

# Air-conditioning systems

## Installation and replacements

### Fact sheet

#### Who can install or replace air-conditioning systems in Victoria?

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) is the authority that regulates the building and plumbing industries, they also licence and register plumbers including those authorised to install or replace air-conditioners. These practitioners are also required to hold a refrigerant handling licence and either hold an electrician's licence (A grade) or engage a Registered Electrical Contractor (REC) registered by Energy Safe Victoria (ESV).

When installing a reverse cycle air-conditioner a VBA plumbing practitioner registration and a refrigerant handling licence is required and any electrical work must be completed by an REC.

When replacing or repairing a reverse cycle air-conditioner VBA registration and a refrigerant handling licence is required and any electrical work must be completed by an REC.

**Note:** if a system is disconnected and replaced with a new system of equivalent power and current in the same location without alteration to existing cables; the electrical work can be undertaken by the holder of a Restricted Electrical Workers Licence (REL) with the classification – Refrigeration and air-conditioning.

#### Remember

Installing an air-conditioning system is not a do-it-yourself job – you must use a suitably licensed person otherwise you are putting yourself and your family at risk.

Anyone having an air-conditioner installed or replaced is reminded to ensure the practitioner is appropriately licensed to perform this work.

At the completion of the installation you **must** be given an ESV Certificate of Electrical Safety (COES) **and** a VBA Plumbing Compliance Certificate. Only properly trained, licenced and insured installers can provide you with these mandatory certificates that ensure your warranty for the appliance and the installation is guaranteed.

You can check the licence status of an electrician using ESVConnect at: [connect.energysafe.vic.gov.au](https://connect.energysafe.vic.gov.au) and VBA Plumber qualifications at: [www.vba.vic.gov.au/tools/find-practitioner](https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/tools/find-practitioner)

#### More information

- Energy Safe Victoria: [www.esv.vic.gov.au](https://www.esv.vic.gov.au)
- Victorian Building Authority: [www.vba.vic.gov.au](https://www.vba.vic.gov.au)