Study Guide

NORTH AMERICAN TECHNICIAN EXCELLENCE®

NATE

HEAT PUMPS

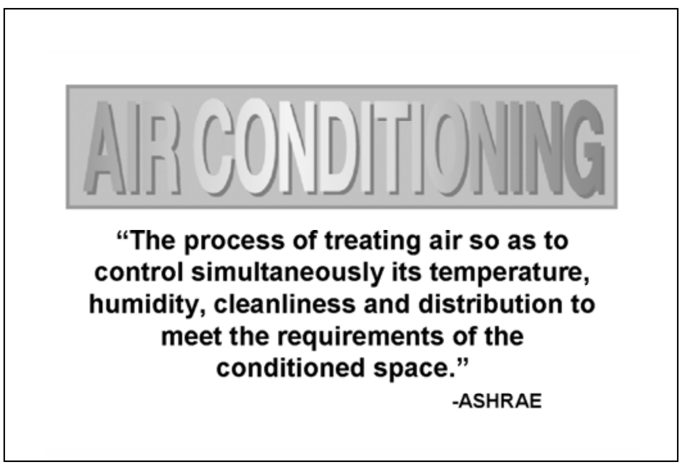
Carrier®

GT72-01

Cat. No. 020-018

1. This refresher course covers topics contained in the **HEAT PUMPS** specialty section of the North American Technician Excellence (NATE) certification exam. Before beginning the Heat Pump review, some air conditioning basics need to be reviewed.

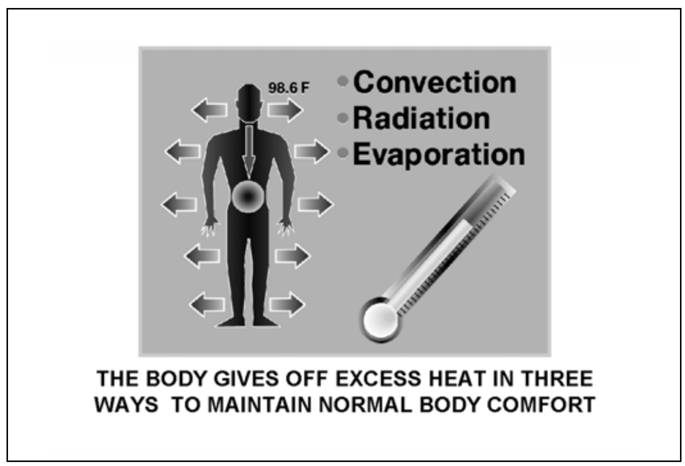
AIR CONDITIONING BASICS



2. According to the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), air conditioning is "the process of treating air so as to control simultaneously its temperature, humidity, cleanliness and distribution to meet the requirements of the conditioned space."

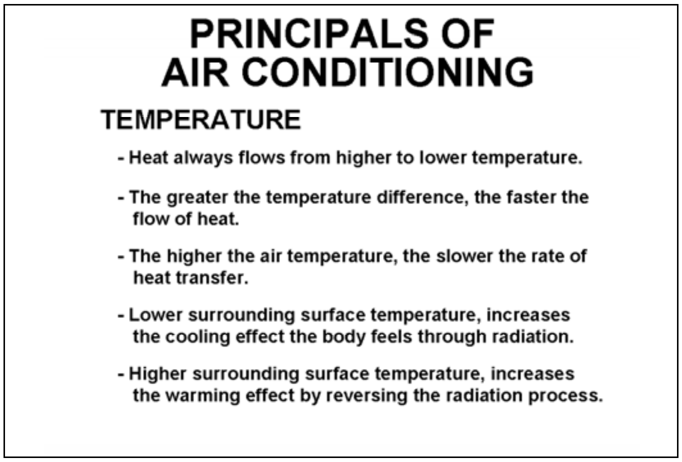
3. Air conditioning is used to improve an industrial process or maintain human comfort.

In an industrial system, the conditions to be maintained are determined by the process or material being handled, while in a comfort system, conditions are determined by the requirements of the human body.

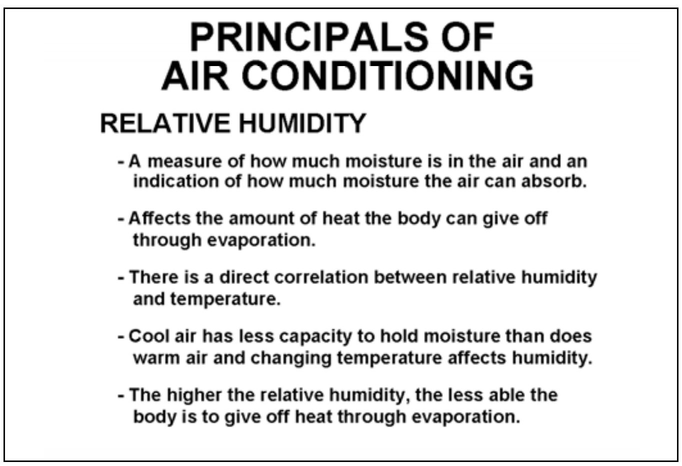


4. Heat is given off from the body by convection, radiation and evaporation. To maintain body comfort, we must control and adjust those three conditions of heat transfer.

All three methods of heat transfer are used at the same time but, depending on the surrounding conditions, one method may be used more than the others.

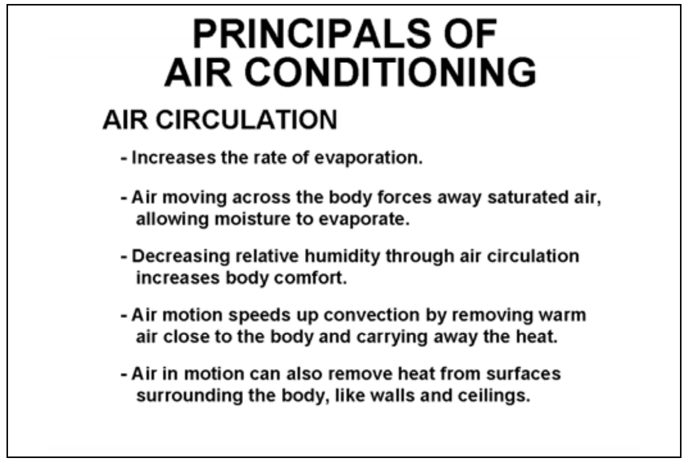


5. Heat always flows from higher to lower temperature. The greater the temperature difference, the faster the flow of heat. The higher the air temperature, the slower the rate of heat transfer. Lower surrounding surface temperature increases the cooling effect the body feels through radiation. Higher surrounding surface temperature increases the warming effect by reversing the radiation process.



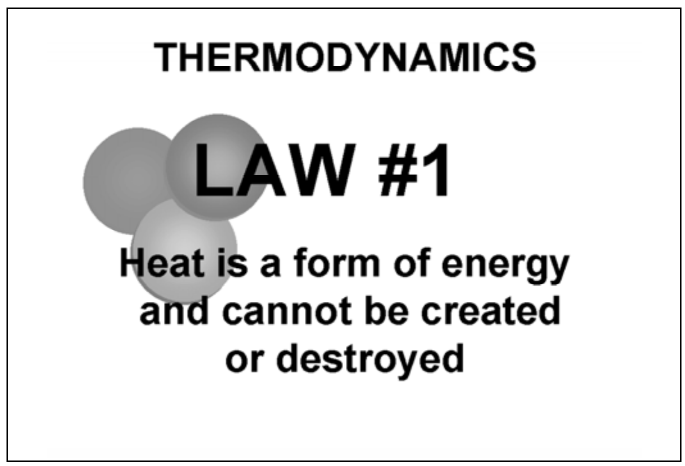
6. Relative humidity is the measure of how much moisture is in the air and an indication of how much moisture the air can absorb. Relative humidity affects the amount of heat the body can give off through evaporation.

There is a direct correlation between relative humidity and temperature. Cool air has less capacity to hold moisture than does warm air and changing temperature affects humidity. The higher the relative humidity, the less able the body is to give off heat through evaporation.

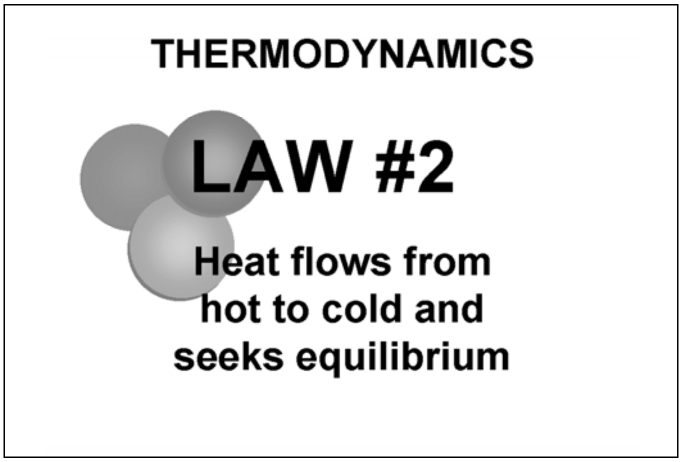


7. Air circulation increases the rate of evaporation. Air moving across the body forces away saturated air, allowing moisture to evaporate. Depending on a person's location, decreasing relative humidity through air circulation increases body comfort.

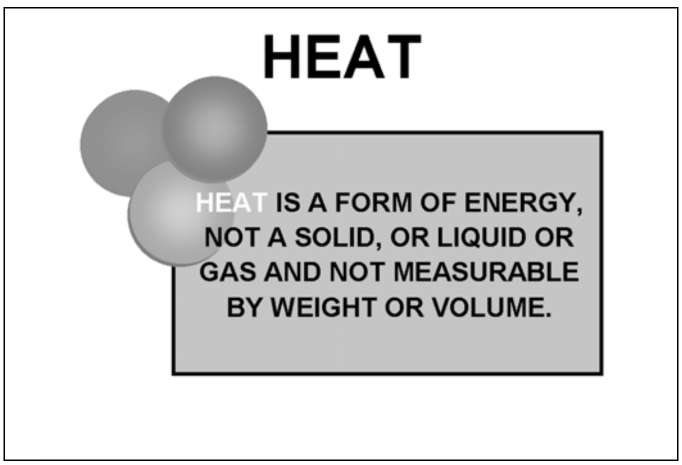
Air motion speeds up convection by removing warm air close to the body and carrying away the heat. Air in motion can also remove heat from surfaces surrounding the body, like walls and ceilings.



