Mobile Home Owners

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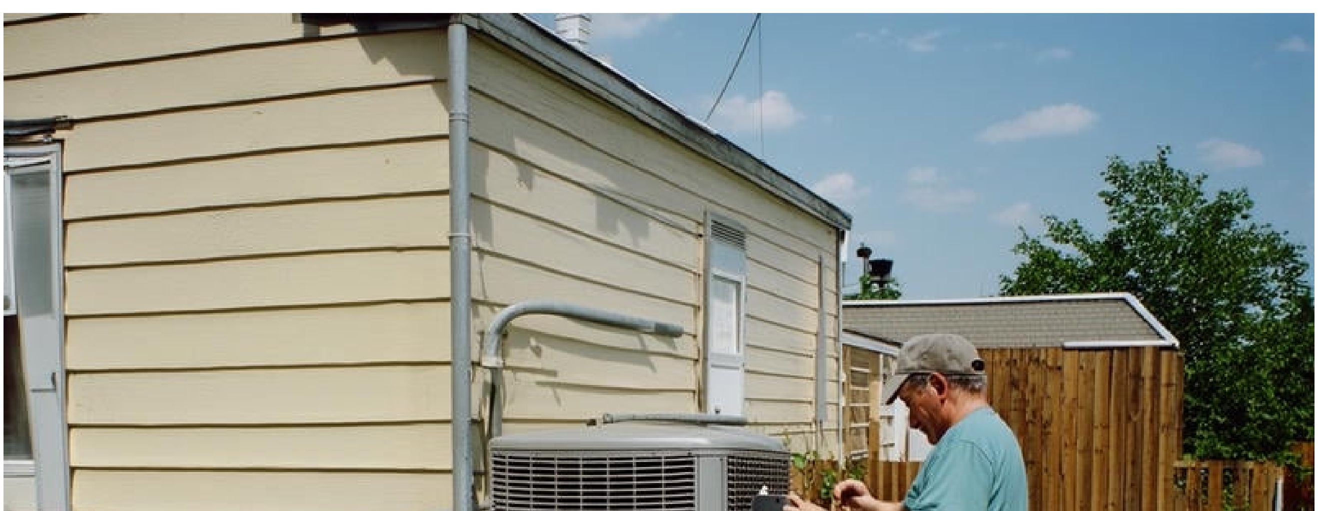

Matching Mobile Home Dimensions to Suitable AC Units

Importance of Selecting the Right Units for Upgrades

Understanding mobile home dimensions and layouts is crucial when it comes to selecting suitable air conditioning (AC) units. Mobile homes come in a variety of sizes and configurations, each presenting unique challenges and opportunities for climate control. By matching the dimensions of a mobile home with an appropriately sized AC unit, homeowners can ensure efficient cooling, energy savings, and enhanced comfort.

Mobile homes are typically smaller than traditional houses, ranging from single-wide units to more spacious double-wide models. Single-wide mobile homes are generally narrower and can be as small as 600 square feet, while double-wide models may offer up to 2,000 square feet of living space. Knowing the exact dimensions of a mobile home is the first step in determining what type of AC unit will provide optimal cooling without leading to unnecessary energy consumption.

The layout of a mobile home also plays a significant role in AC selection. Unlike site-built homes that often have multiple stories or basements, most mobile homes are single-story dwellings with an open floor plan. Heating systems should be inspected before the winter season begins **mobile home hvac repair** building insulation. This design feature allows for relatively straightforward air circulation but also means that the AC unit needs to efficiently distribute cool air across potentially long distances within the same level.

When choosing an AC unit for a mobile home, it's essential to consider both its cooling capacity and energy efficiency. Cooling capacity is measured in British Thermal Units (BTUs), which indicate how much heat an air conditioner can remove from a space per hour. As a rule of thumb, about 20 BTUs are required per square foot of living space. However, factors such as ceiling height, insulation quality, and regional climate conditions should also be taken into account.

For instance, if you live in an area with extremely hot summers or if your mobile home lacks adequate insulation, you might need an AC unit with higher BTU ratings than standard recommendations would suggest. Conversely, overestimating your needs could result in purchasing a unit that's too powerful for your space-a common mistake that leads not only to increased initial costs but also higher energy bills due to frequent cycling on and off.

Energy efficiency is another vital consideration when matching AC units with mobile home dimensions. Modern air conditioners come with Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) ratings that help determine their cost-effectiveness over time. A higher EER indicates better energy performance; therefore, opting for an AC unit with a high EER can translate into substantial savings on utility bills without compromising on comfort.

In conclusion, understanding the dimensions and layouts of your mobile home is integral to selecting the right AC unit. By taking into account factors such as size, layout complexity, climate conditions, and energy efficiency ratings during your decision-making process, you can find an air conditioning solution that's perfectly tailored to meet your home's unique needs-ensuring comfort all year round while also being mindful of environmental impact and operational costs.

Factors to Consider When Choosing HVAC Units for Mobile Homes —

When it comes to ensuring comfort in a mobile home, one of the most critical considerations is selecting the proper air conditioning unit. Mobile homes, with their unique dimensions and insulation characteristics, require careful attention to AC unit sizing to maintain a comfortable living environment efficiently. The importance of this cannot be overstated, as an improperly sized AC unit can lead to inefficiencies, discomfort, and increased energy costs.

First and foremost, an AC unit that is too small for a mobile home will struggle to maintain a consistent temperature. This undersizing means the unit has to work overtime, running continuously without achieving the desired cooling effect. Not only does this result in uncomfortable indoor temperatures during hot weather, but it also accelerates wear and tear on the system. This overexertion can lead to frequent breakdowns and ultimately shorten the lifespan of the appliance.

On the other hand, an oversized AC unit is equally problematic. While it might initially seem beneficial for quick cooling capability, an oversized unit cycles on and off frequently due to its capacity exceeding the cooling needs of the space-this phenomenon is known as short cycling. Short cycling not only wastes energy but also fails to effectively dehumidify the air within the mobile home. The result is an uncomfortable indoor climate characterized by cold yet clammy conditions that are far from ideal.

Matching an AC unit's size with a mobile home's dimensions involves considering several factors beyond square footage alone. For instance, insulation quality plays a significant role; older mobile homes with less efficient insulation may require more powerful units compared to newer models with improved thermal performance. Additionally, window placement and coverage can impact how much heat enters or escapes from the home.

Moreover, geographical location should influence decision-making when selecting an appropriate AC size. Mobile homes situated in hotter climates will naturally require more robust cooling solutions than those in milder regions where extreme temperatures are rare.

Ultimately, consulting with HVAC professionals who understand both heating and cooling dynamics specific to mobile homes can provide invaluable guidance in this selection process. These experts typically perform load calculations that consider all relevant factors-including floor area, ceiling height, insulation levels-to ensure homeowners receive optimal advice tailored specifically for their individual circumstances.

In conclusion, properly sizing an air conditioning unit for your mobile home is crucial not just for maintaining comfort but also optimizing energy efficiency throughout its operational life span. By taking into account multiple variables such as insulation quality or local climate conditions alongside expert recommendations based on precise calculations rather than guesswork alone-homeowners stand poised not only enhance their overall living experience but also achieve cost savings through reduced utility bills over time while minimizing environmental impact associated with excessive energy consumption from poorly matched systems installed incorrectly at inception itself!

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Energy Efficiency and Environmental Impact

When it comes to mobile homes, creating a comfortable living environment is crucial, especially in regions that experience extreme weather conditions. One of the most important considerations for maintaining a pleasant indoor climate is choosing the right type of air conditioning unit. Mobile homes pose unique challenges due to their typically smaller size and sometimes less robust insulation compared to traditional houses. Therefore, selecting an appropriate AC unit involves matching the dimensions and specific needs of the mobile home with the capabilities of various types of air conditioners.

Firstly, window air conditioning units are a popular choice for many mobile home owners. These units are relatively affordable, easy to install, and do not require extensive modifications to the structure of the home. They are particularly suitable for single-section mobile homes where space may be limited. However, it's essential to ensure that the window AC unit fits securely in a window frame without obstructing emergency exits or natural light sources.

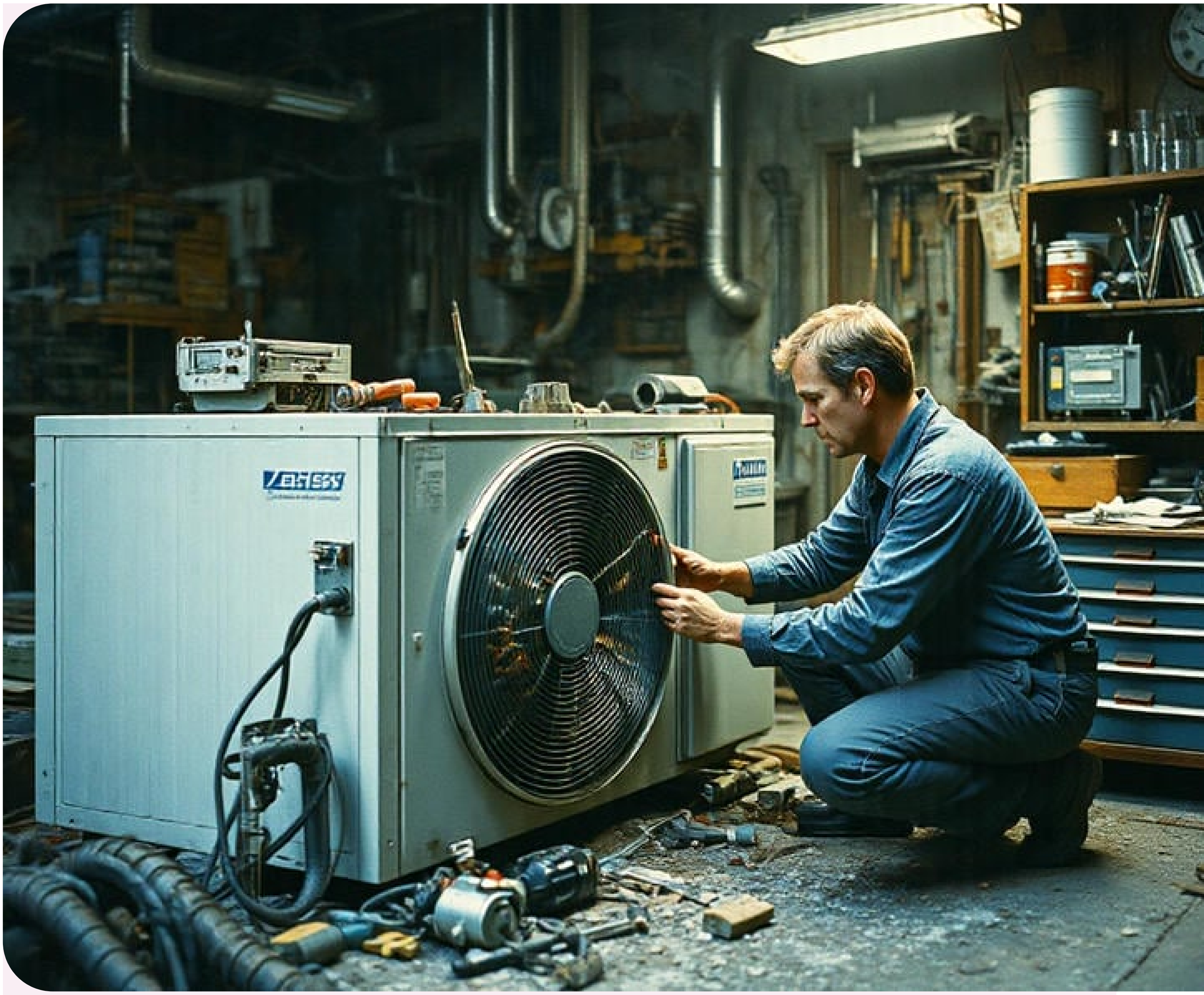
Another viable option is portable air conditioners. These units offer flexibility because they can be moved from room to room as needed. Portable ACs typically come with an exhaust hose that needs to be vented out through a window or sliding door opening. This type of unit is ideal for those who want targeted cooling in specific areas or for renters who cannot make permanent alterations to their living spaces. However, potential buyers should note that portable units might take up valuable floor space within the compact confines of a mobile home.

For those seeking more comprehensive cooling solutions, ductless mini-split systems present an efficient and customizable option. These systems consist of an outdoor compressor and one or more indoor air-handling units connected by refrigerant lines. Mini-splits provide zoned cooling, allowing different areas of the mobile home to be cooled independently according to individual preferences and needs-a highly efficient feature that can lead to energy savings over time.

Central air conditioning systems are less common in mobile homes due to installation complexities and costs but can be considered if significant renovations are planned or if integrating with existing ductwork is feasible. Central ACs provide uniform cooling throughout larger multi-section mobile homes and often deliver better humidity control.

Finally, it's crucial when selecting any AC unit type for a mobile home that homeowners consider BTU (British Thermal Units) ratings appropriate for their square footage; too low will result in inadequate cooling while too high can lead to inefficient operation and higher utility bills.

In conclusion, choosing the right type of AC unit for a mobile home depends on balancing budget constraints with space requirements and personal comfort expectations. Window units offer simplicity; portable units provide flexibility; ductless mini-splits grant efficiency; central systems ensure uniformity-all these options cater differently based on how well they match with specific dimensions and layouts inherent in diverse models of mobile homes.



Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Considerations

When it comes to ensuring comfort in a mobile home, selecting the right air conditioning unit is crucial. Mobile homes, with their unique dimensions and construction, require special consideration to ensure effective cooling without unnecessary energy consumption or excessive costs. Here we delve into how matching mobile home dimensions with suitable AC units can make all the difference.

Firstly, understanding the size of your mobile home is paramount. Mobile homes typically range from 600 to 1,300 square feet. Knowing the exact size will guide you in choosing an appropriately sized AC unit. An undersized unit will struggle to cool your space efficiently, leading to higher energy bills and potential system wear due to overuse. Conversely, an oversized unit might cool the area too quickly without properly dehumidifying the space, resulting in a cold but clammy environment.

Secondly, consider the layout of your mobile home. Open floor plans may allow for better airflow and more efficient cooling compared to homes with numerous walls and partitions. If your mobile home has separate rooms or areas that need cooling, it might be wise to consider a ductless mini-split system that allows for customizable temperature zones throughout different parts of the house.

Insulation quality is another critical factor influencing AC selection. Older mobile homes often have less insulation than newer models, which can lead to heat gain during summer months. In such cases, opting for a slightly more powerful unit might compensate for inadequate insulation by maintaining comfortable indoor temperatures even on hotter days.

Additionally, think about window placement and sunlight exposure within your home. Mobile homes with large windows facing direct sunlight may require air conditioning units with higher BTU (British Thermal Units) ratings because they tend to heat up more quickly than those shaded by trees or other structures.

Energy efficiency should also be at the forefront of your decision-making process when selecting an AC unit for a mobile home. Look for units with high SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) ratings; these are designed to provide maximum cooling output per watt of electricity consumed over an entire season of usage.

Finally, practical considerations such as ease of installation and maintenance cannot be overlooked. Some systems like window units are straightforward for DIY installations but may not offer optimal performance for larger spaces or complex layouts typical in some mobile homes. Central systems or ductless mini-splits might require professional installation but offer long-term benefits through better efficiency and targeted cooling abilities.

In conclusion, selecting an appropriate air conditioning unit involves careful assessment of several factors including size and layout of your space, insulation quality, sunlight exposure levels as well as energy efficiency requirements specific to your living situation within a mobile home context. By considering these aspects thoroughly before making a purchase decision ensures not only enhanced comfort during warmer months but also contributes towards cost-effective operation while preserving longevity both indoors climate control equipment itself along overall household infrastructure integrity too!

Sizing and Compatibility with Mobile Home Structures

When considering the comfort of a mobile home, particularly during sweltering summer months, the choice of an air conditioning (AC) unit becomes paramount. However, the decision isn't solely based on cooling capacity; it also involves energy efficiency and cost implications. The task is to match mobile home dimensions with suitable AC units while keeping these factors in mind.

Mobile homes typically have less insulation compared to traditional houses, making them more susceptible to temperature fluctuations. Therefore, selecting an appropriately sized AC unit is crucial-not just for comfort but also for efficiency. An undersized unit will struggle to cool the space, running continuously without achieving the desired temperature. Conversely, an oversized unit may cool too quickly without adequately dehumidifying the air, leading to a cold yet clammy environment.

Energy efficiency plays a significant role in both environmental impact and cost savings over time. Modern AC units are rated by their Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER), which measures how efficiently they operate over a typical cooling season. Higher SEER ratings indicate greater energy efficiency. While units with higher SEER ratings may come with a heftier price tag initially, they often result in lower energy bills and reduced carbon footprints over their lifespan.

Cost implications extend beyond just the purchase price of the AC unit. Installation costs can vary significantly depending on the complexity and customization required for fitting an AC system into a mobile home. Additionally, maintenance and repair costs should be considered when evaluating long-term expenses associated with different types of units.

