Climate care starts with a vending machine

Focus on: Vending machine HFC restrictions in Washington

Washington's vending machine restriction–here's what you need to know

Some vending machines use refrigerants that contain hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are potent greenhouse gases that cause more harm to our atmosphere than carbon dioxide. Limiting emissions from these vending machines will help protect our environment. And climate-friendly alternatives are available.

Understanding the restriction

Washington law restricts the use of certain high Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerants in new and retrofitted vending machines, such as R-134a, R-507A, and R-404A. For a full list of restricted refrigerants, see WAC 173-443-040, Table 1.

Existing machines can still be used and serviced, but new and retrofitted equipment must use approved refrigerants.

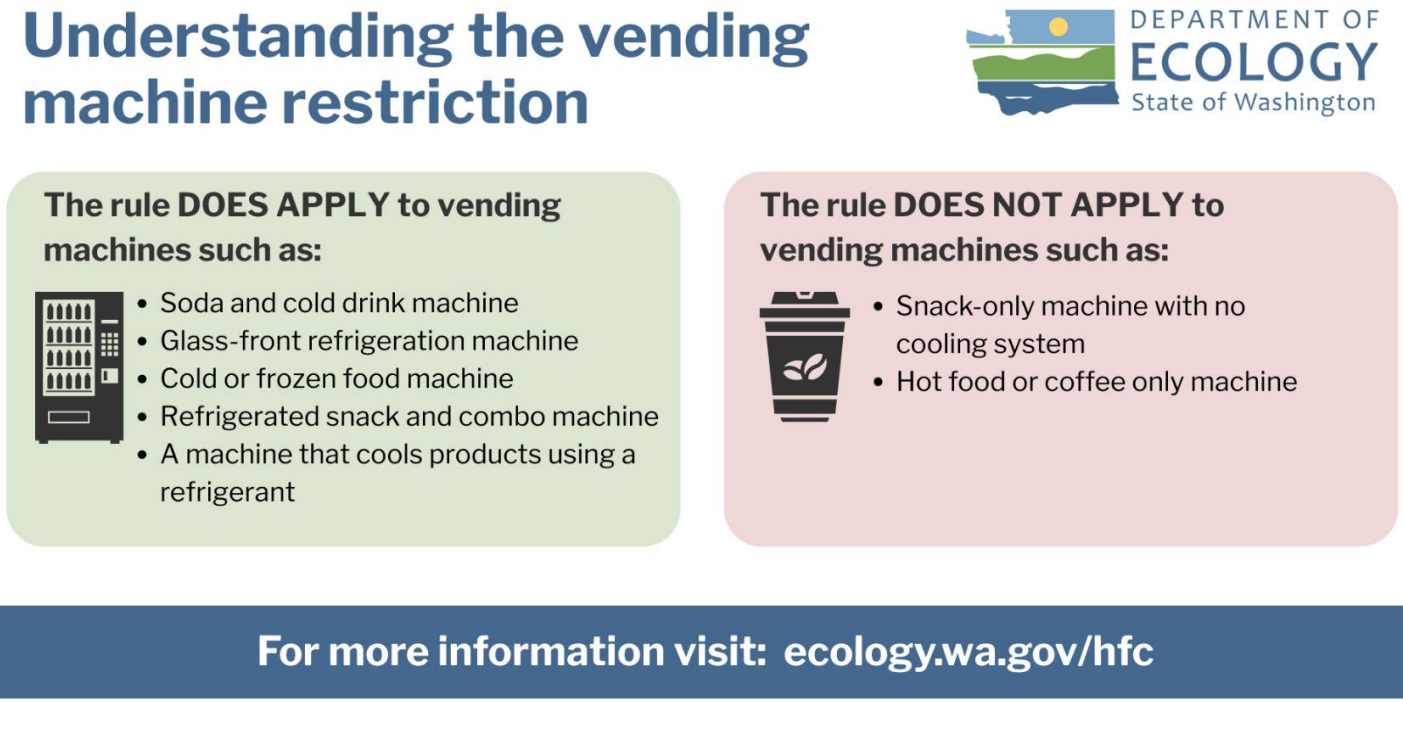


Figure 1: Vending machine restriction under WAC-173-443-040 Table 1

Myth vs. Fact

Myth: You can't service vending machines that use restricted refrigerants.

Fact: You can service existing machines, even if they use restricted refrigerants. The restriction only applies to new or retrofitted machines.

Myth: You need to replace all old vending machines.

Fact: You can keep using existing machines if they are in good working condition. The rule only applies to new equipment.

Myth: The rule restricts any refrigerant with a high GWP.

Fact: Only specific refrigerants are restricted for specific uses. There is no blanket GWP threshold for vending machines.

Not restricted

- Using new machines with approved refrigerants.
- Using and servicing existing vending machines that use restricted refrigerants listed in WAC 173-443-040, Table 1.
- A certified technician recharging existing vending machines with the same restricted refrigerant.

Restricted

- Installing new vending machines with restricted refrigerants.
- Retrofitting new equipment to use restricted refrigerants.
- Manufacturing, buying, importing, or selling new vending machine equipment on or after January 1, 2022, that uses restricted refrigerants.



You can still enjoy cold drinks, just make sure the refrigerant complies with Washington's rules.

Refrigerant recycling resources

Not sure what refrigerant your equipment uses or how to recycle old units? Call 1-800-Recycle or visit 1800recycle.wa.gov for help.

HFC Team
HFC@ecy.wa.gov
360-407-6800

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6800 or email at HFC@ecy.wa.gov, or visit https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341