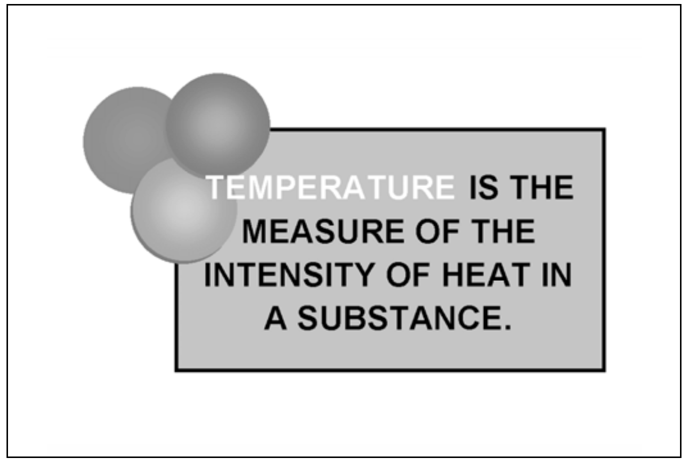
8. The first law of thermodynamics is that heat is a form of energy that cannot be created or destroyed. It can be moved but the total amount of heat after it is transferred will still be the same.



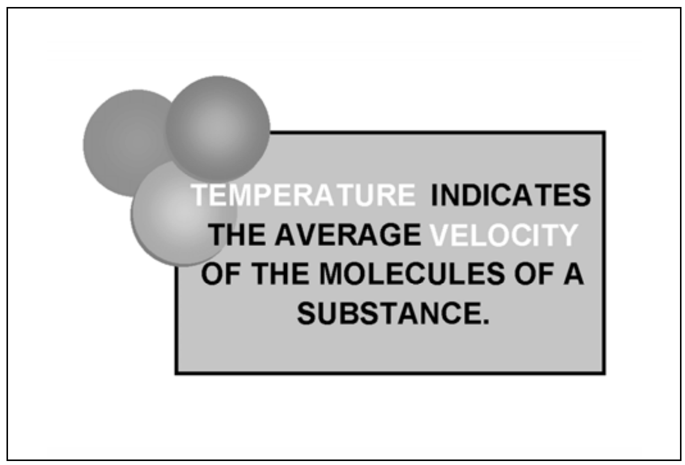
9. The second law of thermodynamics is that heat moves from hot to cold or from higher to lower intensities. The rate at which it moves depends on the temperature difference (ΔT) and the larger the temperature difference, the faster the heat will be transferred.



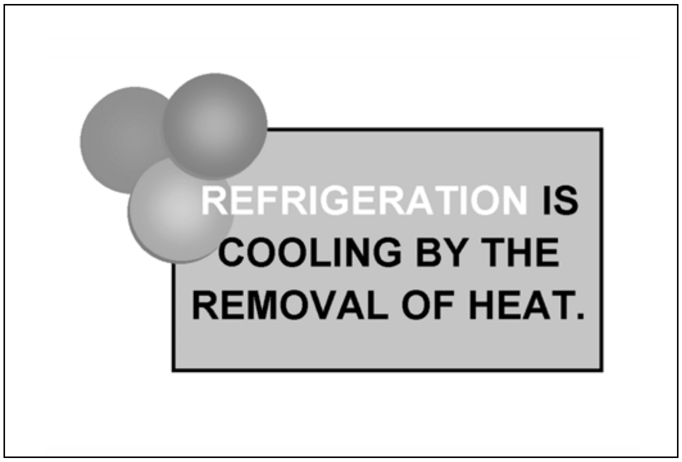
10. **Heat** is a form of energy, which can exist on its own and can be moved from one place to another. It *is not* matter that exists as a liquid, solid or gas, so, it cannot be measured by weight or volume.



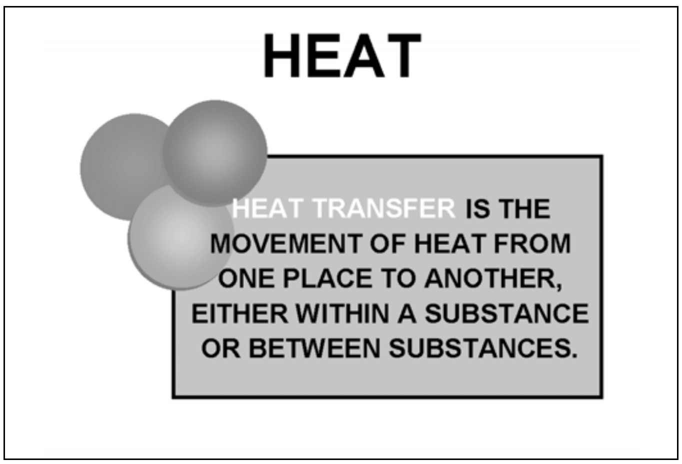
11. **Temperature** is the measure of the intensity of heat or the degree of heat in a substance. It *does not* measure the heat energy required to change the state of a substance from a solid to a liquid or a liquid to a vapor. In other words *temperature measures sensible heat, but not latent heat*.



12. Temperature indicates the average **velocity** of the molecules of a substance.

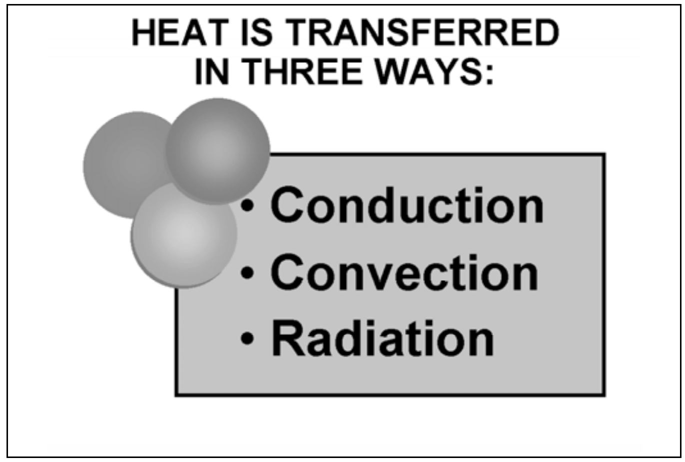


13. Refrigeration is cooling by the removal of heat from a substance or space.

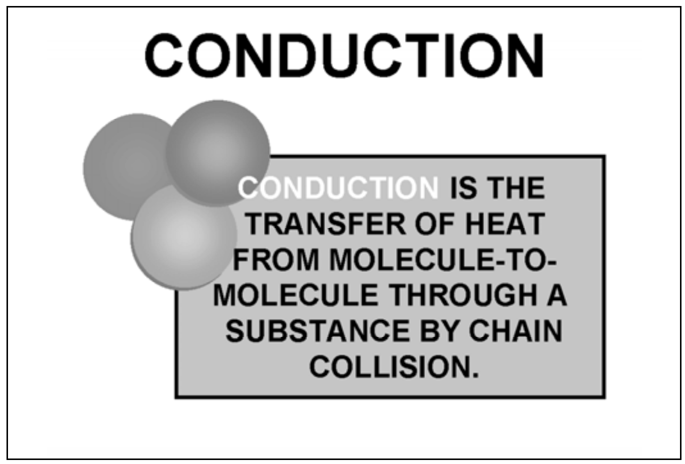


14. **Heat transfer** is the movement of heat from one place to another, either within a substance or between substances. Heat transfer is also called heat exchange, heat flow or heat flux.

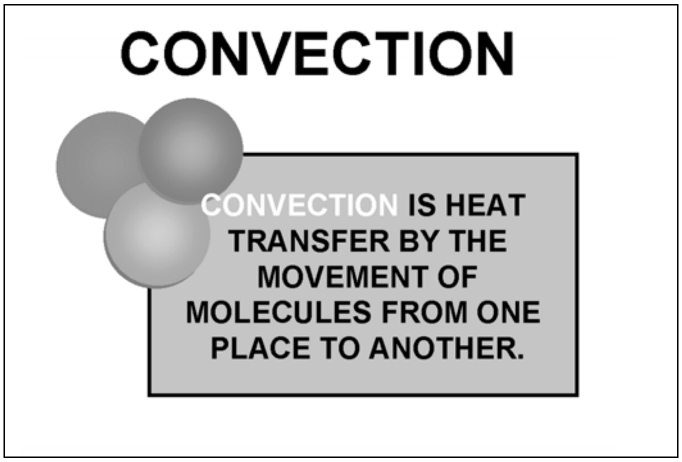
Heat content is not the same thing as heat transfer ;since it deals with *how much* heat energy a substance contains, while heat transfer deals with *how much heat is moved* from one substance to another.



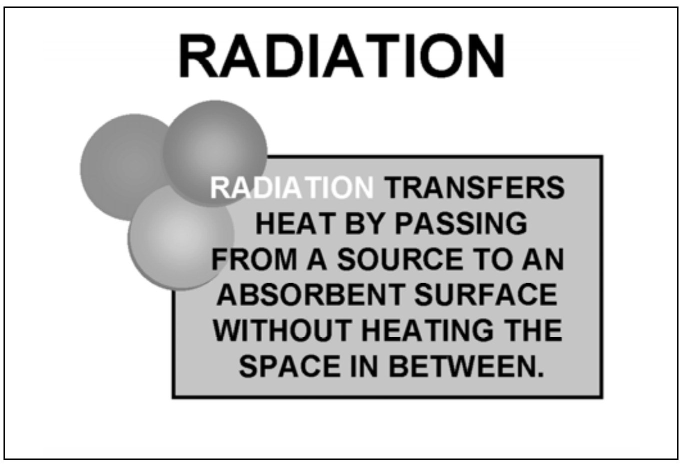
15. Heat can be transferred by either conduction, convection or by radiation.



