

## AC Receiver Driver

The AC Receiver Drier is adjacent to the condenser. At times, it can be found located in-line between the condenser and the expansion valve. The drier has components, which include a tank, pick-up tube, a glass top, a filter and a drying agent (desiccant). The drier has two main functions:

- (a) Storage. It receives the refrigerant from the condenser and stores it in the tank. While doing so, it separates gas from liquid, with the liquid, in the form of moisture, being absorbed by the desiccant. It is from the drier tank that the evaporator gets the refrigerant.
- (b) Cleaner. The desiccant in the drier, which in most cases is in silica gel, absorbs moisture and other impurities. Moisture is the most dangerous element in the AC system. Moisture mixes with the refrigerant to form an acid (hydrochloric acid), which is corrosive and can damage the other AC components. The glass on the drier is used to charge the AC system. In normal circumstances, no vapour should be seen through the glass. However, cloudiness and oil absorbed from the refrigerant can be confused with vapour, and this makes the glass unsuitable for charging AC system of R-134a since this can lead serious overcharging condition capable of damaging the engine.

A car's AC accumulator drier works the same way as a receiver drier does. The only difference is that cars with orifice tube are fitted with AC accumulator driers while those without the orifice tube are fitted with AC receiver driers. The car's AC accumulator drier is to be found connected to the evaporator outlet and its purpose is to collect any liquid or moisture from the refrigerant. Liquid or moisture easily damages the compressor. There is need to change a car's AC drier, whether AC receiver drier or AC accumulator. This is because:

- (a) The drier contains the desiccant (drying agent), which absorbs moisture and non-condensable impurities. Replacing it with a clean one during service or from time to time ensures that it is not clogged and the AC is properly charged at all times without any interference.
- (b) The drier is a disposable item, just the same way oil and filter is. It is good practise to replace the drier whenever any component is being changed.
- (c) Compressors do have warranty when sold. You can only get the warranty if you can prove that you have been changing the drier.
- (d) Replacing the drier ensures better performance of the AC.

There are different types of AC receiver driers, AC accumulator driers and desiccants. It is important to note that not all desiccants are suitable for R-134a. To get the right desiccant, check the sticker on the receiver drier or accumulator drier. However, there are desiccants that are suitable for R-134a and R-12.

## About the Author

Here you will learn about [AC Receiver Drier](#) and [AC Accumulator Drier](#)

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