For mobile homes with limited space and unique structural considerations, packaged terminal air conditioners (PTACs) or ductless mini-split systems might be appropriate choices due to their compact designs and ease of installation. These systems offer flexibility in placement while maintaining efficient operation suited to smaller spaces.

Ultimately, matching mobile home dimensions with suitable AC units involves balancing initial costs against operational efficiencies and long-term savings. Homeowners must weigh these factors carefully-considering not only immediate needs but also future implications-to ensure their living spaces remain comfortable without incurring unnecessary expenses or environmental impacts.

In conclusion, selecting the right AC unit for a mobile home requires thoughtful consideration of size compatibility, energy efficiency ratings like SEER, upfront and ongoing costs, as well as individual lifestyle needs. By doing so, residents can enjoy optimal indoor climates year-round while minimizing both financial outlay and ecological effects-a blend of comfort and conscientiousness that benefits all involved.

Installation Challenges and Solutions

When it comes to ensuring comfort in a mobile home, one of the critical aspects to consider is the installation of an air conditioning unit. Properly matching your mobile home's dimensions to a suitable AC unit not only enhances comfort but also optimizes energy efficiency and prolongs the lifespan of the equipment. This task requires thoughtful consideration of several factors, including size, type, and placement of the AC unit.

Mobile homes typically have unique spatial constraints compared to traditional houses. Therefore, selecting the right size air conditioner is paramount. An undersized unit will struggle to cool your home adequately, leading to increased wear and tear as it continuously runs without reaching its desired temperature. Conversely, an oversized unit will cycle on and off too frequently, failing to properly dehumidify the space and leading to inconsistent temperatures.

To determine the appropriate size for your mobile home's AC unit, start by calculating its square footage. Generally, you can base this on length times width measurements of each room you wish to cool. Once you have this figure, you can use BTUs (British Thermal Units) as a guideline-a measure of cooling power that helps determine what capacity is needed for effective climate control.

A commonly recommended approach is that a mobile home needs approximately 20 BTUs per square foot. However, this figure may fluctuate based on additional factors like ceiling height, climate conditions in your region, insulation quality, and number of windows which could affect heat gain or loss.

After determining the necessary BTU capacity for your mobile home's air conditioning needs, consider whether a central air system or window units are more appropriate. Central systems offer even distribution throughout larger spaces but require ductwork installation which may be impractical for some mobile homes due to limited space or budget constraints. In contrast, window units provide zone control without extensive installations but might not suit all window types available in mobile homes.

Another important aspect is considering where you'll place your chosen AC unit(s). For window units or portable systems with exhaust hoses, ensure they are installed in locations that allow sufficient ventilation while minimizing direct exposure to sunlight during peak hours-a practice that prevents overworking your system and reduces energy consumption.

Furthermore, it's crucial not just how we install our air conditioners but also maintaining them regularly once installed; simple practices such as cleaning filters monthly or scheduling annual professional checkups safeguard against inefficiencies caused by dust buildup or mechanical issues.

In conclusion, matching mobile home dimensions with suitable AC units involves careful calculation regarding size requirements along with strategic selection between different types-central versus individual-that meet specific environmental demands within given spatial limitations inherent in these residences' designs themselves! By addressing these considerations thoughtfully alongside ongoing maintenance efforts post-installation phase subsequently ensures comfortable living experiences regardless external climatic challenges encountered year-round!

Maintenance and Long-term Performance

When it comes to maintaining optimal performance of your mobile home HVAC system, one of the most crucial considerations is ensuring that the air conditioning unit you select is appropriately matched to the dimensions of your home. This alignment not only guarantees comfort throughout seasonal changes but also enhances energy efficiency and extends the lifespan of your HVAC system.

Mobile homes present unique challenges due to their construction and size variability. They range from compact single-wides to more expansive double-wides, each with differing cooling needs. The first step in matching an AC unit to a mobile home involves determining the square footage. This calculation lays the foundation for selecting an air conditioner with a suitable British Thermal Unit (BTU) rating.

An undersized AC unit will struggle to cool your space adequately, leading to constant operation without achieving desired temperatures, increased wear and tear, and higher utility bills. Conversely, an oversized unit may cool too quickly without properly dehumidifying the air, resulting in a clammy atmosphere and frequent cycling that can shorten its operational life.

To avoid these pitfalls, it's imperative to consult BTU guidelines tailored specifically for mobile homes. For instance, a 600-700 square foot single-wide might require an AC unit with approximately 12,000 BTUs, whereas larger double-wides exceeding 1,500 square feet could necessitate units with upwards of 24,000 BTUs or more. Local climate conditions should also be considered; hotter regions may demand higher capacity units even for smaller spaces.

Beyond accurate sizing, regular maintenance plays a pivotal role in upholding your HVAC system's efficiency. Simple but effective practices include replacing or cleaning filters monthly during peak usage seasons. Clean filters ensure unobstructed airflow and reduce strain on the system. Additionally, inspecting ductwork for leaks or blockages helps maintain consistent temperature distribution throughout your home.

Furthermore, scheduling annual professional inspections can preemptively identify potential issues such as refrigerant leaks or worn-out components that might compromise performance. Technicians can calibrate thermostats accurately and clean evaporator coils-tasks that significantly impact how well your AC functions over time.

In summary, achieving optimal performance from your mobile home's HVAC system hinges on correctly matching AC units to home dimensions while committing to routine maintenance practices. By emphasizing proper sizing based on square footage and local climate alongside diligent upkeep measures like filter replacement and professional check-ups, homeowners can enjoy consistent comfort and energy savings year-round.

About Air conditioning

This article is about cooling of air. For the Curved Air album, see Air Conditioning (album). For a similar device capable of both cooling and heating, see heat pump. "a/c" redirects here. For the abbreviation used in banking and book-keeping, see Account (disambiguation). For other uses, see AC.

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There are various types of air conditioners. Popular examples include: Window-mounted air conditioner (Suriname, 1955); Ceiling-mounted cassette air conditioner (China, 2023); Wall-mounted air conditioner (Japan, 2020); Ceiling-mounted console (Also called ceiling suspended) air conditioner (China, 2023); and portable air conditioner (Vatican City, 2018).

Air conditioning, often abbreviated as **A/C** (US) or **air con** (UK),[1] is the process of removing heat from an enclosed space to achieve a more comfortable interior temperature (sometimes referred to as 'comfort cooling') and in some cases also strictly controlling the humidity of internal air. Air conditioning can be achieved using a mechanical 'air conditioner' or by other methods, including passive cooling and ventilative cooling.[2][3] Air conditioning is a member of a family of systems and techniques that provide heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC).[4] Heat pumps are similar in many ways to air conditioners, but use a reversing valve to allow them both to heat and to cool an enclosed space.[5]

Air conditioners, which typically use vapor-compression refrigeration, range in size from small units used in vehicles or single rooms to massive units that can cool large buildings.[6] Air source heat pumps, which can be used for heating as well as cooling, are becoming increasingly common in cooler climates.

Air conditioners can reduce mortality rates due to higher temperature.[7] According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) 1.6 billion air conditioning units were used globally in 2016.[8] The United Nations called for the technology to be made more sustainable to mitigate climate change and for the use of alternatives, like passive cooling, evaporative cooling, selective shading, windcatchers, and better thermal insulation.

History

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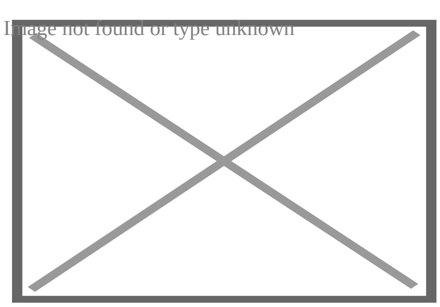
Air conditioning dates back to prehistory.[9] Double-walled living quarters, with a gap between the two walls to encourage air flow, were found in the ancient city of Hamoukar, in modern Syria.[10] Ancient Egyptian buildings also used a wide variety of passive air-conditioning techniques.[11] These became widespread from the Iberian Peninsula through North Africa, the Middle East, and Northern India.[12]

Passive techniques remained widespread until the 20th century when they fell out of fashion and were replaced by powered air conditioning. Using information from engineering studies of traditional buildings, passive techniques are being revived and modified for 21st-century architectural designs.[13][12]



An array of air conditioner condenser units outside a commercial office building

Air conditioners allow the building's indoor environment to remain relatively constant, largely independent of changes in external weather conditions and internal heat loads. They also enable deep plan buildings to be created and have allowed people to live comfortably in hotter parts of the world.[14]

Development

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Preceding discoveries

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In 1558, Giambattista della Porta described a method of chilling ice to temperatures far below its freezing point by mixing it with potassium nitrate (then called "nitre") in his popular science book *Natural Magic*.[15][16][17] In 1620, Cornelis Drebbel demonstrated "Turning Summer into Winter" for James I of England, chilling part of the Great Hall of Westminster Abbey with an apparatus of troughs and vats.[18] Drebbel's contemporary Francis Bacon, like della Porta a believer in science communication, may not have been present at the demonstration, but in a book published later the same year, he described it as "experiment of artificial freezing" and said that "Nitre (or rather its spirit) is very cold, and hence nitre or salt when added to snow or ice intensifies the cold of the latter, the nitre by adding to its cold, but the salt by supplying activity to the cold of the snow."[15]

In 1758, Benjamin Franklin and John Hadley, a chemistry professor at the University of Cambridge, conducted experiments applying the principle of evaporation as a means to cool an object rapidly. Franklin and Hadley confirmed that the evaporation of highly volatile liquids (such as alcohol and ether) could be used to drive down the temperature of an object past the freezing point of water. They experimented with the bulb of a mercury-in-glass thermometer as their object. They used a bellows to speed up the evaporation. They lowered the temperature of the thermometer bulb down to ?14 °C (7 °F) while the ambient temperature was 18 °C (64 °F). Franklin noted that soon after they passed the freezing point of water 0 °C (32 °F), a thin film of ice formed on the surface of the thermometer's bulb and that the ice mass was about 6 mm (1?4 in) thick when they stopped the experiment upon reaching ?14 °C (7 °F). Franklin concluded: "From this experiment, one may see the possibility of freezing a man to death on a warm summer's day."[19]

The 19th century included many developments in compression technology. In 1820, English scientist and inventor Michael Faraday discovered that compressing and liquefying ammonia could chill air when the liquefied ammonia was allowed to evaporate.[20] In 1842, Florida physician John Gorrie used compressor technology to create ice, which he used to cool air for his patients in his hospital in Apalachicola, Florida. He hoped to eventually use his ice-making machine to regulate the temperature of buildings.[20][21] He envisioned centralized air conditioning that could cool entire cities. Gorrie was granted a patent in 1851,[22] but following the death of his main backer, he was not able to realize his invention.[23] In 1851, James Harrison created the first mechanical ice-making machine in Geelong, Australia, and was granted a patent for an ether vapor-compression refrigeration system in 1855 that produced three tons of ice per day.[24] In 1860, Harrison established a second ice company. He later entered the debate over competing against the American advantage of ice-refrigerated beef sales to the United Kingdom.[24]

First devices

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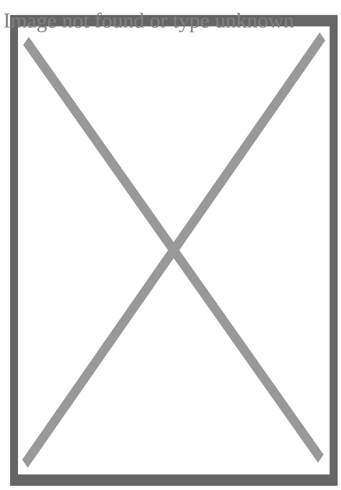

Willis Carrier, who is credited with building the first modern electrical air conditioning unit

Electricity made the development of effective units possible. In 1901, American inventor Willis H. Carrier built what is considered the first modern electrical air conditioning unit.[25][26][27][28] In 1902, he installed his first air-conditioning system, in the Sackett-Wilhelms Lithographing & Publishing Company in Brooklyn, New York.[29] His invention controlled both the temperature and humidity, which helped maintain consistent paper dimensions and ink alignment at the printing plant. Later, together with six other employees, Carrier formed The Carrier Air Conditioning Company of America, a business that in 2020 employed 53,000 people and was valued at $18.6

billion.[30][31]

In 1906, Stuart W. Cramer of Charlotte, North Carolina, was exploring ways to add moisture to the air in his textile mill. Cramer coined the term "air conditioning" in a patent claim which he filed that year, where he suggested that air conditioning was analogous to "water conditioning", then a well-known process for making textiles easier to process.[32] He combined moisture with ventilation to "condition" and change the air in the factories; thus, controlling the humidity that is necessary in textile plants. Willis Carrier adopted the term and incorporated it into the name of his company.[33]

Domestic air conditioning soon took off. In 1914, the first domestic air conditioning was installed in Minneapolis in the home of Charles Gilbert Gates. It is, however, possible that the considerable device (c. 2.1 m × 1.8 m × 6.1 m; 7 ft × 6 ft × 20 ft) was never used, as the house remained uninhabited[20] (Gates had already died in October 1913.)

In 1931, H.H. Schultz and J.Q. Sherman developed what would become the most common type of individual room air conditioner: one designed to sit on a window ledge. The units went on sale in 1932 at US$10,000 to $50,000 (the equivalent of $200,000 to $1,100,000 in 2023.)[20] A year later, the first air conditioning systems for cars were offered for sale.[34] Chrysler Motors introduced the first practical semi-portable air conditioning unit in 1935,[35] and Packard became the first automobile manufacturer to offer an air conditioning unit in its cars in 1939.[36]

Further development

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Innovations in the latter half of the 20th century allowed more ubiquitous air conditioner use. In 1945, Robert Sherman of Lynn, Massachusetts, invented a portable, in-window air conditioner that cooled, heated, humidified, dehumidified, and filtered the air.[37] The first inverter air conditioners were released in 1980–1981.[38][39]

In 1954, Ned Cole, a 1939 architecture graduate from the University of Texas at Austin, developed the first experimental "suburb" with inbuilt air conditioning in each house. 22 homes were developed on a flat, treeless track in northwest Austin, Texas, and the community was christened the 'Austin Air-Conditioned Village.' The residents were subjected to a year-long study of the effects of air conditioning led by the nation’s premier air conditioning companies, builders, and social scientists. In addition, researchers from UT’s Health Service and Psychology Department studied the effects on the "artificially cooled humans." One of the more amusing discoveries was that each family reported being troubled with scorpions, the leading theory being that scorpions sought cool, shady places. Other reported changes in lifestyle were that mothers baked more, families ate heavier foods, and they were more apt to choose hot drinks.[40][41]

Air conditioner adoption tends to increase above around $10,000 annual household income in warmer areas.[42] Global GDP growth explains around 85% of increased air condition adoption by 2050, while the remaining 15% can be explained by climate change.[42]

As of 2016 an estimated 1.6 billion air conditioning units were used worldwide, with over half of them in China and USA, and a total cooling capacity of 11,675 gigawatts.[8][43] The International Energy Agency predicted in 2018 that the number of air conditioning units would grow to around 4 billion units by 2050 and that the total cooling capacity would grow to around 23,000 GW, with the biggest increases in India and China.[8] Between 1995 and 2004, the proportion of urban households in China with air conditioners increased from 8% to 70%.[44] As of 2015, nearly 100 million homes, or about 87% of US households, had air conditioning systems.[45] In 2019, it was estimated that 90% of new single-family homes constructed in the US included air conditioning (ranging from 99% in the South to 62% in the West).[46][47]

Operation

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Operating principles

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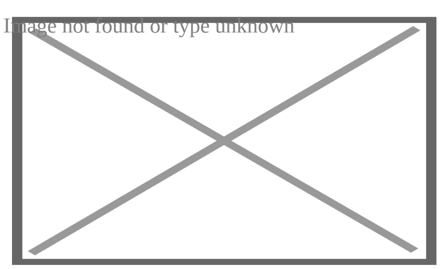
Main article: Vapor-compression refrigeration



A simple stylized diagram of the refrigeration cycle: 1) condensing coil, 2) expansion valve, 3) evaporator coil, 4) compressor

Cooling in traditional air conditioner systems is accomplished using the vapor-compression cycle, which uses a refrigerant's forced circulation and phase change between gas and liquid to transfer heat.[48][49] The vapor-compression cycle can occur within a unitary, or packaged piece of equipment; or within a chiller that is connected to terminal cooling equipment (such as a fan coil unit in an air handler) on its evaporator side and heat rejection equipment such as a cooling tower on its condenser side. An air source heat pump shares many components with an air conditioning system, but includes a reversing valve, which allows the unit to be used to heat as well as cool a space.[50]

Air conditioning equipment will reduce the absolute humidity of the air processed by the system if the surface of the evaporator coil is significantly cooler than the dew point of the surrounding air. An air conditioner designed for an occupied space will typically achieve a 30% to 60% relative humidity in the occupied space.[51]

Most modern air-conditioning systems feature a dehumidification cycle during which the compressor runs. At the same time, the fan is slowed to reduce the evaporator temperature and condense more water. A dehumidifier uses the same refrigeration cycle but incorporates both the evaporator and the condenser into the same air path; the air first passes over the evaporator coil, where it is cooled[52] and dehumidified before passing over the condenser coil, where it is warmed again before it is released back into the room.[*citation needed*]

Free cooling can sometimes be selected when the external air is cooler than the internal air. Therefore, the compressor does not need to be used, resulting in high cooling efficiencies for these times. This may also be combined with seasonal thermal energy storage.[53]

Heating

[edit]
Main article: Heat pump

Some air conditioning systems can reverse the refrigeration cycle and act as an air source heat pump, thus heating instead of cooling the indoor environment. They are also commonly referred to as "reverse cycle air conditioners". The heat pump is significantly more energy-efficient than electric resistance heating, because it moves energy from air or groundwater to the heated space and the heat from purchased electrical energy. When the heat pump is in heating mode, the indoor evaporator coil switches roles and becomes the condenser coil, producing heat. The outdoor condenser unit also switches roles to serve as the evaporator and discharges cold air (colder than the ambient outdoor air).