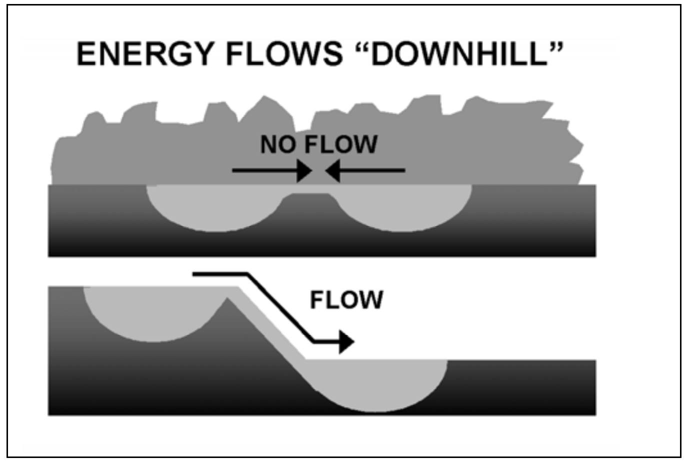
16. **Conduction** is the transfer of heat from molecule to molecule through a substance by a chain collision. A metal bar, heated on one end will ultimately transfer the heat energy to the other end through conduction.



17. **Convection** is heat transfer by the movement of molecules from one place to another. Air flowing through the duct system of a furnace, carries heat to another space through convection.



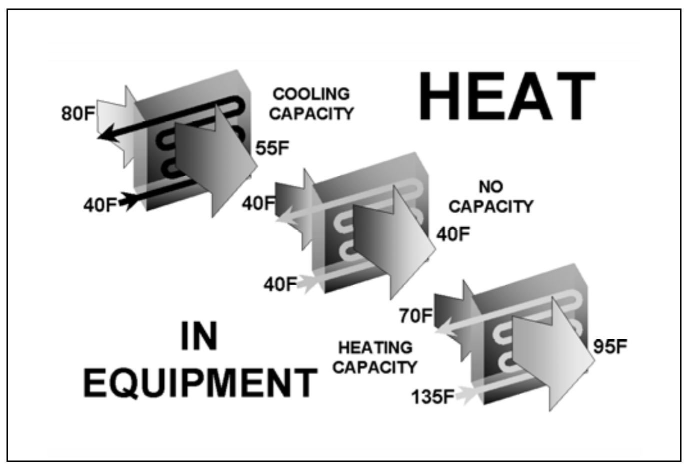
18. **Radiation** transfers heat by passing it from a source to an absorbant surface without heating the space in between. Radiant heat behaves as a wave form of energy, like light. A camper sitting in front of a fire on a cold night, is warmed by radiant heat.



19. Like all forms of energy, heat flows from a high energy level to a lower energy level much like the flow of water from a higher to a lower level.

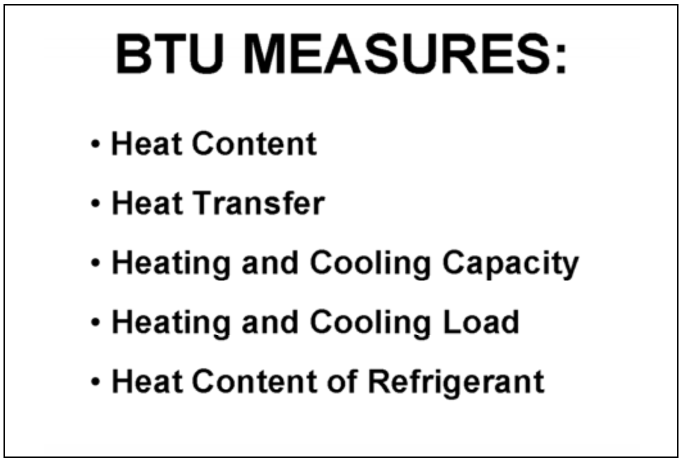
Similarly, heat will not flow without a temperature difference and flows from the higher energy level (warmer) to the lower energy level (cooler).

Like water, the greater the temperature difference, the faster it flows.



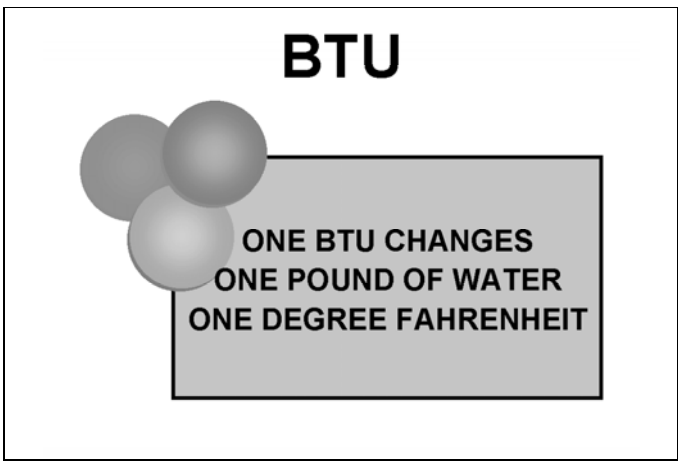
20. The same principles that apply to moving heat in our surroundings apply to the movement of heat in equipment. For example, if the temperature of the air flowing over a coil is higher than that of the refrigerant in coil tubes, heat will flow from the air to the refrigerant. The coil, in this case, provides cooling capacity.

If the refrigerant temperature is equal to the air flowing over the coil, there is no heat transfer and therefore no cooling capacity provided by the coil.

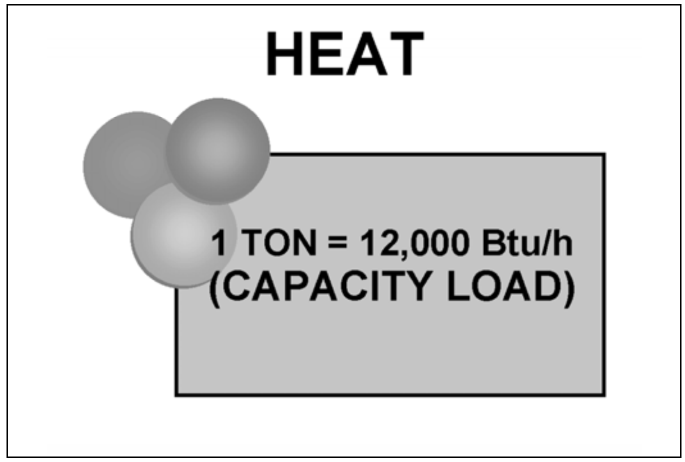


21. The unit of measure for heat content and heat transfer in mechanical refrigeration is the **British thermal unit** or **Btu**.

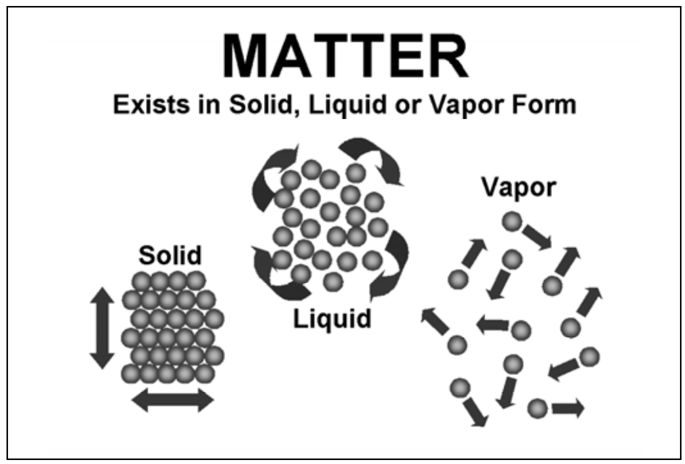
Btu measures heat content, heat transfer, heating and cooling capacity, heating and cooling load, and heat content of refrigerant.



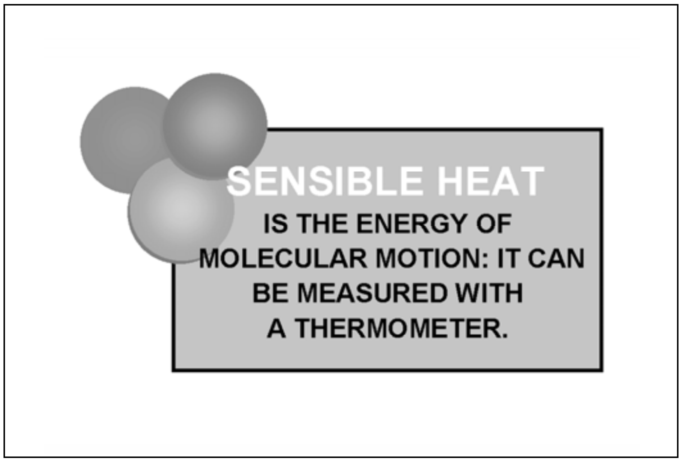
22. One Btu changes one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit.



23. The rate of heat transfer is measured in Btu/hr or Btuh. One ton equals 12,000 Btuh, which represents capacity load.

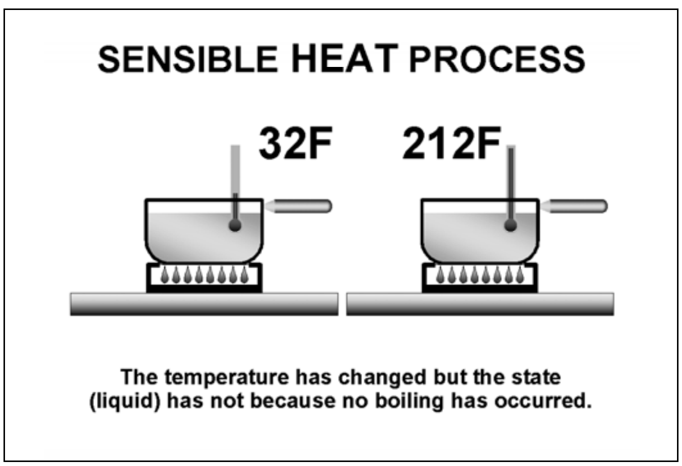


24. Matter exists in **solid**, **liquid** or **vapor** form. All substances above absolute zero will have molecules in motion dependent on the pressure, temperature and heat content of that substance. For example, water can be in the form of solid (ice), liquid, or vapor (steam), with each form exhibiting molecules moving at different relative speeds. The addition or subtraction of heat will affect the form of matter.

