



## **What is a contactor and why should I replace mine?**

The contactor in your air conditioner is a small electrical relay that starts or stops your compressor after a small signal is received from your thermostat; much like the ignition circuit of your car. Over its life your contactor can be asked to start and stop your air conditioning system thousands of times. After thousands of on and off cycles your faulty contactor can cause major problems. Your contactor can fail in one of two ways, **electrically** or **mechanically**.

The most common **mechanical** failure is that the contactor "sticks" closed. The normal signs of this are that the outside part of the system (condensing unit) will not shut off. Imagine if you couldn't turn your car engine off. Ouch! Now, with the thermostat off, the indoor blower motor off and the condensing unit still running, you will normally find ice covering the refrigerant lines and the evaporator coil. This failure most often occurs when the silver coating wears off of the contacts. If the contactor is sticking, it must be replaced. If the contactor is not replaced promptly you will have a loss of lubrication in the compressor (picture your car running without oil) resulting in extreme compressor valve damage. This road takes you from a small repair to a major overhaul.

**"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."**

Your contactor can fail **electrically** in one of three ways. The coil can become **shorted**, **grounded**, or **open**. Your technician will use a meter to determine the resistance crossing your contactor. If the readings are outside of a very narrow range; your contactor should be replaced.

Thank you for recently considering R.S. Andrews for service on your heating and cooling system. People choose R.S. Andrews because we attempt to be thorough, honest and we stand behind our work. We offer terrific parts and labor warranties on everything we do and we will always do the work correctly and to your satisfaction.

**Don't let your system die on the hottest day of the year.**  
Have our trained expert HVAC technician come out and replace your contactors before it becomes an emergency.

**770-454-1800**

Sincerely,

Ralph Brooke  
Service Manager