $12.00

STEPS

1. **Confirm refrigerant type and symptoms - Pop the hood and find the SAE J639 A/C label.** 2012-2016 Sonics use R-134a; 2017-2020 use R-1234yf; fittings differ by design. Trust the label, never a previous owner's word. Confirm the complaint: warm vents on MAX A/C with recirculati...
2. **Find the low-side service port - Engine OFF. The low-side port is on the larger suction** line, under the cap marked 'L'. If the DIY hose won't click on, stop - wrong port. Never force it. Leave the high-side ('H') cap alone: charging the high side is dangerous.
3. **Take a baseline reading - Run the engine on MAX A/C, coldest, recirculation on, blower on** high. After 2-3 minutes, read the low-side gauge against your kit's ambient-temperature chart. Near zero? Stop - the system needs professional evacuation and recharge by w...
4. **Add refrigerant cautiously - With the system running, add refrigerant in 5-10 second** bursts, can upright (vapor only - never invert). Recheck the gauge between bursts; aim for the middle of the range. R-1234yf (2017-2020) is mildly flammable: no open flames, ven...
5. **Stop and verify cooling - Stop when pressure is in range and vents blow cold (typically** high-30s to mid-40s F). Reinstall the 'L' cap firmly - it is the primary seal. If cooling fades within days, you have a leak: get a UV dye or leak-down test, not another can.

TORQUE

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