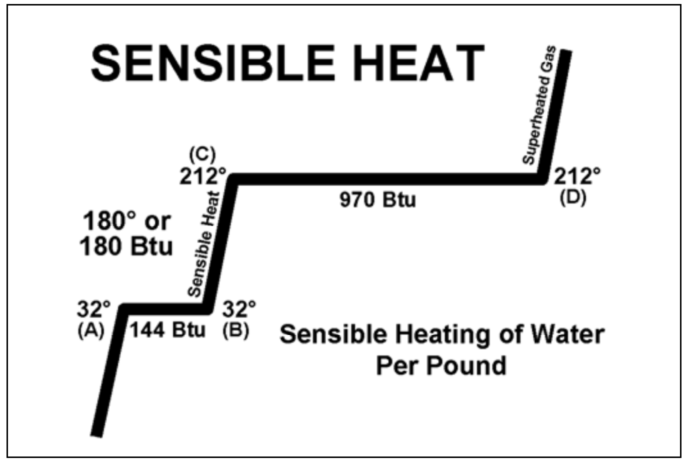


25. **Sensible heat** is the energy of molecular motion that can be measured by a thermometer. It is the heat that is added or removed from a substance that changes that substance's temperature but does not change its physical state.

Because a thermometer can only measure the heat content of a substance and not the amount of heat required to reach a certain temperature, it is necessary to use a standard quantity of heat for measurement. The **British thermal unit**, or **Btu**, is the measure of the heat required to move one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit.



26. **Sensible heat** is the energy of molecular motion: it can be measured by a thermometer and always causes a temperature change in the substance heated.

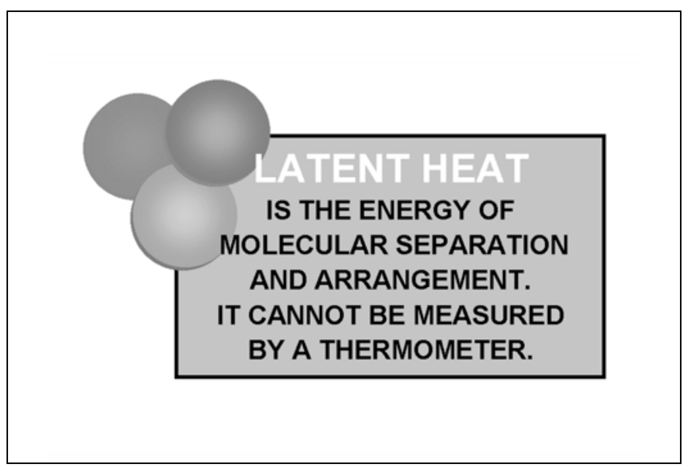


27. This diagram shows the sensible heating process for one pound of water. The 32°F (A) represents water in its solid form (ice). It requires 144 Btus to change 32°F ice to 32°F liquid (B) through latent heating.

The rise in temperature from 32°F liquid to 212°F liquid (C) represents the **sensible heating process** in which heat is added to water until it reaches 212°F but does not change state. Note that there is a change of 180° in the process, which also represents 180 Btus, since each Btu is equivalent to the temperature necessary to raise one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit.

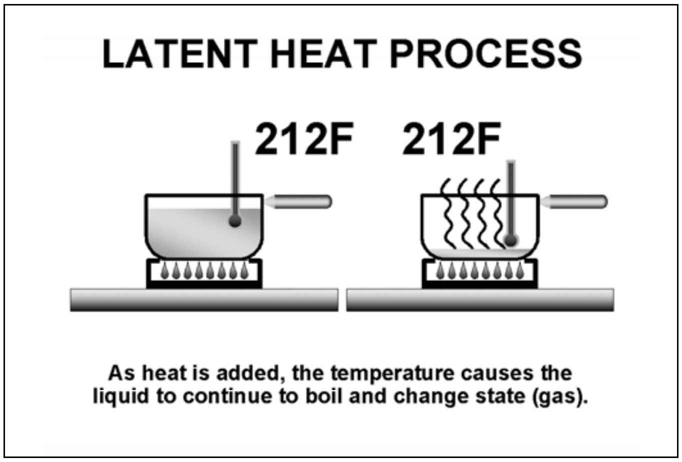
When enough heat is added to the 212°F (D) the water changes state from a liquid to a vapor or steam (latent heat). 970 Btus are expended in this process.

Finally, as more heat is added to the water, the excess heat becomes superheat.

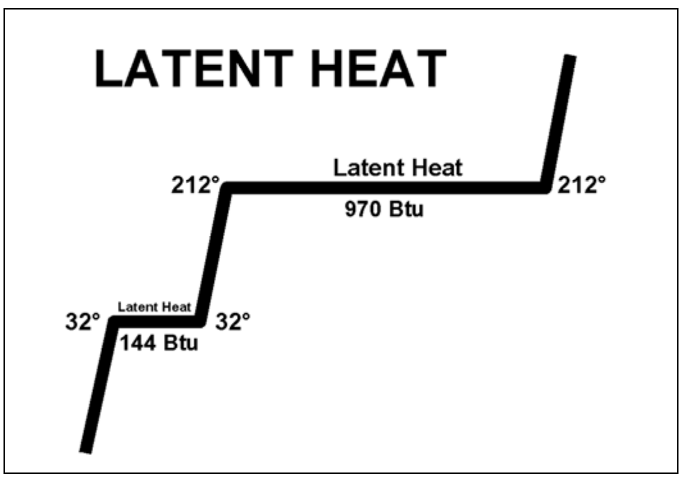


28. **Latent heat** is the energy of molecular separation and arrangement. It is the heat that is added or subtracted from a substance that causes that substance

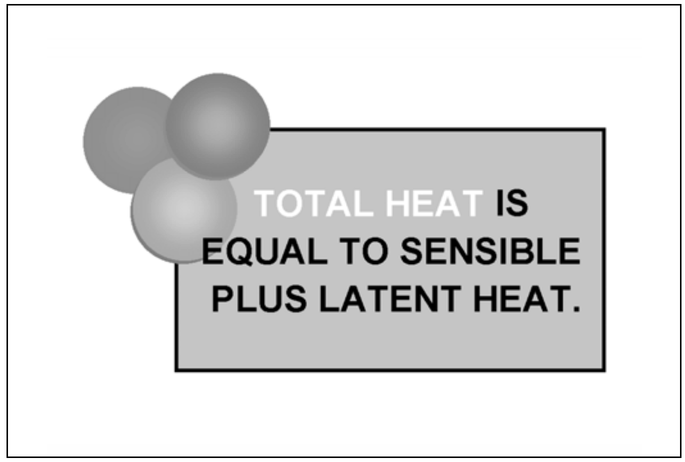
to change its state. It cannot be measured by a thermometer.



29. Heat is added until liquid boils and as it continues to boil, the water changes state to a gas (steam). The temperature does not change but the state of the substance changes.

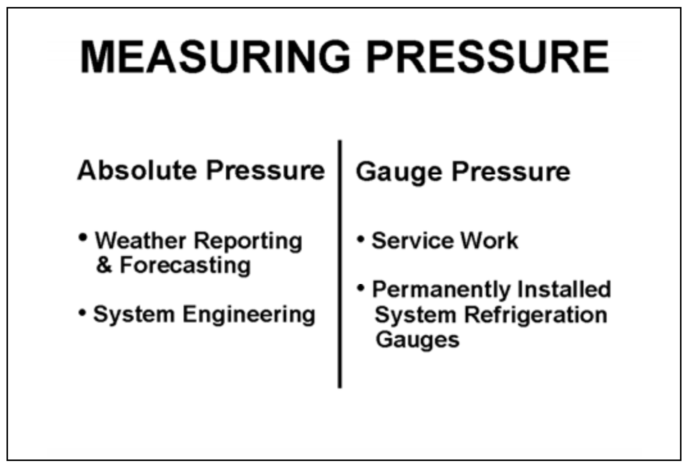


30. This diagram shows the latent heating process for one pound of water. Note that as heat is added, the state of the water changes while the temperature remains the same.

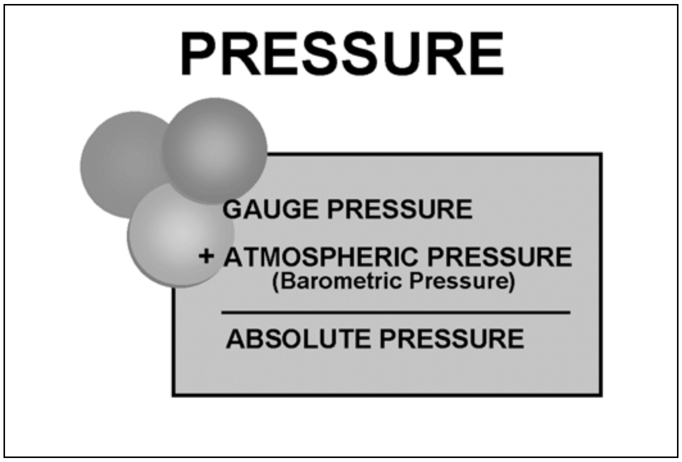


31. **Total heat** is equal to sensible plus latent heat and will change if either its temperature or state changes. Liquids and gases contain both sensible and latent heat.

