



## Building Safety Tip \* Refrigerant Safety Caps

### Check for Unsecured Refrigerant Access Ports

#### The Warning Signs:

- Access Ports Not Capped
- Unexplained Loss of Refrigerant
- Slurred Speech
- Lack of Coordination
- Chemical Odor on Breath/Clothing
- Plastic Bags



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**UPROAIR**  
United Parents to Restrict Open Access to Refrigerant



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Refrigerant access ports are designed for HVAC technicians to maintain the refrigerant level in your air conditioning or heat pump system. Unfortunately, there are an alarming number of young people (mostly teenagers) inhaling refrigerant accessible through these ports. This dangerous practice - known as huffing or bagging - has serious health risks including cardiac arrest, brain damage and death. Most HVAC equipment is manufactured with caps that can easily be removed but locking caps like those in the videos below, can't be removed without a special tool available only to HVAC companies. Several types of these security caps are available and they're an inexpensive way to protect young people from the serious consequences of this dangerous practice. They can also protect your heat pump or air conditioning system from damage should someone attempt to remove the refrigerant. If your outdoor HVAC unit has unsecured caps, contact a licensed HVAC contractor and request that locking-type, tamper-resistant caps be installed on all refrigerant access ports located outdoors in unsecured areas around your home.



\* This safety tip is for informational purposes only. VPMIA and its members assume no responsibility for any action taken by an individual or group of individuals based on the information contained herein. You should always contact a licensed contractor to make any necessary repairs.