Most air source heat pumps become less efficient in outdoor temperatures lower than 4 °C or 40 °F.[54] This is partly because ice forms on the outdoor unit's heat exchanger coil, which blocks air flow over the coil. To compensate for this, the heat pump system must temporarily switch back into the regular air conditioning mode to switch the outdoor evaporator coil *back* to the condenser coil, to heat up and defrost. Therefore, some heat pump systems will have electric resistance heating in the indoor air path that is activated only in this mode to compensate for the temporary indoor air cooling, which would otherwise be uncomfortable in the winter.

Newer models have improved cold-weather performance, with efficient heating capacity down to ?14 °F (?26 °C).[55][54][56] However, there is always a chance that the humidity that condenses on the heat exchanger of the outdoor unit could freeze, even in models that have improved cold-weather performance, requiring a defrosting cycle to be performed.

The icing problem becomes much more severe with lower outdoor temperatures, so heat pumps are sometimes installed in tandem with a more conventional form of heating, such as an electrical heater, a natural gas, heating oil, or wood-burning fireplace or central heating, which is used instead of or in addition to the heat pump during harsher winter temperatures. In this case, the heat pump is used efficiently during milder temperatures, and the system is switched to the conventional heat source when the outdoor temperature is lower.

Performance

[edit]
Main articles: coefficient of performance, Seasonal energy efficiency ratio, and European seasonal energy efficiency ratio

The coefficient of performance (COP) of an air conditioning system is a ratio of useful heating or cooling provided to the work required.[57][58] Higher COPs equate to lower operating costs. The COP usually exceeds 1; however, the exact value is highly dependent on operating conditions, especially absolute temperature and relative temperature between sink and system, and is often graphed or averaged against expected conditions.[59] Air conditioner equipment power in the U.S. is often described in terms of "tons of refrigeration", with each approximately equal to the cooling power of one short ton (2,000 pounds (910 kg) of ice melting in a 24-hour period. The value is equal to 12,000 BTU_{IT} per hour, or 3,517 watts.[60] Residential central air systems are usually from 1 to 5 tons (3.5 to 18 kW) in capacity.[*citation needed*]

The efficiency of air conditioners is often rated by the seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER), which is defined by the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute in its 2008 standard AHRI 210/240, *Performance Rating of Unitary Air-Conditioning and Air-Source Heat Pump Equipment*.[61] A similar standard is the European seasonal energy efficiency ratio (ESEER).[*citation needed*]

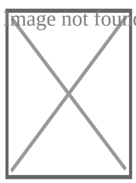
Efficiency is strongly affected by the humidity of the air to be cooled. Dehumidifying the air before attempting to cool it can reduce subsequent cooling costs by as much as 90 percent. Thus, reducing dehumidifying costs can materially affect overall air conditioning costs.[62]

Control system

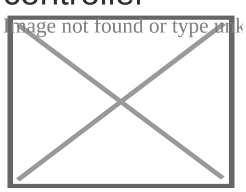
[edit]

Wireless remote control

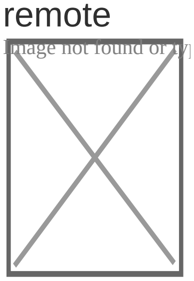
[edit]
Main articles: Remote control and Infrared blaster

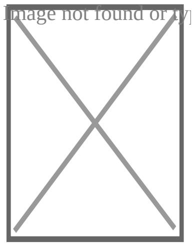


A wireless remote controller



The infrared transmitting LED on the remote



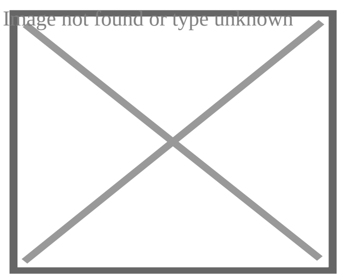


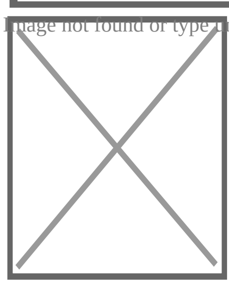
The infrared receiver on
the air conditioner

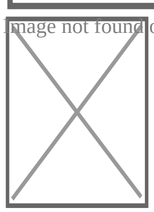
This type of controller uses an infrared LED to relay commands from a remote control to the air conditioner. The output of the infrared LED (like that of any infrared remote) is invisible to the human eye because its wavelength is beyond the range of visible light (940 nm). This system is commonly used on mini-split air conditioners because it is simple and portable. Some window and ducted central air conditioners uses it as well.

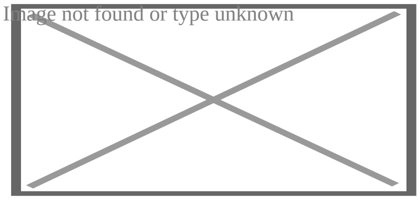
Wired controller

[edit]
Main article: Thermostat









Several wired controllers (Indonesia, 2024)

A wired controller, also called a "wired thermostat," is a device that controls an air conditioner by switching heating or cooling on or off. It uses different sensors to measure temperatures and actuate control operations. Mechanical thermostats commonly use bimetallic strips, converting a temperature change into mechanical displacement, to actuate control of the air conditioner. Electronic thermostats, instead, use a thermistor or other semiconductor sensor, processing temperature change as electronic signals to control the air conditioner.

These controllers are usually used in hotel rooms because they are permanently installed into a wall and hard-wired directly into the air conditioner unit, eliminating the need for batteries.

Types

[edit]

Types	Typical Capacity*	Air supply	Mounting	Typical application
Mini-split	small – large	Direct	Wall	Residential
Window	very small – small	Direct	Window	Residential
Portable	very small – small	Direct / Ducted	Floor	Residential, remote areas
Ducted (individual)	small – very large	Ducted	Ceiling	Residential, commercial
Ducted (central)	medium – very large	Ducted	Ceiling	Residential, commercial
Ceiling suspended	medium – large	Direct	Ceiling	Commercial
Cassette	medium – large	Direct / Ducted	Ceiling	Commercial
Floor standing	medium – large	Direct / Ducted	Floor	Commercial

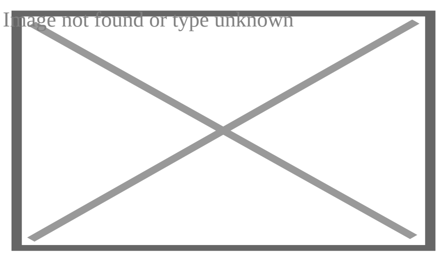
Packaged	very large	Direct / Ducted	Floor	Commercial
Packaged RTU (Rooftop Unit)	very large	Ducted	Rooftop	Commercial

* where the typical capacity is in kilowatt as follows:

- very small: <1.5 kW
- small: 1.5–3.5 kW
- medium: 4.2–7.1 kW
- large: 7.2–14 kW
- very large: >14 kW

Mini-split and multi-split systems

[edit]



Evaporator, indoor unit, or terminal, side of a ductless split-type air conditioner

Ductless systems (often mini-split, though there are now ducted mini-split) typically supply conditioned and heated air to a single or a few rooms of a building, without ducts and in a decentralized manner.[63] Multi-zone or multi-split systems are a common application of ductless systems and allow up to eight rooms (zones or locations) to be conditioned independently from each other, each with its indoor unit and simultaneously from a single outdoor unit.

The first mini-split system was sold in 1961 by Toshiba in Japan, and the first wall-mounted mini-split air conditioner was sold in 1968 in Japan by Mitsubishi Electric, where small home sizes motivated their development. The Mitsubishi model was the first air conditioner with a cross-flow fan.[64][65][66] In 1969, the first mini-split air conditioner was sold in the US.[67] Multi-zone ductless systems were invented by Daikin in 1973, and variable refrigerant flow systems (which can be thought of as larger multi-split systems) were also invented by Daikin in 1982. Both were first sold in Japan.[68] Variable refrigerant flow systems when compared with central plant cooling from an air handler, eliminate the need for large cool air ducts, air handlers, and chillers; instead cool refrigerant is transported through much smaller pipes to the indoor units in the spaces to be conditioned, thus allowing for less space above dropped ceilings and a lower structural impact, while also allowing for more individual and independent temperature control of spaces. The outdoor and indoor units can be spread across the building.[69] Variable refrigerant flow indoor units can also be turned off individually in unused spaces.[*citation needed*] The lower start-up power of VRF's DC inverter compressors and their inherent DC power requirements also allow VRF solar-powered heat pumps to be run using DC-providing solar panels.

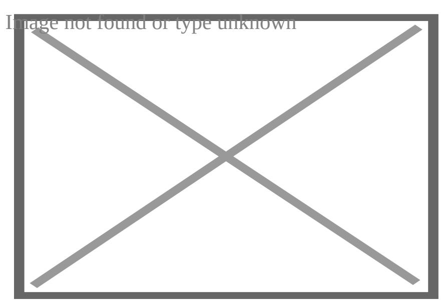
Ducted central systems

[edit]

Split-system central air conditioners consist of two heat exchangers, an outside unit (the condenser) from which heat is rejected to the environment and an internal heat exchanger (the evaporator, or Fan Coil Unit, FCU) with the piped refrigerant being circulated between the two. The FCU is then connected to the spaces to be cooled by ventilation ducts.[70] Floor standing air conditioners are similar to this type of air conditioner but sit within spaces that need cooling.

Central plant cooling

[edit]
See also: Chiller



Industrial air conditioners on top of the shopping mall *Passage* in Linz, Austria

Large central cooling plants may use intermediate coolant such as chilled water pumped into air handlers or fan coil units near or in the spaces to be cooled which then duct or deliver cold air into the spaces to be conditioned, rather than ducting cold air directly to these spaces from the plant, which is not done due to the low density and heat capacity of air, which would require impractically large ducts. The chilled water is cooled by chillers in the plant, which uses a refrigeration cycle to cool water, often transferring its heat to the atmosphere even in liquid-cooled chillers through the use of cooling towers. Chillers may be air- or liquid-cooled.[71][72]

Portable units

[edit]

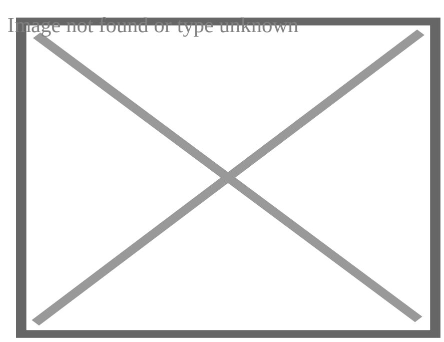
A portable system has an indoor unit on wheels connected to an outdoor unit via flexible pipes, similar to a permanently fixed installed unit (such as a ductless split air conditioner).

Hose systems, which can be *monoblock* or *air-to-air*, are vented to the outside via air ducts. The *monoblock* type collects the water in a bucket or tray and stops when full. The *air-to-air* type re-evaporates the water, discharges it through the ducted hose, and can run continuously. Many but not all portable units draw indoor air and expel it outdoors through a single duct, negatively impacting their overall cooling efficiency.

Many portable air conditioners come with heat as well as a dehumidification function.[73]

Window unit and packaged terminal

[edit]



Through-the-wall PTAC units, University Motor Inn, Philadelphia

Main article: Packaged terminal air conditioner

The packaged terminal air conditioner (PTAC), through-the-wall, and window air conditioners are similar. These units are installed on a window frame or on a wall opening. The unit usually has an internal partition separating its indoor and outdoor sides, which contain the unit's condenser and evaporator, respectively. PTAC systems may be adapted to provide heating in cold weather, either directly by using an electric strip, gas, or other heaters, or by reversing the refrigerant flow to heat the interior and draw heat from the exterior air, converting the air conditioner into a heat pump. They may be installed in a wall opening with the help of a special sleeve on the wall and a custom grill that is flush with the wall and window air conditioners can also be installed in a window, but without a custom grill.[74]

Packaged air conditioner

[edit]

Packaged air conditioners (also known as self-contained units)[75][76] are central systems that integrate into a single housing all the components of a split central system, and deliver air, possibly through ducts, to the spaces to be cooled. Depending on their construction they may be outdoors or indoors, on roofs (rooftop units),[77][78] draw the air to be conditioned from inside or outside a building and be water or air-cooled. Often, outdoor units are air-cooled while indoor units are liquid-cooled using a cooling tower.[70][79][80][81][82][83]

Types of compressors

[edit]

Compressor types	Common applications	Typical capacity	Efficiency	Durability	Repairability
Reciprocating	Refrigerator, Walk-in freezer, portable air conditioners	small – large	very low (small capacity) medium (large capacity)	very low	medium
Rotary vane	Residential mini splits	small	low	low	easy

Scroll	Commercial and central systems, VRF	medium	medium	medium	easy
Rotary screw	Commercial chiller	medium – large	medium	medium	hard
Centrifugal	Commercial chiller	very large	medium	high	hard
Maglev Centrifugal	Commercial chiller	very large	high	very high	very hard

Reciprocating

[edit]
Main article: Reciprocating compressor

This compressor consists of a crankcase, crankshaft, piston rod, piston, piston ring, cylinder head and valves. [*citation needed*]

Scroll

[edit]
Main article: Scroll compressor

This compressor uses two interleaving scrolls to compress the refrigerant.[84] it consists of one fixed and one orbiting scrolls. This type of compressor is more efficient because it has 70 percent less moving parts than a reciprocating compressor. [*citation needed*

Screw

[edit]
Main article: Rotary-screw compressor

This compressor use two very closely meshing spiral rotors to compress the gas. The gas enters at the suction side and moves through the threads as the screws rotate. The meshing rotors force the gas through the compressor, and the gas exits at the end of the screws. The working area is the inter-lobe volume between the male and female rotors. It is larger at the intake end, and decreases along the length of the rotors until the exhaust port. This change in volume is the compression. [*citation needed*]

Capacity modulation technologies

[edit]

There are several ways to modulate the cooling capacity in refrigeration or air conditioning and heating systems. The most common in air conditioning are: on-off cycling, hot gas bypass, use or not of liquid injection, manifold configurations of multiple compressors, mechanical modulation (also called digital), and inverter technology. [*citation needed*]

Hot gas bypass

[edit]

Hot gas bypass involves injecting a quantity of gas from discharge to the suction side. The compressor will keep operating at the same speed, but due to the bypass, the refrigerant mass flow circulating with the system is reduced, and thus the cooling capacity. This naturally causes the compressor to run uselessly during the periods when the bypass is operating. The turn down capacity varies between 0 and 100%.[85]

Manifold configurations

[edit]

Several compressors can be installed in the system to provide the peak cooling capacity. Each compressor can run or not in order to stage the cooling capacity of the unit. The turn down capacity is either 0/33/66 or 100% for a trio configuration and either 0/50 or 100% for a tandem.[*citation needed*]

Mechanically modulated compressor

[edit]

This internal mechanical capacity modulation is based on periodic compression process with a control valve, the two scroll set move apart stopping the compression for a given time period. This method varies refrigerant flow by changing the average time of compression, but not the actual speed of the motor. Despite an excellent turndown ratio – from 10 to 100% of the cooling capacity, mechanically modulated scrolls have high energy consumption as the motor continuously runs.[*citation needed*]

Variable-speed compressor

[edit]

Main article: Inverter compressor

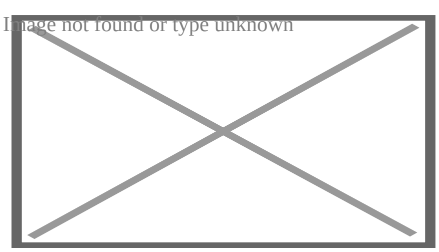
This system uses a variable-frequency drive (also called an Inverter) to control the speed of the compressor. The refrigerant flow rate is changed by the change in the speed of the compressor. The turn down ratio depends on the system configuration and manufacturer. It modulates from 15 or 25% up to 100% at full capacity with a single inverter from 12 to 100% with a hybrid tandem. This method is the most efficient way to modulate an air conditioner's capacity. It is up to 58% more efficient than a fixed speed system.[*citation needed*]

Impact

[edit]

Health effects

[edit]



Rooftop condenser unit fitted on top of an Osaka Municipal Subway 10 series subway carriage. Air conditioning has become increasingly prevalent on public transport vehicles as a form of climate control, and to ensure passenger comfort and drivers' occupational safety and health.