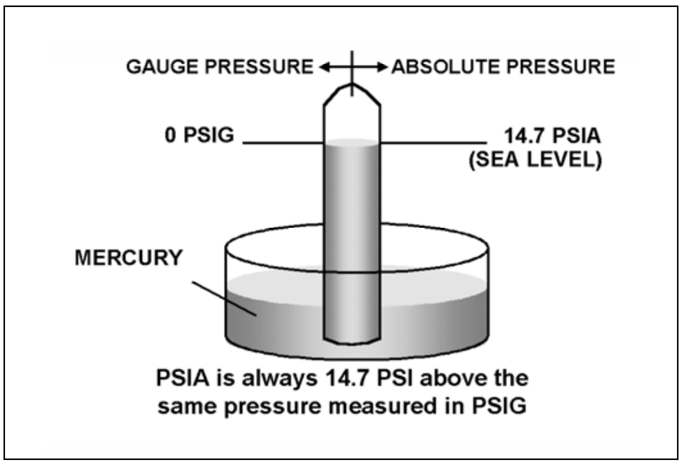
TEMPERATUE-PRESSURE



32. Pressure can be measured in either absolute pressure or gauge pressure.

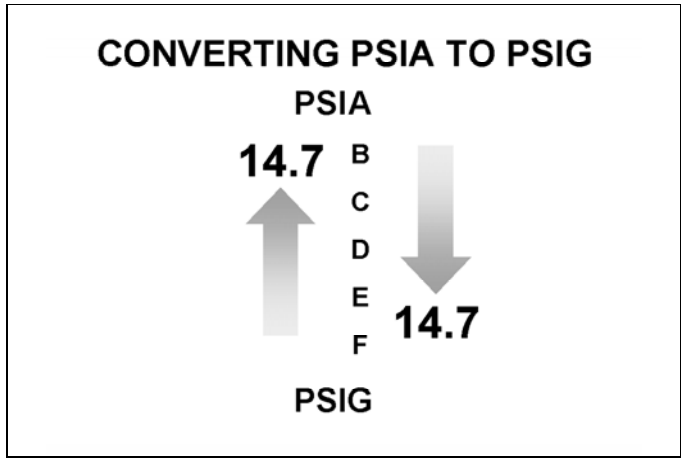


33. Gauge pressure + atmospheric pressure = absolute pressure.

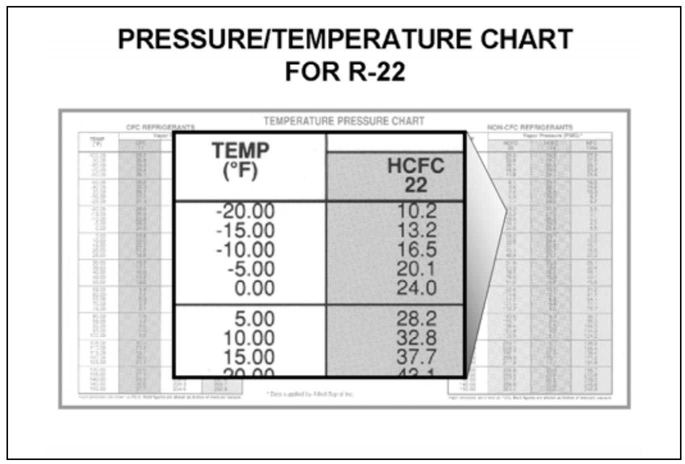


34. To get the absolute pressure, take a pressure reading with manifold gauges and then convert from PSIG to PSIA by using the formula:

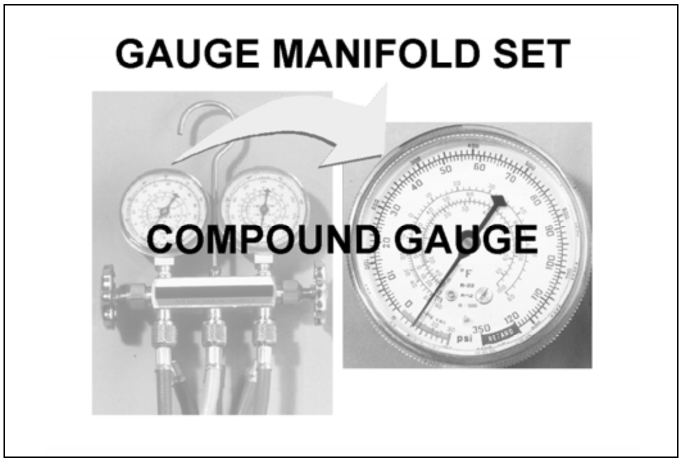
PSIG + 14.7 = PSIA



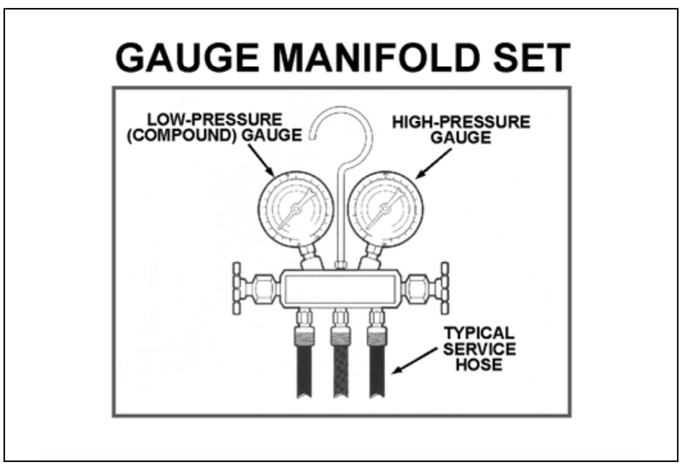
35. Here is an easy method to determine the difference between PSIA and PSIG.



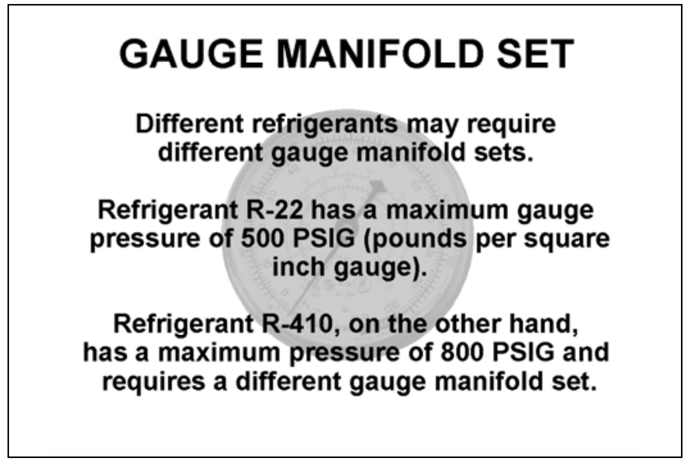
36. This enlarged segment of the pressure/ temperature chart shows the temperature and corresponding vapor pressure (PSIG) above and below 0°F for refrigerant R-22.



37. This **compound gauge** has readings above and below atmospheric pressure combined on one gauge. The PSIG readings decrease toward zero as pressure drops toward atmospheric pressure. As pressure continues dropping below atmospheric pressure, readings increase toward 30 In. Hg. Vac., as it approaches a perfect vacuum.



38. A typical two-valve gauge set has a compound gauge, high-pressure gauge, two hand valves and three hose ports. The hand valves are adjusted to monitor system pressures on the compound gauge and high-pressure gauge and to route the flow of refrigerant to and from the system during servicing. The gauge manifold set hose ports are connected to the system being serviced and other service instruments through a set of high-vacuum/high-pressure service hoses.



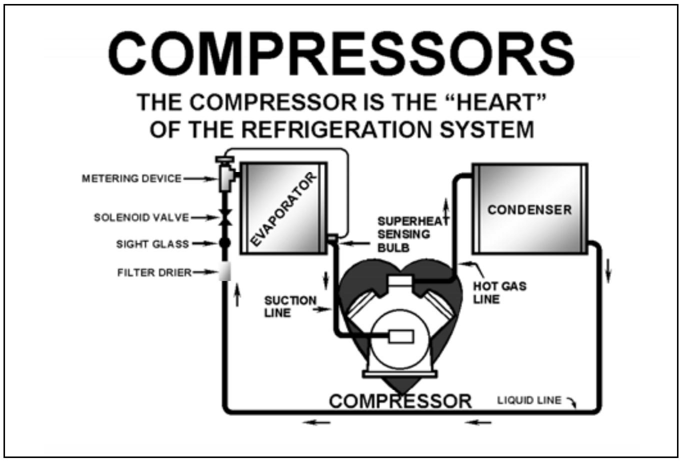
39. Different refrigerants may require different gauge manifold sets. Refrigerant R-22 has a maximum gauge pressure limit of 500 psig (pounds per square inch gauge) and hoses with a maximum working pressure of 500 PSI.

Refrigerant R-410A, on the other hand, requires special manifold gauges with a high side gauge limit of 800 PSI and hoses with a recommended maximum working pressure of 800 PSI. Using an R-22 manifold gauge set with refrigerant R-410A could be dangerous because of the inability to handle the higher pressures.

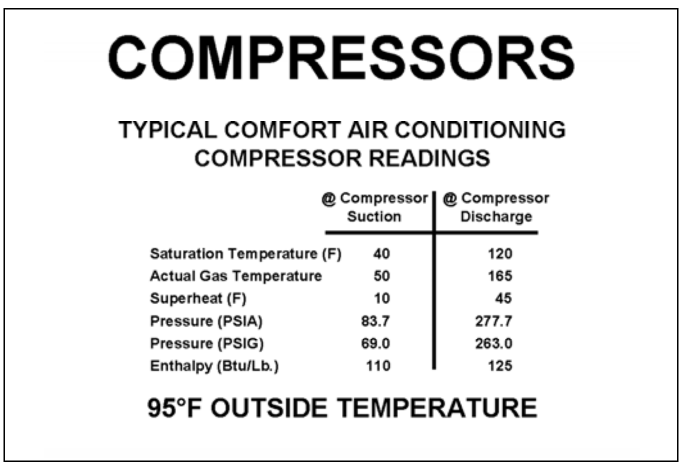
40. CAUTION! With the use of self-sealing fittings, high-pressure refrigerant can be trapped and remain in the service hoses after they have been disconnected from the equipment, causing possible injury or burns.

Do not over-tighten the valves on the gauge manifold set when closing (front-seating) the valves. Over-tightening the valves may damage the manifold.

COMPONENTS

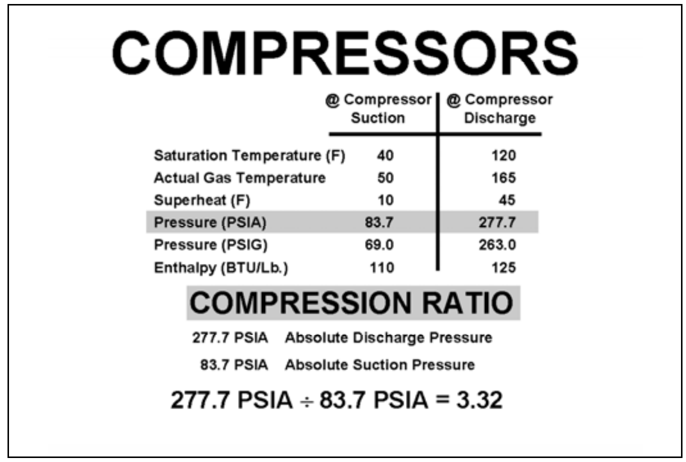


41. The compressor is the "heart" of the air conditioning or refrigeration system. It generates refrigerant flow through the system, taking refrigerant vapor at low temperature and pressure, and raising the vapor to a higher temperature and pressure.



	@ Compressor Suction	@ Compressor Discharge
Saturation Temperature (F)	40	120
Actual Gas Temperature	50	165
Superheat (F)	10	45
Pressure (PSIA)	83.7	277.7
Pressure (PSIG)	69.0	263.0
Enthalpy (Btu/Lb.)	110	125

42. A comfort air conditioning system compressor with an air-cooling condenser typically operates at the temperatures and pressures seen in this table.

