

TECH TIP

NISSAN CHANGES A/C COMPRESSOR OPERATION

Nissan has made a change in the way the compressor operates on several of their 2003 models with manual A/C systems. According to Nissan bulletin NTB03-048 this feature was added to improve dehumidifying of the air to reduce window fogging under all driving conditions.

The vehicles affected are 2003 and later Sentra, Frontier, Altima, and Xterra.

Customers may complain that the compressor cycles when the A/C switch is off. They may also notice a slight idle speed fluctuation due to the compressor cycling. They may even complain of cool outlet air temperature when the A/C switch is in the off position.

This is considered normal operation.

Previous models had the compressor cycling only when the defroster or foot/defroster modes were selected to keep windows clear. Under the new change in operation, the compressor is allowed to cycle in any mode as long as the outside air temperature is more than 36-37°F (2-3°C) even when the a/c button and indicator light are OFF.

Currently there are only two ways to turn the compressor off.

1. Turn the blower fan control knob to the off position.
2. Turn the ignition key to the off position.