In hot weather, air conditioning can prevent heat stroke, dehydration due to excessive sweating, electrolyte imbalance, kidney failure, and other issues due to hyperthermia.[8][86] Heat waves are the most lethal type of weather phenomenon in the United States.[87][88] A 2020 study found that areas with lower use of air conditioning correlated with higher rates of heat-related mortality and hospitalizations.[89] The August 2003 France heatwave resulted in approximately 15,000 deaths, where 80% of the victims were over 75 years old. In response, the French government required all retirement homes to have at least one air-conditioned room at 25 °C (77 °F) per floor during heatwaves.[8]

Air conditioning (including filtration, humidification, cooling and disinfection) can be used to provide a clean, safe, hypoallergenic atmosphere in hospital operating rooms and other environments where proper atmosphere is critical to patient safety and well-being. It is sometimes recommended for home use by people with allergies, especially mold.[90][91] However, poorly maintained water cooling towers can promote the growth and spread of microorganisms such as *Legionella pneumophila*, the infectious agent responsible for Legionnaires' disease. As long as the cooling tower is kept clean (usually by means of a chlorine treatment), these health hazards can be avoided or reduced. The state of New York has codified requirements for registration, maintenance, and testing of cooling towers to protect against Legionella.[92]

Economic effects

[edit]

First designed to benefit targeted industries such as the press as well as large factories, the invention quickly spread to public agencies and administrations with studies with claims of increased productivity close to 24% in places equipped with air conditioning.[93]

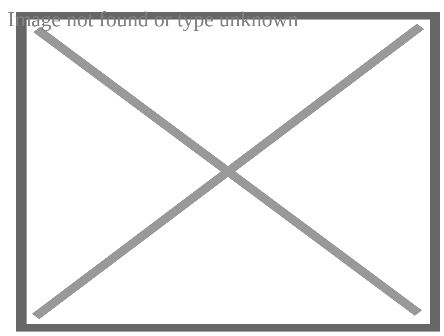
Air conditioning caused various shifts in demography, notably that of the United States starting from the 1970s. In the US, the birth rate was lower in the spring than during other seasons until the 1970s but this difference then declined since then.[94] As of 2007, the Sun Belt contained 30% of the total US population while it was inhabited by 24% of Americans at the beginning of the 20th century.[95] Moreover, the summer mortality rate in the US, which had been higher in regions subject to a heat wave during the summer, also evened out.[7]

The spread of the use of air conditioning acts as a main driver for the growth of global demand of electricity.[96] According to a 2018 report from the International Energy

Agency (IEA), it was revealed that the energy consumption for cooling in the United States, involving 328 million Americans, surpasses the combined energy consumption of 4.4 billion people in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Asia (excluding China).[8] A 2020 survey found that an estimated 88% of all US households use AC, increasing to 93% when solely looking at homes built between 2010 and 2020.[97]

Environmental effects

[edit]



Air conditioner farm in the facade of a building in Singapore

Space cooling including air conditioning accounted globally for 2021 terawatt-hours of energy usage in 2016 with around 99% in the form of electricity, according to a 2018 report on air-conditioning efficiency by the International Energy Agency.[8] The report predicts an increase of electricity usage due to space cooling to around 6200 TWh by 2050,[8][98] and that with the progress currently seen, greenhouse gas emissions attributable to space cooling will double: 1,135 million tons (2016) to 2,070 million tons.[8] There is some push to increase the energy efficiency of air conditioners. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the IEA found that if air conditioners could be twice as effective as now, 460 billion tons of GHG could be cut over 40 years.[99] The UNEP and IEA also recommended legislation to decrease the use of hydrofluorocarbons, better building insulation, and more sustainable temperature-controlled food supply chains going forward.[99]

Refrigerants have also caused and continue to cause serious environmental issues, including ozone depletion and climate change, as several countries have not yet ratified the Kigali Amendment to reduce the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons.[100] CFCs and HCFCs refrigerants such as R-12 and R-22, respectively, used within air conditioners have caused damage to the ozone layer,[101] and hydrofluorocarbon refrigerants such as R-410A and R-404A, which were designed to replace CFCs and HCFCs, are instead exacerbating climate change.[102] Both issues happen due to the venting of refrigerant to the atmosphere, such as during repairs. HFO refrigerants, used in some if not most new equipment, solve both issues with an ozone damage potential (ODP) of zero and a much lower global warming potential (GWP) in the single or double digits vs. the three or four digits of hydrofluorocarbons.[103]

Hydrofluorocarbons would have raised global temperatures by around 0.3–0.5 °C (0.5–0.9 °F) by 2100 without the Kigali Amendment. With the Kigali Amendment, the increase of global temperatures by 2100 due to hydrofluorocarbons is predicted to be around 0.06 °C (0.1 °F).[104]

Alternatives to continual air conditioning include passive cooling, passive solar cooling, natural ventilation, operating shades to reduce solar gain, using trees, architectural shades, windows (and using window coatings) to reduce solar gain.[*citation needed*]

Social effects

[edit]

Socioeconomic groups with a household income below around $10,000 tend to have a low air conditioning adoption,[42] which worsens heat-related mortality.[7] The lack of cooling can be hazardous, as areas with lower use of air conditioning correlate with higher rates of heat-related mortality and hospitalizations.[89] Premature mortality in NYC is projected to grow between 47% and 95% in 30 years, with lower-income and vulnerable populations most at risk.[89] Studies on the correlation between heat-related mortality and hospitalizations and living in low socioeconomic locations can be traced in Phoenix, Arizona,[105] Hong Kong,[106] China,[106] Japan,[107] and Italy.[108][109] Additionally, costs concerning health care can act as another barrier, as the lack of private health insurance during a 2009 heat wave in Australia, was associated with heat-related hospitalization.[109]

Disparities in socioeconomic status and access to air conditioning are connected by some to institutionalized racism, which leads to the association of specific marginalized communities with lower economic status, poorer health, residing in hotter neighborhoods, engaging in physically demanding labor, and experiencing limited access to cooling technologies such as air conditioning.[109] A study overlooking Chicago, Illinois, Detroit, and Michigan found that black households were half as likely to have central air conditioning units when compared to their white counterparts.[110] Especially in cities, Redlining creates heat islands, increasing temperatures in certain parts of the city.[109] This is due to materials heat-absorbing building materials and pavements and lack of vegetation and shade coverage.[111] There have been initiatives that provide cooling solutions to low-income communities, such as public cooling spaces.[8][111]

Other techniques

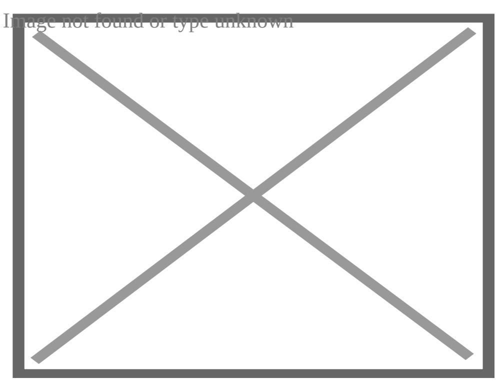
[edit]

Buildings designed with passive air conditioning are generally less expensive to construct and maintain than buildings with conventional HVAC systems with lower energy demands.[112] While tens of air changes per hour, and cooling of tens of degrees, can be achieved with passive methods, site-specific microclimate must be taken into account, complicating building design.[12]

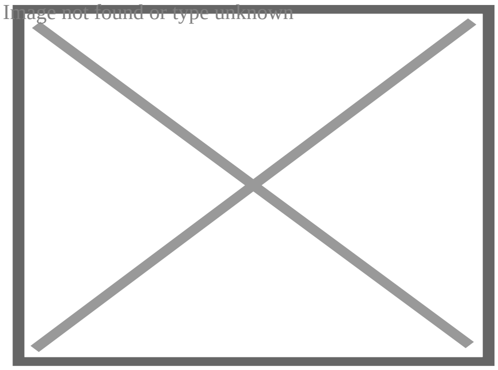
Many techniques can be used to increase comfort and reduce the temperature in buildings. These include evaporative cooling, selective shading, wind, thermal convection, and heat storage.[113]

Passive ventilation

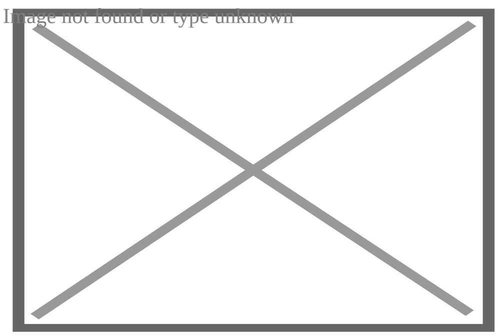
[edit]
This section is an excerpt from Passive ventilation.[edit]



The ventilation system of a regular earthship



Dogtrot houses are designed to maximise natural ventilation.



A roof turbine ventilator, colloquially known as a 'Whirly Bird' is an application of wind driven ventilation.

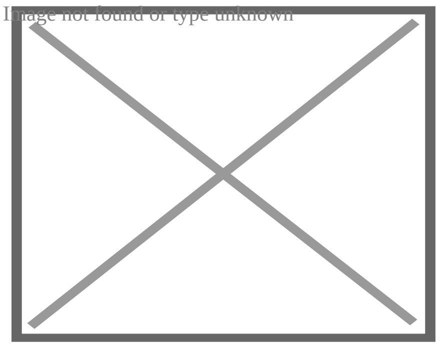
Passive ventilation is the process of supplying air to and removing air from an indoor space without using mechanical systems. It refers to the flow of external air to an indoor space as a result of pressure differences arising from natural forces.

There are two types of natural ventilation occurring in buildings: *wind driven ventilation* and *buoyancy-driven ventilation*. Wind driven ventilation arises from the different pressures created by wind around a building or structure, and openings being formed on the perimeter which then permit flow through the building. Buoyancy-driven ventilation occurs as a result of the directional buoyancy force that results from temperature differences between the interior and exterior.[114]
Since the internal heat gains which create temperature differences between the interior and exterior are created by natural processes, including the heat from people, and wind effects are variable, naturally ventilated buildings are sometimes called "breathing buildings".

Passive cooling

[edit]

This section is an excerpt from Passive cooling.[edit]

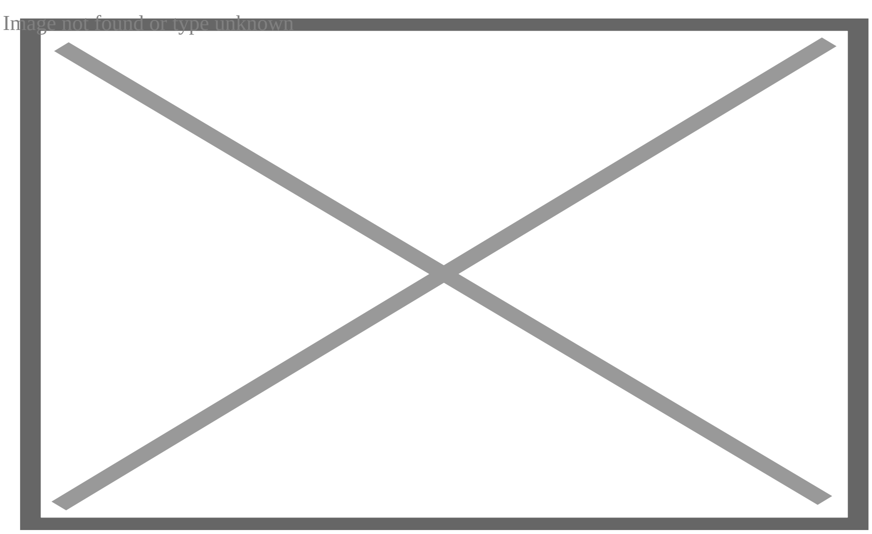


A traditional Iranian solar cooling design using a wind tower

Passive cooling is a building design approach that focuses on heat gain control and heat dissipation in a building in order to improve the indoor thermal comfort with low or no energy consumption.[115][116] This approach works either by preventing heat from entering the interior (heat gain prevention) or by removing heat from the building (natural cooling).[117]

Natural cooling utilizes on-site energy, available from the natural environment, combined with the architectural design of building components (e.g. building envelope), rather than mechanical systems to dissipate heat.[118] Therefore, natural cooling depends not only on the architectural design of the building but on how the site's natural resources are used as heat sinks (i.e. everything that absorbs or dissipates heat). Examples of on-site heat sinks are the upper atmosphere (night sky), the outdoor air (wind), and the earth/soil.

Passive cooling is an important tool for design of buildings for climate change adaptation – reducing dependency on energy-intensive air conditioning in warming environments.[119][120]

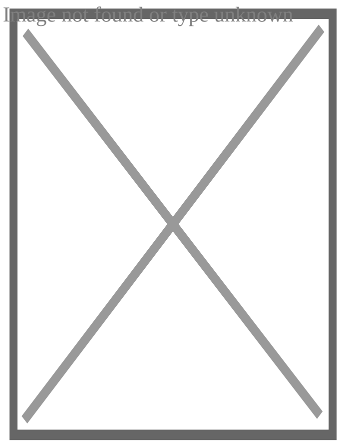


A pair of short windcatchers (*malqaf*) used in traditional architecture; wind is forced down on the windward side and leaves on the leeward side (*cross-*

ventilation). In the absence of wind, the circulation can be driven with evaporative cooling in the inlet (which is also designed to catch dust). In the center, a *shuksheika* (roof lantern vent), used to shade the qa'a below while allowing hot air rise out of it (*stack effect*).[11]

Daytime radiative cooling

[edit]



Passive daytime radiative cooling (PDRC) surfaces are high in solar reflectance and heat emittance, cooling with zero energy use or pollution.[121]

Passive daytime radiative cooling (PDRC) surfaces reflect incoming solar radiation and heat back into outer space through the infrared window for cooling during the daytime. Daytime radiative cooling became possible with the ability to suppress solar heating using photonic structures, which emerged through a study by Raman et al. (2014).[122] PDRCs can come in a variety of forms, including paint coatings and films, that are designed to be high in solar reflectance and thermal emittance.[121][123]

PDRC applications on building roofs and envelopes have demonstrated significant decreases in energy consumption and costs.[123] In suburban single-family residential areas, PDRC application on roofs can potentially lower energy costs by 26% to 46%.[124] PDRCs are predicted to show a market size of ~$27 billion for indoor space cooling by 2025 and have undergone a surge in research and development since the 2010s.[125][126]

Fans

[edit]
Main article: Ceiling fan

Hand fans have existed since prehistory. Large human-powered fans built into buildings include the punkah.

The 2nd-century Chinese inventor Ding Huan of the Han dynasty invented a rotary fan for air conditioning, with seven wheels 3 m (10 ft) in diameter and manually powered by prisoners.[127]
:ÃƒÆ’Ã†â€™Ãƒâ€ Ã¢â‚¬â„¢ÃƒÆ’Ã¢â‚¬Â ÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€šÂ¬Ã¢â€žÂ¢ÃƒÆ’Ã†â€™ÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€šÂ–
In 747, Emperor Xuanzong (r. 712–762) of the Tang dynasty (618–907) had the Cool Hall (*Liang Dian*
ÃƒÆ’Ã†â€™Ãƒâ€ Ã¢â‚¬â„¢ÃƒÆ’Ã¢â‚¬Â ÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€šÂ¬Ã¢â€žÂ¢ÃƒÆ’Ã†â€™ÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€šÂ¬
) built in the imperial palace, which the *Tang Yulin* describes as having water-powered fan wheels for air conditioning as well as rising jet streams of water from fountains. During the subsequent Song dynasty (960–1279), written sources mentioned the air conditioning rotary fan as even more widely used.[127]
:ÃƒÆ’Ã†â€™Ãƒâ€ Ã¢â‚¬â„¢ÃƒÆ’Ã¢â‚¬Â ÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€šÂ¬Ã¢â€žÂ¢ÃƒÆ’Ã†â€™ÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€šÂ–

Thermal buffering

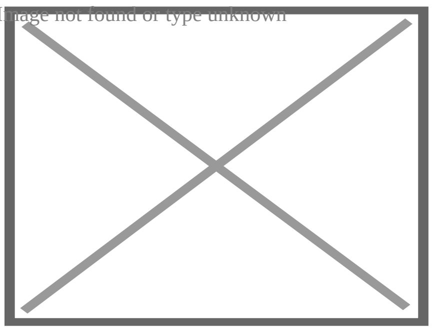
[edit]

In areas that are cold at night or in winter, heat storage is used. Heat may be stored in earth or masonry; air is drawn past the masonry to heat or cool it.[13]

In areas that are below freezing at night in winter, snow and ice can be collected and stored in ice houses for later use in cooling.[13] This technique is over 3,700 years old in the Middle East.[128] Harvesting outdoor ice during winter and transporting and storing for use in summer was practiced by wealthy Europeans in the early 1600s,[15] and became popular in Europe and the Americas towards the end of the 1600s.[129] This practice was replaced by mechanical compression-cycle icemakers.