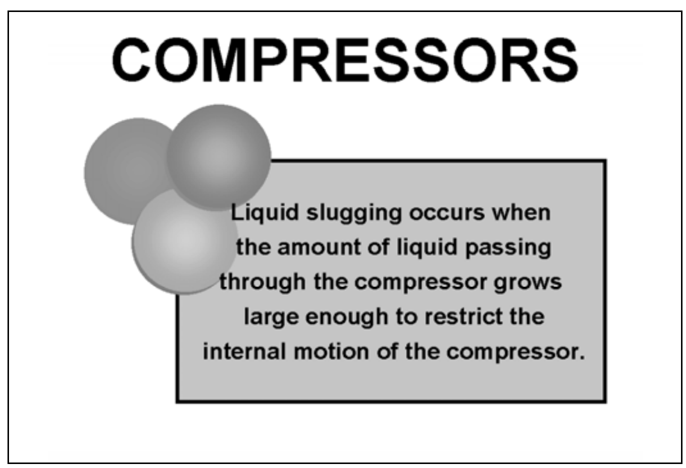


	@ Compressor Suction	@ Compressor Discharge
Saturation Temperature (F)	40	120
Actual Gas Temperature	50	165
Superheat (F)	10	45
Pressure (PSIA)	83.7	277.7
Pressure (PSIG)	69.0	263.0
Enthalpy (BTU/Lb.)	110	125

43. The pressure change accomplished by the compressor is sometimes expressed as a ratio of the absolute discharge pressure to the absolute suction pressure. This is the **compression ratio**. To find the compression ratio of a system, it is first necessary to determine absolute pressure by converting PSIG to PSIA. Once PSIA is determined, divide the discharge pressure PSIA by suction pressure PSIA to get the compression ratio:

Discharge Pressure/Suction Pressure PSIA = Compression Ratio

One of the reasons compressor ratio is especially important when it approaches a high limit is because high compression ratios will cause a loss of efficiency and an excessive superheating of discharge gas. Compressor overheating could then result in compressor damage due to carbonization of oil.



44. A refrigerant compressor is designed to work on refrigerant in its gaseous form.

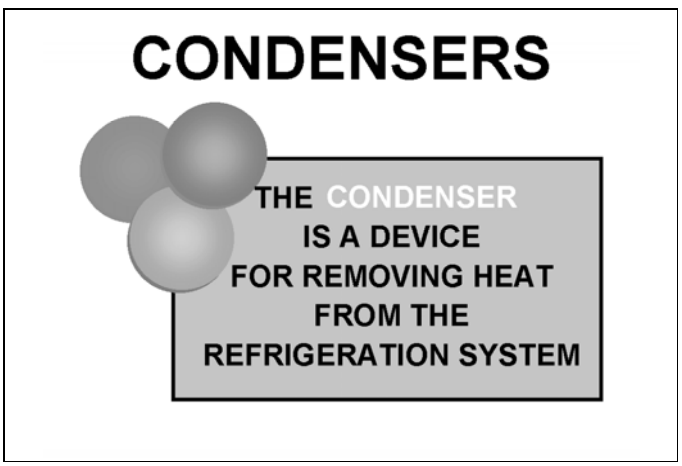
Liquid refrigerant can damage the compressor, so refrigeration systems are designed to minimize the liquid refrigerant that gets into the compression area of the compressor.

Small amounts of liquid may get in. Liquid **slugging** occurs when the amount of liquid passing through the compressor grows large enough to restrict the internal motion of the compressor.

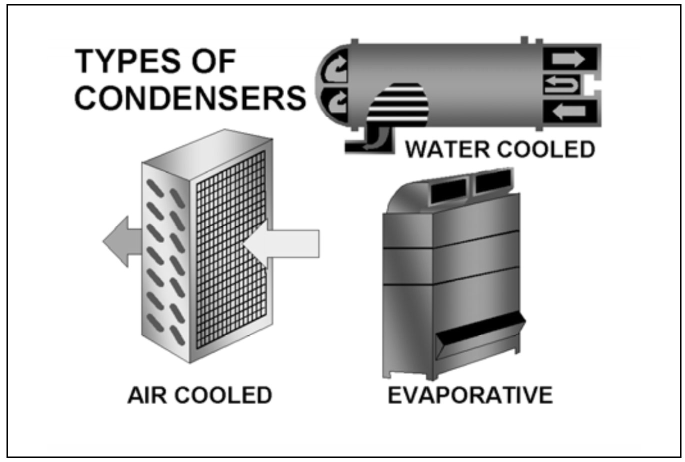
LIQUIDS IN COMPRESSORS CAUSE:

1. HIGH POWER USAGE
2. MOTOR OVERHEATING
3. COMPRESSOR OVERHEATING
4. OIL BREAKDOWN
5. IMPROPER COMPRESSOR LUBRICATION
6. NOISY OPERATION
7. VIBRATION
8. COMPRESSOR DAMAGE THROUGH DEFORMITY AND BREAKAGE
9. INADEQUATE CAPACITY

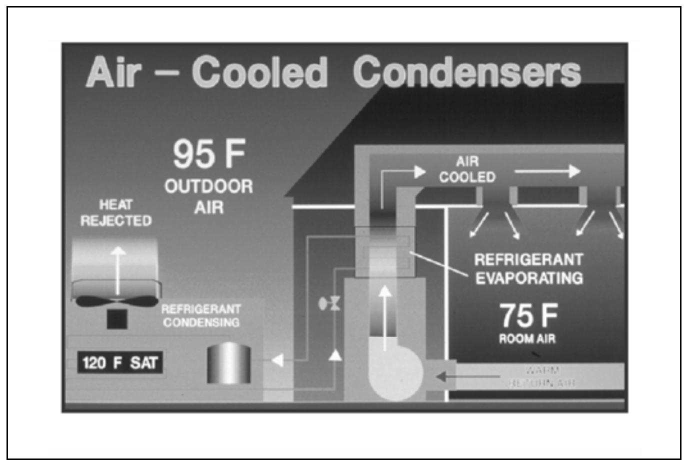
45. Excessive liquids in compressors can cause a number of problems. Some compressor designs tolerate liquid better than others. In residential split-systems, the reciprocating compressor is the least tolerant while the scroll compressor is the most tolerant.



46. The condenser is a device (heat exchanger) for removing heat from the refrigeration system.

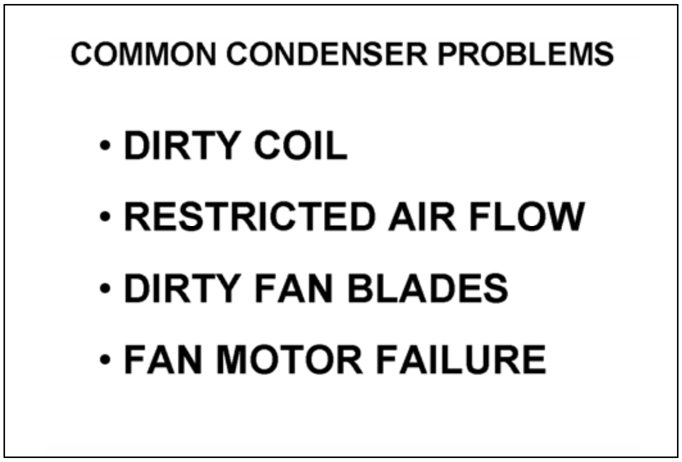


47. There are three types of condensers: air-cooled, water-cooled and evaporative.

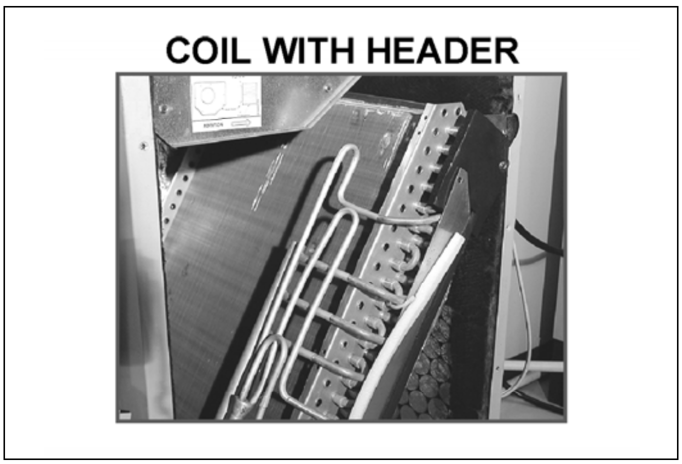


48. Air-cooled condensers reject the heat absorbed by the refrigerant directly to the outdoor air. Compared to a water-cooled system, the air-cooled system requires a bigger difference in temperature between the refrigerant and the medium that cools it.

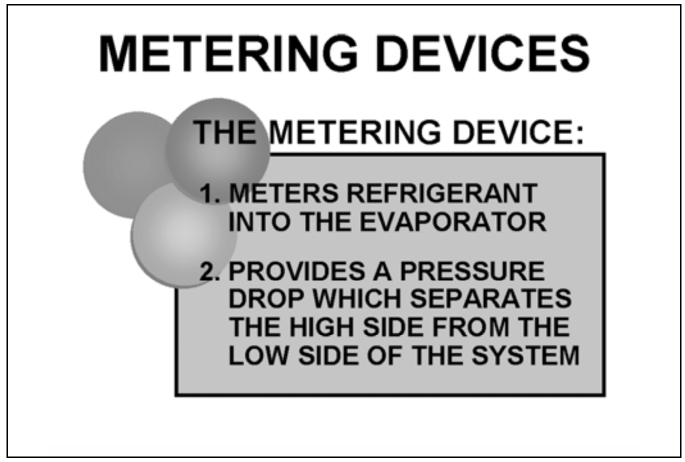
Although this makes it less energy-efficient, the air-cooled system's simple design keeps first cost and maintenance cost low. For this reason, the vast majority of residential air conditioning (up to 5 tons) and commercial air conditioning equipment (up to 50 tons) use air-cooled condensers.



