

Output Gauges & Proper Shut-Down

During the refrigerant recovery process, it is sometimes necessary to stop the recovery machine in the middle of a job. It is important to follow the proper shut-down procedures in order to prevent damage to the gauges on the recovery machine.

If the output is closed (at the recovery cylinder *or* the recovery unit) while there is continued flow of refrigerant from the system, a pressure spike can occur due to the continued operation of the recovery unit.

Even though recovery machines are equipped with a 550 psi high-pressure shut-off switch to prevent tank venting, the **momentum of the motor** can continue the building of pressure. With the output closed, this pressure spike can **hit the output gauge like a water hammer**, possibly causing a “blown” or “unwound” gauge.

This can occur with any recovery machine pumping at full speed, but is easy to prevent when certain key steps are followed in this order:

1. Close the valves at the **Manifold Gauge Set** *ahead* of the recovery unit to halt the incoming flow of refrigerant.
2. **Shut off the power** to the recovery unit immediately *before* closing the valves on the recovery unit or recovery cylinder.
3. Close the valves on the recovery cylinder.

Service tip: Follow the step-by-step instructions included in your recovery unit's Operation Manual for starting and finishing the recovery process to ensure trouble-free recovery.