Evaporative cooling

[edit]
Main article: Evaporative cooler



An evaporative cooler

In dry, hot climates, the evaporative cooling effect may be used by placing water at the air intake, such that the draft draws air over water and then into the house. For this reason, it is sometimes said that the fountain, in the architecture of hot, arid climates, is like the fireplace in the architecture of cold climates.[11] Evaporative cooling also makes the air more humid, which can be beneficial in a dry desert climate.[130]

Evaporative coolers tend to feel as if they are not working during times of high humidity, when there is not much dry air with which the coolers can work to make the air as cool as possible for dwelling occupants. Unlike other types of air conditioners, evaporative coolers rely on the outside air to be channeled through cooler pads that cool the air before it reaches the inside of a house through its air duct system; this cooled outside air must be allowed to push the warmer air within the house out through an exhaust opening such as an open door or window.[131]

See also

[edit]
- Air filter
- Air purifier
- Cleanroom
- Crankcase heater
- Energy recovery ventilation
- Indoor air quality
- Particulates

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- U.S. patent 808,897 Carrier's original patent
- U.S. patent 1,172,429
- U.S. patent 2,363,294
- *Scientific American*, "Artificial Cold", 28 August 1880, p. 138
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Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

Fundamental concepts	◦ Air changes per hour ◦ Bake-out ◦ Building envelope ◦ Convection ◦ Dilution ◦ Domestic energy consumption ◦ Enthalpy ◦ Fluid dynamics ◦ Gas compressor ◦ Heat pump and refrigeration cycle ◦ Heat transfer ◦ Humidity ◦ Infiltration ◦ Latent heat ◦ Noise control ◦ Outgassing ◦ Particulates ◦ Psychrometrics ◦ Sensible heat ◦ Stack effect ◦ Thermal comfort ◦ Thermal destratification ◦ Thermal mass ◦ Thermodynamics ◦ Vapour pressure of water

Technology

- Absorption-compression heat pump
- Absorption refrigerator
- Air barrier
- Air conditioning
- Antifreeze
- Automobile air conditioning
- Autonomous building
- Building insulation materials
- Central heating
- Central solar heating
- Chilled beam
- Chilled water
- Constant air volume (CAV)
- Coolant
- Cross ventilation
- Dedicated outdoor air system (DOAS)
- Deep water source cooling
- Demand controlled ventilation (DCV)
- Displacement ventilation
- District cooling
- District heating
- Electric heating
- Energy recovery ventilation (ERV)
- Firestop
- Forced-air
- Forced-air gas
- Free cooling
- Heat recovery ventilation (HRV)
- Hybrid heat
- Hydronics
- Ice storage air conditioning
- Kitchen ventilation
- Mixed-mode ventilation
- Microgeneration
- Passive cooling
- Passive daytime radiative cooling
- Passive house
- Passive ventilation
- Radiant heating and cooling
- Radiant cooling
- Radiant heating
- Radon mitigation
- Refrigeration
- Renewable heat
- Room air distribution
- Solar air heat
- Solar combisystem

- Air conditioner inverter
- Air door
- Air filter
- Air handler
- Air ionizer
- Air-mixing plenum
- Air purifier
- Air source heat pump
- Attic fan
- Automatic balancing valve
- Back boiler
- Barrier pipe
- Blast damper
- Boiler
- Centrifugal fan
- Ceramic heater
- Chiller
- Condensate pump
- Condenser
- Condensing boiler
- Convection heater
- Compressor
- Cooling tower
- Damper
- Dehumidifier
- Duct
- Economizer
- Electrostatic precipitator
- Evaporative cooler
- Evaporator
- Exhaust hood
- Expansion tank
- Fan
- Fan coil unit
- Fan filter unit
- Fan heater
- Fire damper
- Fireplace
- Fireplace insert
- Freeze stat
- Flue
- Freon
- Fume hood
- Furnace
- Gas compressor
- Gas heater
- Gasoline heater

Measurement and control	◦ Air flow meter ◦ Aquastat ◦ BACnet ◦ Blower door ◦ Building automation ◦ Carbon dioxide sensor ◦ Clean air delivery rate (CADR) ◦ Control valve ◦ Gas detector ◦ Home energy monitor ◦ Humidistat ◦ HVAC control system ◦ Infrared thermometer ◦ Intelligent buildings ◦ LonWorks ◦ Minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) ◦ Normal temperature and pressure (NTP) ◦ OpenTherm ◦ Programmable communicating thermostat ◦ Programmable thermostat ◦ Psychrometrics ◦ Room temperature ◦ Smart thermostat ◦ Standard temperature and pressure (STP) ◦ Thermographic camera ◦ Thermostat ◦ Thermostatic radiator valve
Professions, trades, and services	◦ Architectural acoustics ◦ Architectural engineering ◦ Architectural technologist ◦ Building services engineering ◦ Building information modeling (BIM) ◦ Deep energy retrofit ◦ Duct cleaning ◦ Duct leakage testing ◦ Environmental engineering ◦ Hydronic balancing ◦ Kitchen exhaust cleaning ◦ Mechanical engineering ◦ Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing ◦ Mold growth, assessment, and remediation ◦ Refrigerant reclamation ◦ Testing, adjusting, balancing

Industry organizations	○ AHRI ○ AMCA ○ ASHRAE ○ ASTM International ○ BRE ○ BSRIA ○ CIBSE ○ Institute of Refrigeration ○ IIR ○ LEED ○ SMACNA ○ UMC
Health and safety	○ Indoor air quality (IAQ) ○ Passive smoking ○ Sick building syndrome (SBS) ○ Volatile organic compound (VOC)
See also	○ ASHRAE Handbook ○ Building science ○ Fireproofing ○ Glossary of HVAC terms ○ Warm Spaces ○ World Refrigeration Day ○ Template:Home automation ○ Template:Solar energy

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Home appliances

Types

- Air conditioner
- Air fryer
- Air ioniser
- Air purifier
- Barbecue grill
- Blender
  - Immersion blender
- Bread machine
- Bug zapper
- Coffee percolator
- Clothes dryer
  - combo
- Clothes iron
- Coffeemaker
- Dehumidifier
- Dishwasher
  - drying cabinet
- Domestic robot
  - comparison
- Deep fryer
- Electric blanket
- Electric drill
- Electric kettle
- Electric knife
- Electric water boiler
- Electric heater
- Electric shaver
- Electric toothbrush
- Epilator
- Espresso machine
- Evaporative cooler
- Food processor
- Fan
  - attic
  - bladeless
  - ceiling
  - Fan heater
  - window
- Freezer
- Garbage disposer
- Hair dryer
- Hair iron
- Humidifier
- Icemaker
- Ice cream maker
- Induction cooker
- Instant hot water dispenser

See also

- Appliance plug
- Appliance recycling

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Roofs

Roof shapes

- Arched roof
- Barrel roof
- Board roof
- Bochka roof
- Bow roof
- Butterfly roof
- Clerestory
- Conical roof
- Dome
- Flat roof
- Gable roof
- Gablet roof
- Gambrel roof
- Half-hipped roof
- Hip roof
- Onion dome
- Mansard roof
- Pavilion roof
- Rhombic roof
- Ridged roof
- Saddle roof
- Sawtooth roof
- Shed roof
- Tented roof

Cross-gabled roof

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Roof elements

- Air conditioning unit
- Attic
- Catslide
- Chimney
- Collar beam
- Dormer
- Eaves
- Flashing
- Gable
- Green roof
- Gutter
- Hanging beam
- Joist
- Lightning rod
- Loft
- Purlin
- Rafter
- Ridge vent
- Roof batten
- Roof garden
- Roofline
- Roof ridge
- Roof sheeting
- Roof tiles
- Roof truss
- Roof window
- Skylight
- Soffit
- Solar panels
- Spire
- Weathervane
- Wind brace

Electronics

Branches	○ Analogue electronics ○ Digital electronics ○ Electronic engineering ○ Instrumentation ○ Microelectronics ○ Optoelectronics ○ Power electronics ○ Printed electronics ○ Semiconductor ○ Schematic capture ○ Thermal management
Advanced topics	○ 2020s in computing ○ Atomtronics ○ Bioelectronics ○ List of emerging electronics ○ Failure of electronic components ○ Flexible electronics ○ Low-power electronics ○ Molecular electronics ○ Nanoelectronics ○ Organic electronics ○ Photonics ○ Piezotronics ○ Quantum electronics ○ Spintronics

Electronic equipment	○ Air conditioner ○ Central heating ○ Clothes dryer ○ Computer/Notebook ○ Camera ○ Dishwasher ○ Freezer ○ Home robot ○ Home cinema ○ Home theater PC ○ Information technology ○ Cooker ○ Microwave oven ○ Mobile phone ○ Networking hardware ○ Portable media player ○ Radio ○ Refrigerator ○ Robotic vacuum cleaner ○ Tablet ○ Telephone ○ Television ○ Water heater ○ Video game console ○ Washing machine

Applications

- Audio equipment
- Automotive electronics
- Avionics
- Control system
- Data acquisition
- e-book
- e-health
- Electromagnetic warfare
- Electronics industry
- Embedded system
- Home appliance
- Home automation
- Integrated circuit
- Home appliance
  - Consumer electronics
  - Major appliance
  - Small appliance
- Marine electronics
- Microwave technology
- Military electronics
- Multimedia
- Nuclear electronics
- Open-source hardware
- Radar and Radio navigation
- Radio electronics
- Terahertz technology
- Wired and Wireless Communications

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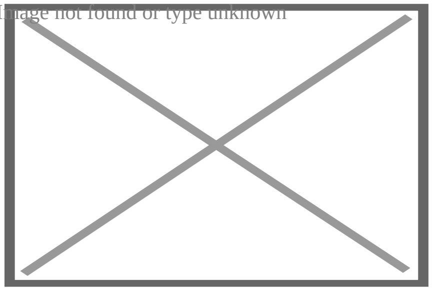
About Indoor air quality



An air filter being cleaned

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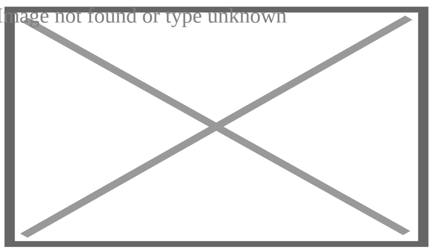
Part of a series on



Air pollution from a factory

Air

- Acid rain
- Air quality index
- Atmospheric dispersion modeling
- Chlorofluorocarbon
- Combustion
- Exhaust gas
- Haze
- Global dimming
- Global distillation
- Indoor air quality
- Non-exhaust emissions
- Ozone depletion
- Particulates
- Persistent organic pollutant
- Smog
- Soot
- Volatile organic compound

Biological

- Biological hazard
- Genetic
- Illegal logging
- Introduced species
  - Invasive species

Digital

- Information

Electromagnetic

- Light
  - Ecological
  - Overillumination
- Radio spectrum

Natural

- Ozone
- Radium and radon in the environment
- Volcanic ash
- Wildfire

Noise

- Transportation
- Health effects from noise
- Marine mammals and sonar
- Noise barrier
- Noise control
- Soundproofing

Radiation

- Actinides
- Bioremediation
- Depleted uranium
- Nuclear fission
- Nuclear fallout
- Plutonium
- Poisoning
- Radioactivity
- Uranium
- Radioactive waste

Soil

- Agricultural
- Land degradation
- Bioremediation
- Defecation
- Electrical resistance heating
- Illegal mining
- Soil guideline values
- Phytoremediation

Solid waste

- Advertising mail
- Biodegradable waste
- Brown waste
- Electronic waste
- Foam food container
- Food waste
- Green waste
- Hazardous waste
- Industrial waste
- Litter
- Mining
- Municipal solid waste
- Nanomaterials
- Plastic
- Packaging waste
- Post-consumer waste
- Waste management

Space

- Space debris

Thermal

- Urban heat island

Visual

- Air travel
- Advertising clutter
- Overhead power lines
- Traffic signs
- Urban blight
- Vandalism

War

- Chemical warfare
- Herbicidal warfare
    - Agent Orange
- Nuclear holocaust
    - Nuclear fallout
    - Nuclear famine
    - Nuclear winter
- Scorched earth
- Unexploded ordnance
- War and environmental law

Water

- Agricultural wastewater
- Biosolids
- Diseases
- Eutrophication
- Firewater
- Freshwater
- Groundwater
- Hypoxia
- Industrial wastewater
- Marine
- Monitoring
- Nonpoint source
- Nutrient
- Ocean acidification
- Oil spill
- Pharmaceuticals
- Freshwater salinization
- Septic tanks
- Sewage
- Shipping
- Sludge
- Stagnation
- Sulfur water
- Surface runoff
- Turbidity
- Urban runoff
- Water quality
- Wastewater

Topics

- History
- Pollutants
  - Heavy metals
  - Paint

Misc

- Area source
- Brain health and pollution
- Debris
- Dust
- Garbology
- Legacy
- Midden
- Point source
- Waste
  - Toxic

Lists

- Diseases
- Law by country
- Most polluted cities
- Least polluted cities by PM2.5
- Treaties
- Most polluted rivers

Categories

- By country

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- Image not found or type unknown iconEcology portal

Indoor air quality (**IAQ**) is the air quality within buildings and structures. Poor indoor air quality due to **indoor air pollution** is known to affect the health, comfort, and well-being of building occupants. It has also been linked to sick building syndrome, respiratory issues, reduced productivity, and impaired learning in schools. Common pollutants of indoor air include: secondhand tobacco smoke, air pollutants from indoor combustion, radon, molds and other allergens, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, legionella and other bacteria, asbestos fibers, carbon dioxide,[1] ozone and particulates.

Source control, filtration, and the use of ventilation to dilute contaminants are the primary methods for improving indoor air quality. Although ventilation is an integral component of maintaining good indoor air quality, it may not be satisfactory alone.[2]

In scenarios where outdoor pollution would deteriorate indoor air quality, other treatment devices such as filtration may also be necessary.[3]

IAQ is evaluated through collection of air samples, monitoring human exposure to pollutants, analysis of building surfaces, and computer modeling of air flow inside buildings. IAQ is part of indoor environmental quality (IEQ), along with other factors that exert an influence on physical and psychological aspects of life indoors (e.g., lighting, visual quality, acoustics, and thermal comfort).[4]

Indoor air pollution is a major health hazard in developing countries and is commonly referred to as "household air pollution" in that context.[5] It is mostly relating to cooking and heating methods by burning biomass fuel, in the form of wood, charcoal, dung, and crop residue, in indoor environments that lack proper ventilation. Millions of people, primarily women and children, face serious health risks. In total, about three billion people in developing countries are affected by this problem. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that cooking-related indoor air pollution causes 3.8 million annual deaths.[6] The Global Burden of Disease study estimated the number of deaths in 2017 at 1.6 million.[7]

Definition

[edit]

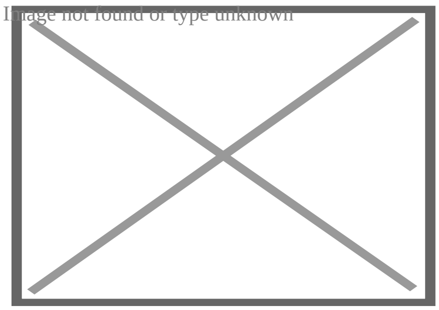
For health reasons it is crucial to breathe clean air, free from chemicals and toxicants as much as possible. It is estimated that humans spend approximately 90% of their lifetime indoors[8] and that indoor air pollution in some places can be much worse than that of the ambient air.[9][10]

Various factors contribute to high concentrations of pollutants indoors, ranging from influx of pollutants from external sources, off-gassing by furniture, furnishings including carpets, indoor activities (cooking, cleaning, painting, smoking, etc. in homes to using office equipment in offices), thermal comfort parameters such as temperature, humidity, airflow and physio-chemical properties of the indoor air.[*citation needed*] Air pollutants can enter a building in many ways, including through open doors or windows. Poorly maintained air conditioners/ventilation systems can harbor mold, bacteria, and other contaminants, which are then circulated throughout indoor spaces, contributing to respiratory problems and allergies.

There have been many debates among indoor air quality specialists about the proper definition of indoor air quality and specifically what constitutes "acceptable" indoor air quality.

Health effects

[edit]



Share of deaths from indoor air pollution. Darker colors mean higher numbers.