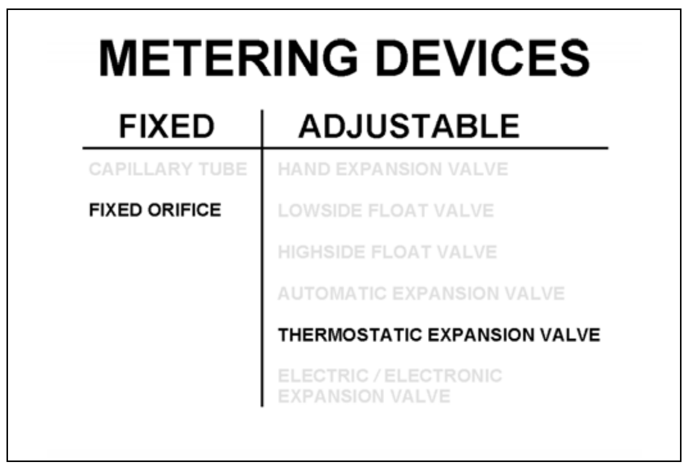
49. There are a number of condenser problems that can contribute to compressor failure. Dirt is often the significant factor in causing a compressor to fail.



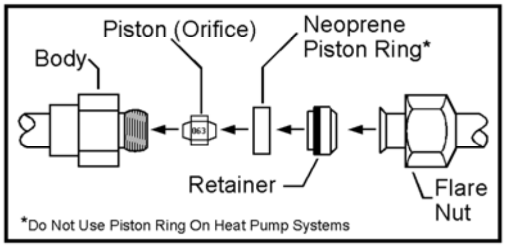
50. To minimize pressure drops in a coil, some manufacturers will run multiple circuits or multiple rows of coils.



51. The metering device, located between the condenser outlet and the evaporator inlet, in the cooling mode, serves two important functions. First, it meters the liquid refrigerant flowing into the evaporator, allowing the rate it flows to match the evaporator's ability to change the liquid/vapor mixture into 100% vapor. Second, the meter provides a pressure drop which separates the high side from the low side of the system, allowing the refrigerant in the evaporator to boil at a low enough temperature to absorb heat into the refrigerant.



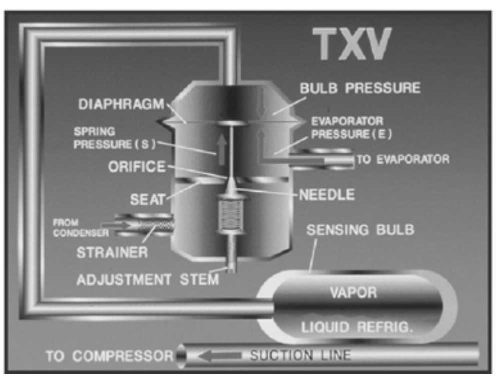
52. There are eight types of metering devices, divided into two categories: **fixed** and **adjustable**. Fixed metering devices and TXVs are the typical metering devices used in residential air conditioning today.



The Fixed Orifice Device accomplishes the same thing as the Capillary Tube Assembly but in a more compact and rugged design

53. Capillary tube and fixed orifice devices are the two types of fixed metering devices we see in the residential market. The fixed orifice device accomplishes the same thing as the capillary tube but is more rugged and compact.

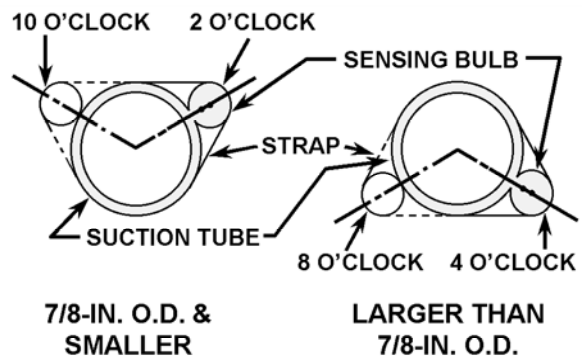
Choosing either type of fixed metering device requires careful selection to match system requirements and requires accurate system charging procedures.



The Thermostatic Expansion Valve or TXV

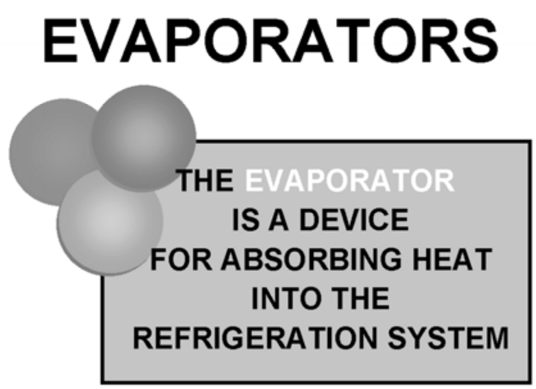
54. Adjustable metering devices are the second category of metering devices.

One adjustable device often used is the thermostatic expansion valve or TXV. The TXV uses a diaphragm, needle valve and a remote sensing bulb, which is filled with refrigerant. The refrigerant will increase or decrease pressure, depending on the suction line temperature.

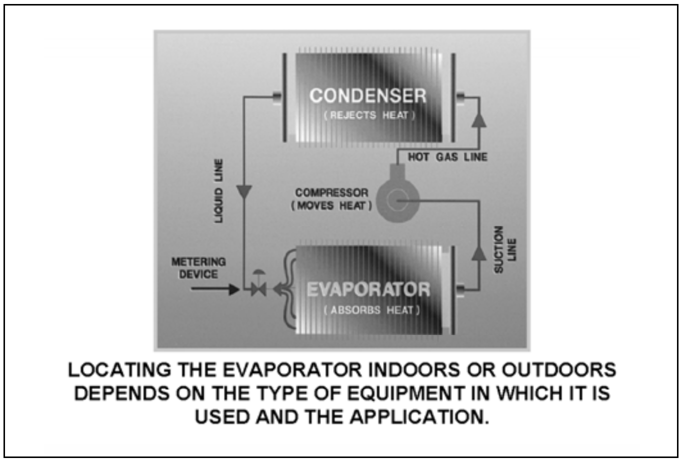


55. An expansion valve may open too much because the thermal bulb is not in good contact with the suction line or pipe. Loose clamping around the thermal bulb may cause such poor contact. Most thermal bulbs also require proper insulation.

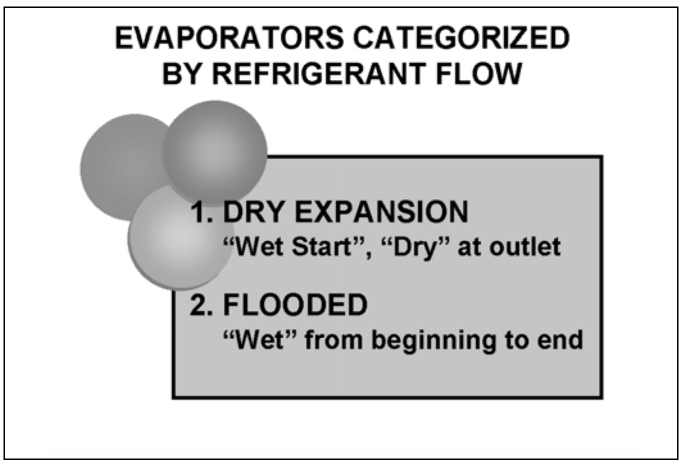
The mounting of the thermal bulb and its actual location is very important. The bulb must be in good contact with the outlet of the cooling coil so that it can sense, thermally, exactly what is going on in the sucton line and the evaporator.



56. The evaporator is a heat exchanger that absorbs heat into the refrigeration system. It takes low-pressure, low temperature liquid refrigerant and changes it into a vapor. The cooler temperature is then removed from the refrigerant and transferred to the ambient air surrounding the coil.



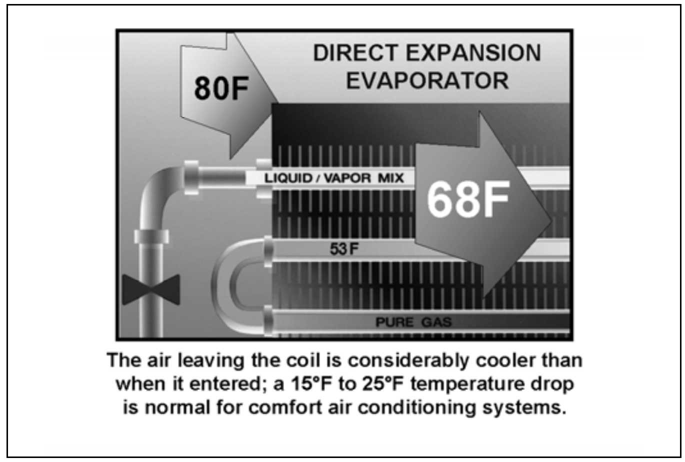
57. In the cooling mode, the evaporator is located downstream of the metering device. The location of the evaporator indoors or outdoors depends on the type of equipment in which the evaporator is used and the system application.



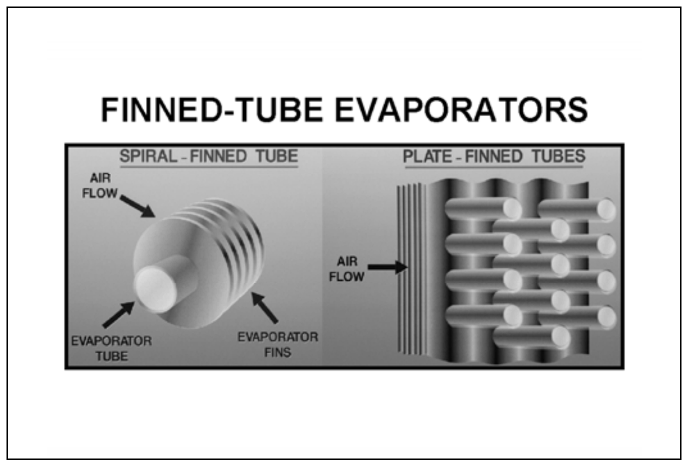
58. There are two types of evaporators, the **dry or direct expansion** (DX) evaporator or **flooded** evaporators.

The dry or direct expansion (DX) evaporators are most often seen in residential split systems and are "wet start" (liquid) but dry (vapor) at the outlet.

The flooded evaporator is "wet" (liquid) from the beginning to the end.



59. In a direct expansion evaporator, the air leaving the evaporator coil is considerably cooler than when it entered. The normal temperature drop is about 15° F to 25° F ΔT through the coil.



