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PRODUCT INFORMATION CIRCULAR

AIR CONDITIONER - REFRIGERANT HOSES
Part Identifier 740-01

October 24, 1973

A number of refrigerant hoses have been received by VPC with leaks claimed behind the swagged portion of the fitting which actually have not been defective. This has to do with a type of hose design which should be explained.

Refrigerant hoses have an inner core, then a woven cover for burst strength, and then a protective outer rubber cover which has an adhesive to adhere it to the woven cover. This leaves areas in the cross-weaves of the woven cover which trap air. When the hose expands under pressure, this trapped air must have somewhere to go. To allow it to escape, most manufacturers pin-prick the entire length of the outer cover, however, some do not. In the latter case, the air is forced along between the outer and woven covers until it reaches the swagged portion of the fitting where it escapes.

In most cases, the escaping air is diagnosed incorrectly as a refrigerant leak if it is checked using a soapy solution or just checked visually. Such leaks should be checked with a halide or electronic leak detector to determine if R-12 is present.