IAQ is significant for human health as humans spend a large proportion of their time in indoor environments. Americans and Europeans on average spend approximately 90% of their time indoors.[11][12]

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 3.2 million people die prematurely every year from illnesses attributed to indoor air pollution caused by indoor cooking, with over 237 thousand of these being children under 5. These include around an eighth of all global ischaemic heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer deaths. Overall the WHO estimated that poor indoor air quality resulted in the loss of 86 million healthy life years in 2019.[13]

Studies in the UK and Europe show exposure to indoor air pollutants, chemicals and biological contamination can irritate the upper airway system, trigger or exacerbate asthma and other respiratory or cardiovascular conditions, and may even have carcinogenic effects.[14][15][16][17][18][19]

Poor indoor air quality can cause sick building syndrome. Symptoms include burning of the eyes, scratchy throat, blocked nose, and headaches.[20]

Common pollutants

[edit]

Generated by indoor combustion

[edit]
Main article: Household air pollution

Further information: Energy poverty and cooking

a 3-stone stove

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A traditional wood-fired 3-stone stove in Guatemala, which causes indoor air pollution

Indoor combustion, such as for cooking or heating, is a major cause of indoor air pollution and causes significant health harms and premature deaths. Hydrocarbon fires cause air pollution. Pollution is caused by both biomass and fossil fuels of various types, but some forms of fuels are more harmful than others.

Indoor fire can produce black carbon particles, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, and mercury compounds, among other emissions.[21] Around 3 billion people cook over open fires or on rudimentary cook stoves. Cooking fuels are coal, wood, animal dung, and crop residues.[22] IAQ is a particular concern in low and middle-income countries where such practices are common.[23]

Cooking using natural gas (also called fossil gas, methane gas or simply gas) is associated with poorer indoor air quality. Combustion of gas produces nitrogen dioxide and carbon monixide, and can lead to increased concentrations of nitrogen dioxide throughout the home environment which is linked to respiratory issues and diseases.[24][25]

Carbon monoxide

[edit]

Main article: Carbon monoxide poisoning

One of the most acutely toxic indoor air contaminants is carbon monoxide (CO), a colourless and odourless gas that is a by-product of incomplete combustion. Carbon monoxide may be emitted from tobacco smoke and generated from malfunctioning fuel burning stoves (wood, kerosene, natural gas, propane) and fuel burning heating systems (wood, oil, natural gas) and from blocked flues connected to these appliances.[26] In developed countries the main sources of indoor CO emission come from cooking and heating devices that burn fossil fuels and are faulty, incorrectly installed or poorly maintained.[27] Appliance malfunction may be due to faulty installation or lack of maintenance and proper use.[26] In low- and middle-income countries the most common sources of CO in homes are burning biomass fuels and cigarette smoke.[27]

Health effects of CO poisoning may be acute or chronic and can occur unintentionally or intentionally (self-harm). By depriving the brain of oxygen, acute exposure to carbon monoxide may have effects on the neurological system (headache, nausea, dizziness, alteration in consciousness and subjective weakness), the cardiovascular and respiratory systems (myocardial infarction, shortness of breath, or rapid breathing, respiratory failure). Acute exposure can also lead to long-term neurological effects such as cognitive and behavioural changes. Severe CO poisoning may lead to unconsciousness, coma and death. Chronic exposure to low concentrations of carbon monoxide may lead to lethargy, headaches, nausea, flu-like symptoms and neuropsychological and cardiovascular issues.[28][26]

The WHO recommended levels of indoor CO exposure in 24 hours is 4 mg/m^3.[29] Acute exposure should not exceed 10 mg/m^3 in 8 hours, 35 mg/m^3 in one hour and 100 mg/m^3 in 15 minutes.[27]

Secondhand tobacco smoke

[edit]
Main article: Passive smoking

Secondhand smoke is tobacco smoke which affects people other than the 'active' smoker. It is made up of the exhaled smoke (15%) and mostly of smoke coming from the burning end of the cigarette, known as sidestream smoke (85%).[30]

Secondhand smoke contains more than 7000 chemicals, of which hundreds are harmful to health.[30] Secondhand tobacco smoke includes both a gaseous and a particulate materials which, with particular hazards arising from levels of carbon monoxide and very small particulates (fine particulate matter, especially PM2.5 and PM10) which get into the bronchioles and alveoles in the lung.[31] Inhaling secondhand smoke on multiple occasions can cause asthma, pneumonia, lung cancer, and sudden infant death syndrome, among other conditions.[32]

Thirdhand smoke (THS) refers to chemicals that settle on objects and bodies indoors after smoking. Exposure to thirdhand smoke can happen even after the actual cigarette smoke is not present anymore and affect those entering the indoor environment much later. Toxic substances of THS can react with other chemicals in the air and produce new toxic chemicals that are otherwise not present in cigarettes.[33]

The only certain method to improve indoor air quality as regards secondhand smoke is to eliminate smoking indoors.[34] Indoor e-cigarette use also increases home particulate matter concentrations.[35]

Particulates

[edit]

Atmospheric particulate matter, also known as particulates, can be found indoors and can affect the health of occupants. Indoor particulate matter can come from different indoor sources or be created as secondary aerosols through indoor gas-to-particle reactions. They can also be outdoor particles that enter indoors. These indoor particles vary widely in size, ranging from nanomet (nanoparticles/ultrafine particles emitted from combustion sources) to micromet (resuspensed dust).[36] Particulate matter can also be produced through cooking activities. Frying produces higher concentrations than boiling or grilling and cooking meat produces higher concentrations than cooking vegetables.[37] Preparing a Thanksgiving dinner can produce very high concentrations of particulate matter, exceeding 300 ?g/m^3.[38]

Particulates can penetrate deep into the lungs and brain from blood streams, causing health problems such as heart disease, lung disease, cancer and preterm birth.[39]

Generated from building materials, furnishing and consumer products

[edit]
See also: Building materials and Red List building materials

Volatile organic compounds

[edit]

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects. There are numerous sources of VOCs indoors, which means that their concentrations are consistently higher indoors (up to ten times higher) than outdoors.[40] Some VOCs are emitted directly indoors, and some are formed through the subsequent chemical reactions that can occur in the gas-phase, or on surfaces.[41][42] VOCs presenting health hazards include benzene, formaldehyde, tetrachloroethylene and trichloroethylene.[43]

VOCs are emitted by thousands of indoor products. Examples include: paints, varnishes, waxes and lacquers, paint strippers, cleaning and personal care products, pesticides, building materials and furnishings, office equipment such as copiers and printers, correction fluids and carbonless copy paper, graphics and craft materials including glues and adhesives, permanent markers, and photographic solutions.[44] Chlorinated drinking water releases chloroform when hot water is used in the home. Benzene is emitted from fuel stored in attached garages.

Human activities such as cooking and cleaning can also emit VOCs.[45][46] Cooking can release long-chain aldehydes and alkanes when oil is heated and terpenes can be released when spices are prepared and/or cooked.[45] Leaks of natural gas from cooking appliances have been linked to elevated levels of VOCs including benzene in homes in the USA.[47] Cleaning products contain a range of VOCs, including monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, alcohols and esters. Once released into the air, VOCs can undergo reactions with ozone and hydroxyl radicals to produce other VOCs, such as formaldehyde.[46]

Health effects include eye, nose, and throat irritation; headaches, loss of coordination, nausea; and damage to the liver, kidney, and central nervous system.[48]

Testing emissions from building materials used indoors has become increasingly common for floor coverings, paints, and many other important indoor building materials and finishes.[49] Indoor materials such as gypsum boards or carpet act as VOC 'sinks', by trapping VOC vapors for extended periods of time, and releasing them by outgassing. The VOCs can also undergo transformation at the surface through interaction with ozone.[42] In both cases, these delayed emissions can result in chronic and low-level exposures to VOCs.[50]

Several initiatives aim to reduce indoor air contamination by limiting VOC emissions from products. There are regulations in France and in Germany, and numerous voluntary ecolabels and rating systems containing low VOC emissions criteria such as EMICODE,[51] M1,[52] Blue Angel[53] and Indoor Air Comfort[54] in Europe, as well as California Standard CDPH Section 01350[55] and several others in the US. Due to these initiatives an increasing number of low-emitting products became available to purchase.

At least 18 microbial VOCs (MVOCs) have been characterised[56][57] including 1-octen-3-ol (mushroom alcohol), 3-Methylfuran, 2-pentanol, 2-hexanone, 2-heptanone, 3-octanone, 3-octanol, 2-octen-1-ol, 1-octene, 2-pentanone, 2-nonanone, borneol, geosmin, 1-butanol, 3-methyl-1-butanol, 3-methyl-2-butanol, and thujopsene. The last four are products of *Stachybotrys chartarum*, which has been linked with sick building syndrome.[56]

Asbestos fibers

[edit]

Many common building materials used before 1975 contain asbestos, such as some floor tiles, ceiling tiles, shingles, fireproofing, heating systems, pipe wrap, taping muds, mastics, and other insulation materials. Normally, significant releases of asbestos fiber do not occur unless the building materials are disturbed, such as by cutting, sanding, drilling, or building remodelling. Removal of asbestos-containing materials is not always optimal because the fibers can be spread into the air during the removal process. A management program for intact asbestos-containing materials is often recommended instead.

When asbestos-containing material is damaged or disintegrates, microscopic fibers are dispersed into the air. Inhalation of asbestos fibers over long exposure times is associated with increased incidence of lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis. The risk of lung cancer from inhaling asbestos fibers is significantly greater for smokers. The symptoms of disease do not usually appear until about 20 to 30 years after the first exposure to asbestos.

Although all asbestos is hazardous, products that are friable, e.g. sprayed coatings and insulation, pose a significantly higher hazard as they are more likely to release fibers to the air.[58]

Microplastics

[edit]
Main article: Microplastics
See also: Renovation and Particulates

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Microplastic is a type of airborne particulates and is found to prevail in air.[59][60][61][62] A 2017 study found indoor airborne microfiber concentrations between 1.0 and 60.0 microfibers per cubic meter (33% of which were found to be microplastics).[63] Airborne microplastic dust can be produced during renovation, building, bridge and road reconstruction projects[64] and the use of power tools.[65]

Ozone

[edit]
See also: Ground-level ozone

Indoors ozone (O_3) is produced by certain high-voltage electric devices (such as air ionizers), and as a by-product of other types of pollution. It appears in lower concentrations indoors than outdoors, usually at 0.2-0.7 of the outdoor concentration.[66] Typically, most ozone is lost to surface reactions indoors, rather than to reactions in air, due to the large surface to volume ratios found indoors.[67]

Outdoor air used for ventilation may have sufficient ozone to react with common indoor pollutants as well as skin oils and other common indoor air chemicals or surfaces. Particular concern is warranted when using "green" cleaning products based on citrus or terpene extracts, because these chemicals react very quickly with ozone to form toxic and irritating chemicals[46] as well as fine and ultrafine particles.[68] Ventilation with outdoor air containing elevated ozone concentrations may complicate remediation attempts.[69]

The WHO standard for ozone concentration is 60 ?g/m^3 for long-term exposure and 100 ?g/m^3 as the maximum average over an 8-hour period.[29] The EPA standard for ozone concentration is 0.07 ppm average over an 8-hour period.[70]

Biological agents

[edit]

Mold and other allergens

[edit]
Main articles: Indoor mold and Mold health issues

Occupants in buildings can be exposed to fungal spores, cell fragments, or mycotoxins which can arise from a host of means, but there are two common classes: (a) excess moisture induced growth of mold colonies and (b) natural substances released into the air such as animal dander and plant pollen.[71]

While mold growth is associated with high moisture levels,[72] it is likely to grow when a combination of favorable conditions arises. As well as high moisture levels, these conditions include suitable temperatures, pH and nutrient sources.[73] Mold grows primarily on surfaces, and it reproduces by releasing spores, which can travel and settle in different locations. When these spores experience appropriate conditions, they can germinate and lead to mycelium growth.[74] Different mold species favor different environmental conditions to germinate and grow, some being more hydrophilic (growing at higher levels of relative humidity) and other more xerophilic (growing at levels of relative humidity as low as 75–80%).[74][75]

Mold growth can be inhibited by keeping surfaces at conditions that are further from condensation, with relative humidity levels below 75%. This usually translates to a relative humidity of indoor air below 60%, in agreement with the guidelines for thermal comfort that recommend a relative humidity between 40 and 60 %. Moisture buildup in buildings may arise from water penetrating areas of the building envelope or fabric, from plumbing leaks, rainwater or groundwater penetration, or from condensation due to improper ventilation, insufficient heating or poor thermal quality of the building envelope.[76] Even something as simple as drying clothes indoors on radiators can increase the risk of mold growth, if the humidity produced is not able to escape the building via ventilation.[77]

Mold predominantly affects the airways and lungs. Known effects of mold on health include asthma development and exacerbation,[78] with children and elderly at greater risk of more severe health impacts.[79] Infants in homes with mold have a much greater risk of developing asthma and allergic rhinitis.[80][71] More than half of adult workers in moldy or humid buildings suffer from nasal or sinus symptoms due to mold exposure.[71] Some varieties of mold contain toxic compounds (mycotoxins). However, exposure to hazardous levels of mycotoxin via inhalation is not possible in most cases, as toxins are produced by the fungal body and are not at significant levels in the released spores.

Legionella

[edit]

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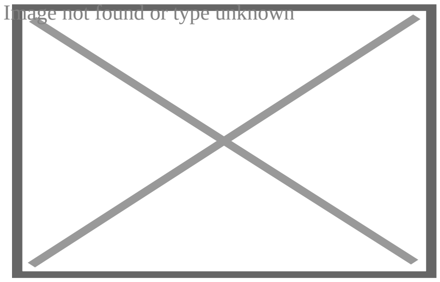
Legionnaires' disease is caused by a waterborne bacterium *Legionella* that grows best in slow-moving or still, warm water. The primary route of exposure is through the creation of an aerosol effect, most commonly from evaporative cooling towers or showerheads. A common source of *Legionella* in commercial buildings is from poorly placed or maintained evaporative cooling towers, which often release water in an aerosol which may enter nearby ventilation intakes. Outbreaks in medical facilities and nursing homes, where patients are immuno-suppressed and immuno-weak, are the most commonly reported cases of Legionellosis. More than one case has involved outdoor fountains at public attractions. The presence of *Legionella* in commercial building water supplies is highly under-reported, as healthy people require heavy exposure to acquire infection.

Legionella testing typically involves collecting water samples and surface swabs from evaporative cooling basins, shower heads, faucets/taps, and other locations where warm water collects. The samples are then cultured and colony forming units (cfu) of Legionella are quantified as cfu/liter.

Legionella is a parasite of protozoans such as amoeba, and thus requires conditions suitable for both organisms. The bacterium forms a biofilm which is resistant to chemical and antimicrobial treatments, including chlorine. Remediation for *Legionella* outbreaks in commercial buildings vary, but often include very hot water flushes (160 °F (71 °C)), sterilisation of standing water in evaporative cooling basins, replacement of shower heads, and, in some cases, flushes of heavy metal salts. Preventive measures include adjusting normal hot water levels to allow for 120 °F (49 °C) at the tap, evaluating facility design layout, removing faucet aerators, and periodic testing in suspect areas.

Other bacteria

[edit]



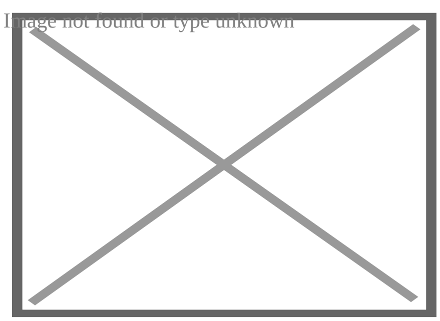
Airborne bacteria

There are many bacteria of health significance found in indoor air and on indoor surfaces. The role of microbes in the indoor environment is increasingly studied using modern gene-based analysis of environmental samples. Currently, efforts are under way to link microbial ecologists and indoor air scientists to forge new methods for analysis and to better interpret the results.[81]

A large fraction of the bacteria found in indoor air and dust are shed from humans. Among the most important bacteria known to occur in indoor air are Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus pneumoniae.[*citation needed*]

Virus

[edit]



Ninth floor layout of the Metropole Hotel in Hong Kong, showing where an outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) occurred

Viruses can also be a concern for indoor air quality. During the 2002–2004 SARS outbreak, virus-laden aerosols were found to have seeped into bathrooms from the bathroom floor drains, exacerbated by the draw of bathroom exhaust fans, resulting in the rapid spread of SARS in Amoy Gardens in Hong Kong.[82][83] Elsewhere in Hong Kong, SARS CoV RNA was found on the carpet and in the air intake vents of the Metropole Hotel, which showed that secondary environmental contamination could generate infectious aerosols and resulted in superspreading events.[84]

Carbon dioxide

[edit]

Humans are the main indoor source of carbon dioxide (CO_2) in most buildings. Indoor CO_2 levels are an indicator of the adequacy of outdoor air ventilation relative to indoor occupant density and metabolic activity.

Indoor CO_2 levels above 500 ppm can lead to higher blood pressure and heart rate, and increased peripheral blood circulation.[85] With CO_2 concentrations above 1000 ppm cognitive performance might be affected, especially when doing complex tasks, making decision making and problem solving slower but not less accurate.[86][87] However, evidence on the health effects of CO_2 at lower concentrations is conflicting and it is difficult to link CO_2 to health impacts at exposures below 5000 ppm – reported health outcomes may be due to the presence of human bioeffluents, and other indoor air pollutants related to inadequate ventilation.[88]

Indoor carbon dioxide concentrations can be used to evaluate the quality of a room or a building's ventilation.[89] To eliminate most complaints caused by CO_2, the total indoor CO_2 level should be reduced to a difference of no greater than 700 ppm above outdoor levels.[90] The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) considers that indoor air concentrations of carbon dioxide that exceed 1000 ppm are a marker suggesting inadequate ventilation.[91] The UK standards for schools say that carbon dioxide levels of 800 ppm or lower indicate that the room is well-ventilated.[92] Regulations and standards from around the world show that CO_2 levels below 1000 ppm represent good IAQ, between 1000 and 1500 ppm represent moderate IAQ and greater than 1500 ppm represent poor IAQ.[88]

Carbon dioxide concentrations in closed or confined rooms can increase to 1,000 ppm within 45 minutes of enclosure. For example, in a 3.5-by-4-metre (11 ft × 13 ft) sized office, atmospheric carbon dioxide increased from 500 ppm to over 1,000 ppm within 45 minutes of ventilation cessation and closure of windows and doors.[93]

Radon

[edit]
Main article: Radon

Radon is an invisible, radioactive atomic gas that results from the radioactive decay of radium, which may be found in rock formations beneath buildings or in certain building materials themselves.

Radon is probably the most pervasive serious hazard for indoor air in the United States and Europe. It is a major cause of lung cancer, responsible for 3–14% of cases in countries, leading to tens of thousands of deaths.[94]

Radon gas enters buildings as a soil gas. As it is a heavy gas it will tend to accumulate at the lowest level. Radon may also be introduced into a building through drinking water particularly from bathroom showers. Building materials can be a rare source of radon, but little testing is carried out for stone, rock or tile products brought into building sites; radon accumulation is greatest for well insulated homes.[95] There are simple do-it-yourself kits for radon gas testing, but a licensed professional can also check homes.

The half-life for radon is 3.8 days, indicating that once the source is removed, the hazard will be greatly reduced within a few weeks. Radon mitigation methods include sealing concrete slab floors, basement foundations, water drainage systems, or by increasing ventilation.[96] They are usually cost effective and can greatly reduce or even eliminate the contamination and the associated health risks.[*citation needed*]

Radon is measured in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or becquerel per cubic meter (Bq m^{-3}). Both are measurements of radioactivity. The World Health Organization (WHO) sets the ideal indoor radon levels at 100 Bq/m^{-3}.[97] In the United States, it is recommend to fix homes with radon levels at or above 4 pCi/L. At the same time it is also recommends that people think about fixing their homes for radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L.[98] In the United Kingdom the ideal is presence of radon indoors is 100 Bq/m^{-3}. Action needs to be taken in homes with 200 Bq/m?3 or more.[99]

Interactive maps of radon affected areas are available for various regions and countries of the world.[100][101][102]

IAQ and climate change

[edit]
See also: Effects of climate change on human health

Indoor air quality is linked inextricably to outdoor air quality. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has varying scenarios that predict how the climate will change in the future.[103] Climate change can affect indoor air quality by increasing the level of outdoor air pollutants such as ozone and particulate matter, for example through emissions from wildfires caused by extreme heat and drought.[104][

[105] Numerous predictions for how indoor air pollutants will change have been made,[106][107][108][109] and models have attempted to predict how the forecasted IPCC scenarios will vary indoor air quality and indoor comfort parameters such as humidity and temperature.[110]

The net-zero challenge requires significant changes in the performance of both new and retrofitted buildings. However, increased energy efficient housing will trap pollutants inside, whether produced indoors or outdoors, and lead to an increase in human exposure.[111][112]

Indoor air quality standards and monitoring

[edit]

Quality guidelines and standards

[edit]

For occupational exposure, there are standards, which cover a wide range of chemicals, and applied to healthy adults who are exposed over time at workplaces (usually industrial environments).These are published by organisations such as Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

There is no consensus globally about indoor air quality standards, or health-based guidelines. However, there are regulations from some individual countries and from health organisations. For example, the World Health Organization (WHO) has published health-based global air quality guidelines for the general population that are applicable both to outdoor and indoor air,[29] as well as the WHO IAQ guidelines for selected compounds,[113] whereas the UK Health Security Agency published IAQ guidelines for selected VOCs.[114] The Scientific and Technical Committee (STC34) of the International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate (ISIAQ) created an open database that collects indoor environmental quality guidelines worldwide.[115] The database is focused on indoor air quality (IAQ), but is currently extended to include standards, regulations, and guidelines related to ventilation, comfort, acoustics, and lighting.[116][117]

Real-time monitoring

[edit]

Since indoor air pollutants can adversely affect human health, it is important to have real-time indoor air quality assessment/monitoring system that can help not only in the improvement of indoor air quality but also help in detection of leaks, spills in a work environment and boost energy efficiency of buildings by providing real-time feedback to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system(s).[118] Additionally, there have been enough studies that highlight the correlation between poor indoor air quality and loss of performance and productivity of workers in an office setting.[119]

Combining the Internet of Things (IoT) technology with real-time IAQ monitoring systems has tremendously gained momentum and popularity as interventions can be done based on the real-time sensor data and thus help in the IAQ improvement.[120]

Improvement measures

[edit]

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See also: Air purifier, Air conditioner, Air filter, Cleanroom, Particulates § Controlling technologies and measures, Pollution control, and Ventilation (architecture)
Further information: Fan (machine), Dehumidifier, and Heater

Indoor air quality can be addressed, achieved or maintained during the design of new buildings or as mitigating measures in existing buildings. A hierarchy of measures has been proposed by the Institute of Air Quality Management. It emphasises removing pollutant sources, reducing emissions from any remaining sources, disrupting pathways between sources and the people exposed, protecting people from exposure to pollutants, and removing people from areas with poor air quality.[121]

A report assisted by the Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the German Social Accident Insurance can support in the systematic investigation of individual health problems arising at indoor workplaces, and in the identification of practical solutions.[122]

Source control

[edit]

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HVAC design

[edit]
Main articles: HVAC, Air handler, and Ventilation (architecture)

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Environmentally sustainable design concepts include aspects of commercial and residential heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) technologies. Among several considerations, one of the topics attended to is the issue of indoor air quality throughout the design and construction stages of a building's life.[*citation needed*]

One technique to reduce energy consumption while maintaining adequate air quality, is demand-controlled ventilation. Instead of setting throughput at a fixed air replacement rate, carbon dioxide sensors are used to control the rate dynamically, based on the emissions of actual building occupants.[*citation needed*]

One way of quantitatively ensuring the health of indoor air is by the frequency of effective turnover of interior air by replacement with outside air. In the UK, for example, classrooms are required to have 2.5 outdoor air changes per hour. In halls, gym, dining, and physiotherapy spaces, the ventilation should be sufficient to limit carbon dioxide to 1,500 ppm. In the US, ventilation in classrooms is based on the amount of outdoor air per occupant plus the amount of outdoor air per unit of floor area, not air changes per hour. Since carbon dioxide indoors comes from occupants and outdoor air, the adequacy of ventilation per occupant is indicated by the concentration indoors minus the concentration outdoors. The value of 615 ppm above the outdoor concentration indicates approximately 15 cubic feet per minute of outdoor air per adult occupant doing sedentary office work where outdoor air contains over 400 ppm[123] (global average as of 2023). In classrooms, the requirements in the ASHRAE standard 62.1, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality, would typically result in about 3 air changes per hour, depending on the occupant density. As the occupants are not the only source of pollutants, outdoor air ventilation may need to be higher when unusual or strong sources of pollution exist indoors.

When outdoor air is polluted, bringing in more outdoor air can actually worsen the overall quality of the indoor air and exacerbate some occupant symptoms related to outdoor air pollution. Generally, outdoor country air is better than indoor city air.[*citation neede*

The use of air filters can trap some of the air pollutants. Portable room air cleaners with HEPA filters can be used if ventilation is poor or outside air has high level of PM 2.5.[122] Air filters are used to reduce the amount of dust that reaches the wet coils.[*citation n* Dust can serve as food to grow molds on the wet coils and ducts and can reduce the efficiency of the coils.[*citation needed*]

The use of trickle vents on windows is also valuable to maintain constant ventilation. They can help prevent mold and allergen build up in the home or workplace. They can also reduce the spread of some respiratory infections.[124]

Moisture management and humidity control requires operating HVAC systems as designed. Moisture management and humidity control may conflict with efforts to conserve energy. For example, moisture management and humidity control requires systems to be set to supply make-up air at lower temperatures (design levels), instead of the higher temperatures sometimes used to conserve energy in cooling-dominated climate conditions. However, for most of the US and many parts of Europe and Japan, during the majority of hours of the year, outdoor air temperatures are cool enough that the air does not need further cooling to provide thermal comfort indoors.[*citation needed*] However, high humidity outdoors creates the need for careful attention to humidity levels indoors. High humidity give rise to mold growth and moisture indoors is associated with a higher prevalence of occupant respiratory problems.[*citation needed*]

The "dew point temperature" is an absolute measure of the moisture in air. Some facilities are being designed with dew points in the lower 50s °F, and some in the upper and lower 40s °F.[*citation needed*] Some facilities are being designed using desiccant wheels with gas-fired heaters to dry out the wheel enough to get the required dew points.[*citation needed*] On those systems, after the moisture is removed from the make-up air, a cooling coil is used to lower the temperature to the desired level.[*citation needed*]

Commercial buildings, and sometimes residential, are often kept under slightly positive air pressure relative to the outdoors to reduce infiltration. Limiting infiltration helps with moisture management and humidity control.

Dilution of indoor pollutants with outdoor air is effective to the extent that outdoor air is free of harmful pollutants. Ozone in outdoor air occurs indoors at reduced concentrations because ozone is highly reactive with many chemicals found indoors. The products of the reactions between ozone and many common indoor pollutants include organic compounds that may be more odorous, irritating, or toxic than those from which they are formed. These products of ozone chemistry include formaldehyde, higher molecular weight aldehydes, acidic aerosols, and fine and ultrafine particles, among others. The higher the outdoor ventilation rate, the higher the indoor ozone concentration and the more likely the reactions will occur, but even at low levels, the reactions will take place. This suggests that ozone should be removed from ventilation air, especially in areas where outdoor ozone levels are frequently high.

Effect of indoor plants

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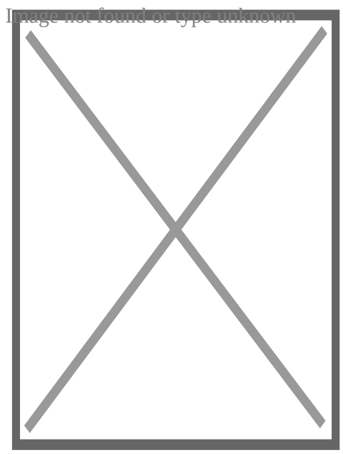

Spider plants *(Chlorophytum comosum)* absorb some airborne contaminants.

Houseplants together with the medium in which they are grown can reduce components of indoor air pollution, particularly volatile organic compounds (VOC) such as benzene, toluene, and xylene. Plants remove CO_2 and release oxygen and water, although the quantitative impact for house plants is small. The interest in using potted plants for removing VOCs was sparked by a 1989 NASA study conducted in sealed chambers designed to replicate the environment on space stations. However, these results suffered from poor replication[125] and are not applicable to typical buildings, where outdoor-to-indoor air exchange already removes VOCs at a rate that could only be matched by the placement of 10–1000 plants/m^2 of a building's floor space.[126]

Plants also appear to reduce airborne microbes and molds, and to increase humidity.[127] However, the increased humidity can itself lead to increased levels of mold and even VOCs.[128]

Since extremely high humidity is associated with increased mold growth, allergic responses, and respiratory responses, the presence of additional moisture from houseplants may not be desirable in all indoor settings if watering is done inappropriately.[129]

Institutional programs

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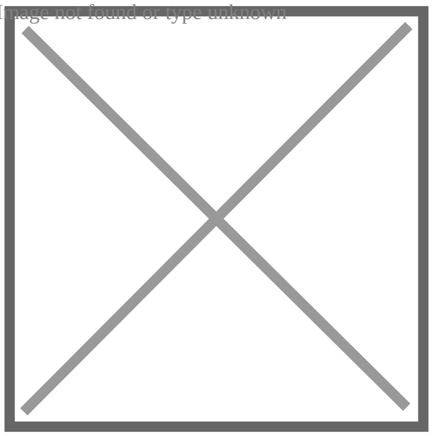

EPA graphic about asthma triggers

The topic of IAQ has become popular due to the greater awareness of health problems caused by mold and triggers to asthma and allergies.

In the US, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed an "IAQ Tools for Schools" program to help improve the indoor environmental conditions in educational institutions. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health conducts Health Hazard Evaluations (HHEs) in workplaces at the request of employees, authorized representative of employees, or employers, to determine whether any substance normally found in the place of employment has potentially toxic effects, including indoor air quality.[130]

A variety of scientists work in the field of indoor air quality, including chemists, physicists, mechanical engineers, biologists, bacteriologists, epidemiologists, and computer scientists. Some of these professionals are certified by organizations such as the American Industrial Hygiene Association, the American Indoor Air Quality Council and the Indoor Environmental Air Quality Council.

In the UK, under the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, the Air Quality Expert Group considers current knowledge on indoor air quality and provides advice to government and devolved administration ministers.[131]

At the international level, the International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate (ISIAQ), formed in 1991, organizes two major conferences, the Indoor Air and the Healthy Buildings series.[132]

See also

[edit]

- Environmental management
- Healthy building
- Indoor bioaerosol
- Microbiomes of the built environment
- Olfactory fatigue

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[edit]

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External links

[edit]

- US Environmental Protection Agency info on IAQ
- Best Practices for Indoor Air Quality when Remodeling Your Home, US EPA
- Addressing Indoor Environmental Concerns During Remodeling, US EPA
- Renovation and Repair, Part of Indoor Air Quality Design Tools for Schools, US EPA
- The 9 Foundations of a Healthy Building, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

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Pollution

History

Air

- Acid rain
- Air quality index
- Atmospheric dispersion modeling
- Chlorofluorocarbon
- Combustion
  - Biofuel
  - Biomass
  - Joss paper
  - Open burning of waste
- Construction
  - Renovation
- Demolition
- Exhaust gas
  - Diesel exhaust
- Haze
  - Smoke
- Indoor air quality
- Internal combustion engine
- Global dimming
- Global distillation
- Mining
- Ozone depletion
- Particulates
  - Asbestos
  - Metal working
  - Oil refining
  - Wood dust
  - Welding
- Persistent organic pollutant
- Smelting
- Smog
- Soot
  - Black carbon
- Volatile organic compound
- Waste

Biological

- Biological hazard
- Genetic pollution
- Introduced species
  - Invasive species

Digital

- Information pollution

Electromagnetic

- Light
    - Ecological light pollution
    - Overillumination
- Radio spectrum pollution

Natural

- Ozone
- Radium and radon in the environment
- Volcanic ash
- Wildfire

Noise

- Transportation
    - Land
    - Water
    - Air
    - Rail
    - Sustainable transport
- Urban
- Sonar
    - Marine mammals and sonar
- Industrial
- Military
- Abstract
- Noise control

Radiation

- Actinides
- Bioremediation
- Nuclear fission
- Nuclear fallout
- Plutonium
- Poisoning
- Radioactivity
- Uranium
- Electromagnetic radiation and health
- Radioactive waste

Soil

- Agricultural pollution
    - Herbicides
    - Manure waste
    - Pesticides
- Land degradation
- Bioremediation
- Open defecation
- Electrical resistance heating
- Soil guideline values
- Phytoremediation

Solid waste	○ Advertising mail
	○ Biodegradable waste
	○ Brown waste
	○ Electronic waste
	    ○ Battery recycling
	○ Foam food container
	○ Food waste
	○ Green waste
	○ Hazardous waste
	    ○ Biomedical waste
	    ○ Chemical waste
	    ○ Construction waste
	    ○ Lead poisoning
	    ○ Mercury poisoning
	    ○ Toxic waste
	○ Industrial waste
	    ○ Lead smelting
	○ Litter
	○ Mining
	    ○ Coal mining
	    ○ Gold mining
	    ○ Surface mining
	    ○ Deep sea mining
	    ○ Mining waste
	    ○ Uranium mining
	○ Municipal solid waste
	    ○ Garbage
	○ Nanomaterials
	○ Plastic pollution
	    ○ Microplastics
	○ Packaging waste
	○ Post-consumer waste
	○ Waste management
	    ○ Landfill
	    ○ Thermal treatment

Space	○ Satellite
Visual	○ Air travel ○ Clutter (advertising) ○ Traffic signs ○ Overhead power lines ○ Vandalism

War	○ Chemical warfare ○ Herbicidal warfare (Agent Orange) ○ Nuclear holocaust (Nuclear fallout - nuclear famine - nuclear winter) ○ Scorched earth ○ Unexploded ordnance ○ War and environmental law

Water	○ Agricultural wastewater
	○ Biological pollution
	○ Diseases
	○ Eutrophication
	○ Firewater
	○ Freshwater
	○ Groundwater
	○ Hypoxia
	○ Industrial wastewater
	○ Marine
	    ○ debris
	○ Monitoring
	○ Nonpoint source pollution
	○ Nutrient pollution
	○ Ocean acidification
	○ Oil exploitation
	○ Oil exploration
	○ Oil spill
	○ Pharmaceuticals
	○ Sewage
	    ○ Septic tanks
	    ○ Pit latrine
	○ Shipping
	○ Stagnation
	○ Sulfur water
	○ Surface runoff
	○ Thermal
	○ Turbidity
	○ Urban runoff
	○ Water quality

Topics	○ Pollutants
	    ○ Heavy metals
	    ○ Paint
	○ Brain health and pollution

Misc	○ Area source ○ Debris ○ Dust ○ Garbology ○ Legacy pollution ○ Midden ○ Point source ○ Waste
Responses	○ Cleaner production ○ Industrial ecology ○ Pollution haven hypothesis ○ Pollutant release and transfer register ○ Polluter pays principle ○ Pollution control ○ Waste minimisation ○ Zero waste
Lists	○ Diseases ○ Law by country ○ Most polluted cities ○ Least polluted cities by $PM_{2.5}$ ○ Most polluted countries ○ Most polluted rivers ○ Treaties

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Natural resources

Air	Pollution / quality	○ Ambient standards (US) ○ Index ○ Indoor ○ Law ○ Clean Air Act (US) ○ Ozone depletion
	Emissions	○ Airshed ○ Trading ○ Deforestation (REDD)

Energy

- Bio
- Law
- Resources
- Fossil fuels (gas, peak coal, peak gas, peak oil)
- Geothermal
- Hydro
- Nuclear
- Solar
  - sunlight
  - shade
- Wind

Land

- Agricultural
  - arable
    - peak farmland
- Degradation
- Field
- Landscape
  - cityscape
  - seascape
  - soundscape
  - viewshed
- Law
  - property
- Management
  - habitat conservation
- Minerals
  - gemstone
  - industrial
  - ore
    - metal
  - mining
    - law
    - sand
  - peak
    - copper
    - phosphorus
  - rights
- Soil
  - conservation
  - fertility
  - health
  - resilience
- Use
  - planning
  - reserve

Life

- Biodiversity
- Bioprospecting
    - biopiracy
- Biosphere
- Bushfood
- Bushmeat
- Fisheries
    - climate change
    - law
    - management
- Forests
    - genetic resources
    - law
    - management
    - non-timber products
- Game
    - law
- Marine conservation
- Meadow
- Pasture
- Plants
    - FAO Plant Treaty
    - food
    - genetic resources
    - gene banks
    - herbal medicines
    - UPOV Convention
    - wood
- Rangeland
- Seed bank
- Wildlife
    - conservation
    - management

- **Water**
  - Types / location
    - Aquifer
      - storage and recovery
    - Drinking
    - Fresh
    - Groundwater
      - pollution
      - recharge
      - remediation
    - Hydrosphere
    - Ice
      - bergs
      - glacial
      - polar
    - Irrigation
      - *huerta*
    - Marine
    - Rain
      - harvesting
    - Stormwater
    - Surface water
    - Sewage
      - reclaimed water
    - Watershed
  - Aspects
    - Desalination
    - Floods
    - Law
    - Leaching
    - Sanitation
      - improved
    - Scarcity
    - Security
    - Supply
    - Efficiency
    - Conflict
    - Conservation
    - Peak water
    - Pollution
    - Privatization
    - Quality
    - Right
    - Resources
      - improved
      - policy

- Commons
  - enclosure
  - global
  - land
  - tragedy of
- Economics
  - ecological
  - land
- Ecosystem services
- Exploitation
  - overexploitation
  - Earth Overshoot Day
- Management
  - adaptive
- Natural capital
  - accounting
  - good
- Natural heritage
- Nature reserve
  - remnant natural area
- Systems ecology
- Urban ecology
- Wilderness

Related

Resource

- Common-pool
- Conflict (perpetuation)
- Curse
- Depletion
- Extraction
- Nationalism
- Renewable / Non-renewable

Politics

- Oil war
- Petrostate
- Resource war

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Occupational safety and health

Occupational diseases and injuries	○ Acrodynia ○ Asbestosis ○ Asthma ○ Barotrauma ○ Berylliosis ○ Brucellosis ○ Burnout ○ Byssinosis ("brown lung") ○ Cardiovascular ○ Chalicosis ○ Chronic solvent-induced encephalopathy ○ Chronic stress ○ Chimney sweeps' carcinoma ○ Coalworker's pneumoconiosis ("black lung") ○ Concussions in sport ○ Decompression sickness ○ De Quervain syndrome ○ Erethism ○ Exposure to human nail dust ○ Farmer's lung ○ Fiddler's neck ○ Flock worker's lung ○ Glassblower's cataract ○ Golfer's elbow ○ Hearing loss ○ Hospital-acquired infection ○ Indium lung ○ Laboratory animal allergy ○ Lead poisoning ○ Low back pain ○ Mesothelioma ○ Metal fume fever ○ Mule spinners' cancer ○ Noise-induced hearing loss ○ Phossy jaw ○ Pneumoconiosis ○ Radium jaw ○ Repetitive strain injury ○ Silicosis ○ Silo-filler's disease ○ Sports injury ○ Surfer's ear ○ Tennis elbow ○ Tinnitus ○ Writer's cramp

- **Occupational hygiene**
  - Occupational hazard
    - Biological hazard
    - Chemical hazard
    - Physical hazard
    - Psychosocial hazard
  - Occupational stress
  - Hierarchy of hazard controls
  - Prevention through design
  - Exposure assessment
  - Occupational exposure limit
  - Occupational epidemiology
  - Workplace health surveillance
- **Professions**
  - Environmental health
  - Industrial engineering
  - Occupational health nursing
  - Occupational health psychology
  - Occupational medicine
  - Occupational therapist
  - Safety engineering
- **Agencies and organizations**
  - **International**
    - European Agency for Safety and Health at Work
    - International Labour Organization
    - World Health Organization
  - **National**
    - Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (Canada)
    - Istituto nazionale per l'assicurazione contro gli infortuni sul lavoro (Italy)
    - National Institute for Safety and Health at Work (Spain)
    - Health and Safety Executive (UK)
    - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
    - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (US)
- **Standards**
  - Bangladesh Accord
  - OHSAS 18001
  - ISO 45001
  - Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981
  - Worker Protection Standard (US)
  - Working Environment Convention, 1977

Safety	◦ Checklist
	◦ Code of practice
	◦ Contingency plan
	◦ Diving safety
	◦ Emergency procedure
	◦ Emergency evacuation
	◦ Hazard
	◦ Hierarchy of hazard controls
	    ◦ Hazard elimination
	    ◦ Administrative controls
	    ◦ Engineering controls
	    ◦ Hazard substitution
	    ◦ Personal protective equipment
	◦ Job safety analysis
	◦ Lockout-tagout
	◦ Permit To Work
	◦ Operations manual
	◦ Redundancy (engineering)
	◦ Risk assessment
	◦ Safety culture
	◦ Standard operating procedure

Legislation	◦ Immediately dangerous to life or health ◦ Diving regulations ◦ Occupational Safety and Health Act (United States) ◦ Potty parity (United States) ◦ Right to sit (United States) ◦ Workers' right to access the toilet

See also

- Aerosol
- Break
- Break room
- Drug policy
- Effects of overtime
- Environment, health and safety
- Environmental toxicology
- Ergonomics
- Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program
- Hawks Nest Tunnel disaster
- Health physics
- Hostile work environment
- Indoor air quality
- International Chemical Safety Card
- Job strain
- National Day of Mourning (Canada)
- NIOSH air filtration rating
- Overwork
- Process safety
- Public health
- Quality of working life
- Risk management
- Safety data sheet
- Source control
- Toxic tort
- Toxic workplace
- Workers' compensation
- Workplace hazard controls for COVID-19
- Workplace health promotion

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  - Occupational diseases
  - Journals
  - Organizations
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Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

Fundamental concepts	○ Air changes per hour ○ Bake-out ○ Building envelope ○ Convection ○ Dilution ○ Domestic energy consumption ○ Enthalpy ○ Fluid dynamics ○ Gas compressor ○ Heat pump and refrigeration cycle ○ Heat transfer ○ Humidity ○ Infiltration ○ Latent heat ○ Noise control ○ Outgassing ○ Particulates ○ Psychrometrics ○ Sensible heat ○ Stack effect ○ Thermal comfort ○ Thermal destratification ○ Thermal mass ○ Thermodynamics ○ Vapour pressure of water

Technology

- Absorption-compression heat pump
- Absorption refrigerator
- Air barrier
- Air conditioning
- Antifreeze
- Automobile air conditioning
- Autonomous building
- Building insulation materials
- Central heating
- Central solar heating
- Chilled beam
- Chilled water
- Constant air volume (CAV)
- Coolant
- Cross ventilation
- Dedicated outdoor air system (DOAS)
- Deep water source cooling
- Demand controlled ventilation (DCV)
- Displacement ventilation
- District cooling
- District heating
- Electric heating
- Energy recovery ventilation (ERV)
- Firestop
- Forced-air
- Forced-air gas
- Free cooling
- Heat recovery ventilation (HRV)
- Hybrid heat
- Hydronics
- Ice storage air conditioning
- Kitchen ventilation
- Mixed-mode ventilation
- Microgeneration
- Passive cooling
- Passive daytime radiative cooling
- Passive house
- Passive ventilation
- Radiant heating and cooling
- Radiant cooling
- Radiant heating
- Radon mitigation
- Refrigeration
- Renewable heat
- Room air distribution
- Solar air heat
- Solar combisystem

- Air conditioner inverter
- Air door
- Air filter
- Air handler
- Air ionizer
- Air-mixing plenum
- Air purifier
- Air source heat pump
- Attic fan
- Automatic balancing valve
- Back boiler
- Barrier pipe
- Blast damper
- Boiler
- Centrifugal fan
- Ceramic heater
- Chiller
- Condensate pump
- Condenser
- Condensing boiler
- Convection heater
- Compressor
- Cooling tower
- Damper
- Dehumidifier
- Duct
- Economizer
- Electrostatic precipitator
- Evaporative cooler
- Evaporator
- Exhaust hood
- Expansion tank
- Fan
- Fan coil unit
- Fan filter unit
- Fan heater
- Fire damper
- Fireplace
- Fireplace insert
- Freeze stat
- Flue
- Freon
- Fume hood
- Furnace
- Gas compressor
- Gas heater
- Gasoline heater

Measurement and control	◦ Air flow meter ◦ Aquastat ◦ BACnet ◦ Blower door ◦ Building automation ◦ Carbon dioxide sensor ◦ Clean air delivery rate (CADR) ◦ Control valve ◦ Gas detector ◦ Home energy monitor ◦ Humidistat ◦ HVAC control system ◦ Infrared thermometer ◦ Intelligent buildings ◦ LonWorks ◦ Minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) ◦ Normal temperature and pressure (NTP) ◦ OpenTherm ◦ Programmable communicating thermostat ◦ Programmable thermostat ◦ Psychrometrics ◦ Room temperature ◦ Smart thermostat ◦ Standard temperature and pressure (STP) ◦ Thermographic camera ◦ Thermostat ◦ Thermostatic radiator valve
Professions, trades, and services	◦ Architectural acoustics ◦ Architectural engineering ◦ Architectural technologist ◦ Building services engineering ◦ Building information modeling (BIM) ◦ Deep energy retrofit ◦ Duct cleaning ◦ Duct leakage testing ◦ Environmental engineering ◦ Hydronic balancing ◦ Kitchen exhaust cleaning ◦ Mechanical engineering ◦ Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing ◦ Mold growth, assessment, and remediation ◦ Refrigerant reclamation ◦ Testing, adjusting, balancing

Industry organizations	○ AHRI ○ AMCA ○ ASHRAE ○ ASTM International ○ BRE ○ BSRIA ○ CIBSE ○ Institute of Refrigeration ○ IIR ○ LEED ○ SMACNA ○ UMC
Health and safety	○ Indoor air quality (IAQ) ○ Passive smoking ○ Sick building syndrome (SBS) ○ Volatile organic compound (VOC)
See also	○ ASHRAE Handbook ○ Building science ○ Fireproofing ○ Glossary of HVAC terms ○ Warm Spaces ○ World Refrigeration Day ○ Template:Home automation ○ Template:Solar energy

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About Durham Supply Inc

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Things To Do in Oklahoma County

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Oklahoma City's Adventure District

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Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory

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Oklahoma City Zoo

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Martin Park Nature Center

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Oklahoma City Museum of Art

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Science Museum Oklahoma

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Driving Directions in Oklahoma County

Driving Directions From Central Oklahoma City to Durham Supply Inc

Driving Directions From Deja Vu Showgirls OKC - Oklahoma Strip Club to Durham Supply Inc

Driving Directions From Oklahoma City to Durham Supply Inc

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Driving Directions From Blue Whale of Catoosa to Durham Supply Inc

Driving Directions From Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum to Durham Supply Inc

Driving Directions From The Cave House to Durham Supply Inc

Driving Directions From Oklahoma National Guard Museum to Durham Supply Inc

Driving Directions From Bricktown Water Taxi to Durham Supply Inc

Driving Directions From Stockyards City Main Street to Durham Supply Inc

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Reviews for Durham Supply Inc

Durham Supply Inc

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Jennifer Williamson

(5)

First we would like to thank you for installing our air conditioning unit! I’d like to really brag about our technician, Mack, that came to our home to install our unit in our new home. Mack was here for most of the day and throughly explained everything we had a question about. By the late afternoon, we had cold air pumping through our vents and we couldn’t have been more thankful. I can tell you, I would be very lucky to have a technician like Mack if this were my company. He was very very professional, kind, and courteous. Please give Mack a pat on the back and stay rest assured that Mack is doing a great job and upholding your company name! Mack, if you see this, great job!! Thanks for everything you did!! We now have a new HVAC company in the event we need one. We will also spread the word to others!!

Durham Supply Inc

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Noel Vandy

(5)

Thanks to the hard work of Randy our AC finally got the service it needed. These 100 degree days definitely feel long when your house isn't getting cool anymore. We were so glad when Randy came to work on the unit, he had all the tools and products he needed with him and it was all good and running well when he left. With a long drive to get here and only few opportunities to do so, we are glad he got it done in 1 visit. Now let us hope it will keep running well for a good while.

Durham Supply Inc

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K Moore

(1)

No service after the sale. I purchased a sliding patio door and was given the wrong size sliding screen door. After speaking with the salesman and manager several times the issue is still not resolved and, I was charged full price for an incomplete door. They blamed the supplier for all the issues…and have offered me nothing to resolve this.

Durham Supply Inc

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Crystal Dawn

(1)

I would give 0 stars. This isnTHE WORST company for heating and air. I purchased a home less than one year ago and my ac has gone out twice and these people refuse to repair it although I AM UNDER WARRANTY!!!! They say it’s an environmental issue and they can’t fix it or even try to or replace my warrantied air conditioning system.

Durham Supply Inc

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Salest

(5)

Had to make a quick run for 2 sets of ?? door locks for front and back door.. In/ out in a quick minute! They helped me right away. ?? Made sure the 2 sets had the same ? keys. The ? bathroom was clean and had everything I needed. ? ?. Made a quick inquiry about a random item... they quickly looked it up and gave me pricing. Great ? job ?

Matching Mobile Home Dimensions to Suitable AC Units**View GBP**

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I determine the appropriate size of an AC unit for my mobile home?

To determine the appropriate size of an AC unit, measure your mobile homes square footage and consider its insulation, climate zone, and sun exposure. Generally, a rough estimate is to use 20 BTUs per square foot. However, consulting an HVAC professional for a detailed load calculation is recommended to ensure efficiency and comfort.

What factors should I consider when matching AC units to my mobile homes dimensions?

When matching AC units to your mobile home’s dimensions, consider its total square footage, ceiling height, insulation quality, number of windows and doors, local climate conditions, and existing ductwork. These factors influence the cooling capacity needed for optimal performance.

Are there specific types of AC units better suited for mobile homes?

Yes, certain types of AC units are better suited for mobile homes. Central air conditioning systems can be effective if ductwork is already in place or can be installed. Ductless mini-split systems are also popular due to their flexibility and ease of installation without requiring ducts. Portable or window units may be considered for smaller spaces or supplemental cooling needs.

Royal Supply Inc

Phone : +16362969959

City : Oklahoma City

State : OK

Zip : 73149

Address : Unknown Address

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Company Website : **https://royal-durhamsupply.com/locations/oklahoma-city-oklahoma/**

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