60. Finned-tube evaporators can have either spiral-finned tubes or plate-finned tubes. Finned or plate tubes increase surface area and therefore greatly increase heat transfer.

SPLIT SYSTEM INSTALLATION

61. First, locate the equipment, then take the following steps.

Lay out the line set, making sure to follow the manufacturer's specifications as well as building codes for limits on lengths, connections, pitch, rise, etc.

Next, make the system connections, using solders or brazes accepted by the equipment manufacturer and following local codes. When brazing, use nitrogen to purge the lines of oxygen. Oxygen can cause oxidation inside the lines while brazing, and lead to refrigeration system deterioration.

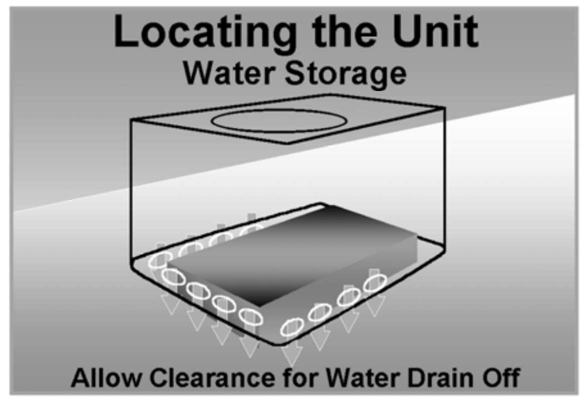
Once all connections are made, leak test the line. Pressurize the lines using nitrogen making sure to add trace amounts of the refrigerant *to be used in that system.* Be sure to follow the manufacturer's guidelines for maximum test pressure levels.

Various devices and methods can be used for leak detection. Electronic leak detectors are the most accurate. Ultrasonic detectors are good but require a certain level of expertise. Halide detectors may also be used for certain refrigerants like R-22 but cannot be used with others like R-410A.

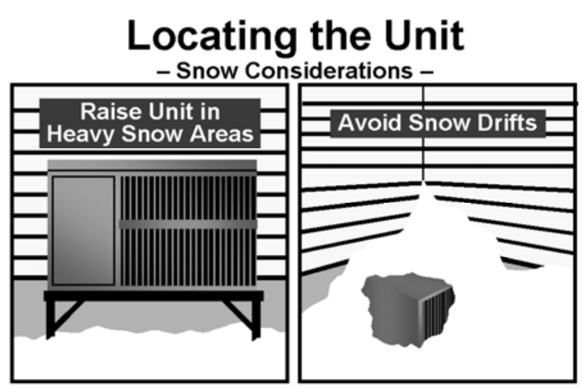
Soap bubbles are often used to detect leaks but may not expose very small leaks. When using this method, only use soaps designed for leak testing. Regular household detergents corrode solder connections.

Once the system has been leak tested, the lines must be evacuated. Most manufacturers recommend evacuation to 500 microns. After this is achieved, close the manifold valves and shut off the vacuum pump. Wait for five minutes. If the vacuum holds, this verifies the absence of leaks and moisture in the system. For these procedures, a deep vacuum gauge, such as a micron gauge should be used. Manifold gauges are not adequate.

Finally, check the system airflow and refrigerant charge. The refrigerant charge may need to be adjusted to bring the system to manufacturer's specifications.

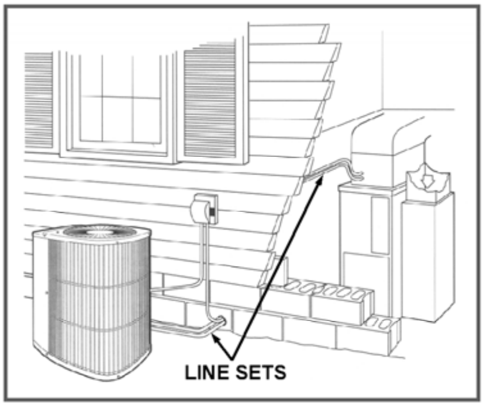


62. In locations where snowfall is below 20 inches annually, the outdoor unit should be mounted on a concrete pad. Check the cabinet for defrost drain hole locations and be sure the mounting pad does not block them. A gravel apron around the pad improves drainage and helps prevent the growth of vegetation near the unit.

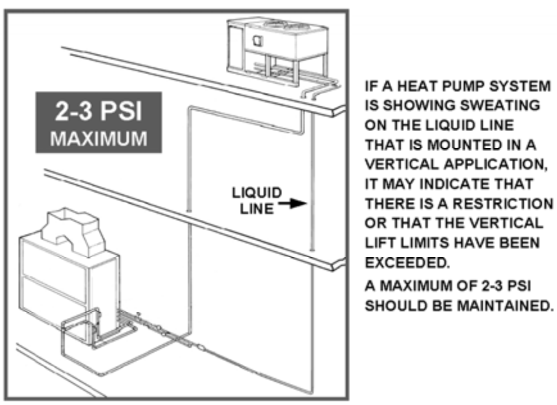


63. In areas that average 40 inches or less of annual snowfall, mount the unit on a rack that is at least 12 inches above the pad. In areas averaging more than 40 inches of annual snowfall, use a 16- to 24-inch rack.

As with all outdoor equipment, avoid locations under eaves, where rain water collects, where snow and ice can fall on the unit and where snow may drift. Limit the length of refrigerant piping runs on a split system heat pump to 50 feet or less, if possible.

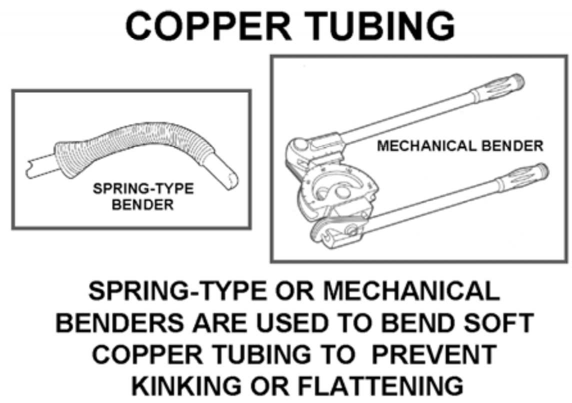


64. Line sets should be installed in such a way to also *prevent a pressure drop*.



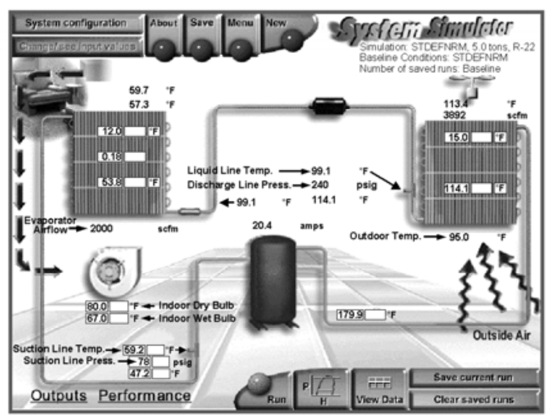
65. In a heat pump system, sweating on the liquid line mounted in a vertical application may indicate that there is a restriction or that the vertical lift limits have been exceeded.

A maximum of 2-3 PSI should be maintained.

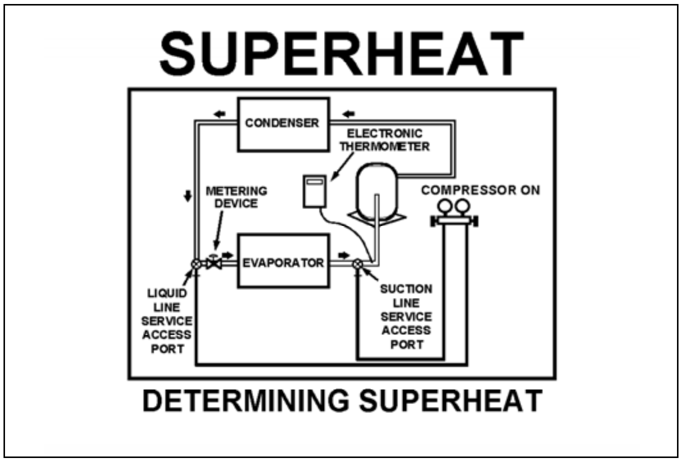


66. A spring-type bender of the proper size should be used over soft copper tubing to prevent kinking or flattening the tube. Kinks restrict the flow of refrigerant.

A mechanical bender is used for larger-diameter tubing and when a more accurate bend is required. These benders normally have a clip to hold the tubing while bending and a calibrated degree scale and can be used to get smooth bends up to 180°.



67. Using the Air Conditioning Simulator, we are able to show the temperatures and pressures that are vital to proper system operation. This simulation is for a normal, standard-efficiency (STDEFNRM) 5-ton split system with a fixed orifice meter and a scroll compressor using R-22 refrigerant.



68. When a liquid contains all the heat it can hold without changing into a vapor, it said to be a saturated liquid. Continuing to add heat will begin the latent heating process, which will cause the liquid to change to a saturated vapor. This vapor is as saturated with heat as a gas can be without rising above its saturation temperature.

Once the vapor is heated above its saturation temperature it becomes a superheated gas. The heat content of refrigerant vapor above its saturation point is called **superheat**.

SUPERHEAT

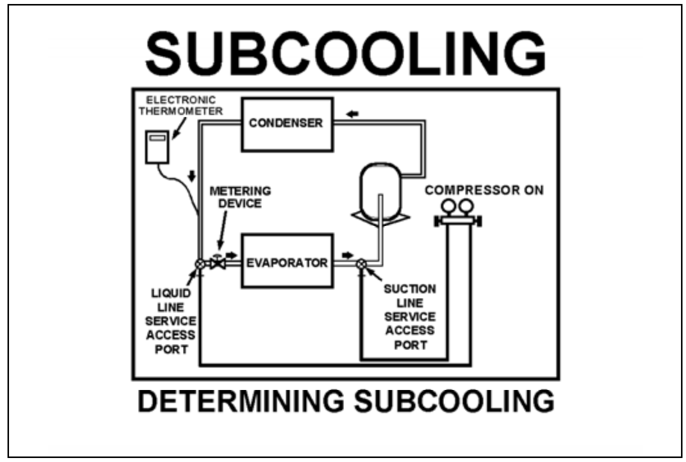
DETERMINING SUPERHEAT

1. Check the suction pressure at the suction service valve using a gauge manifold set
2. Using a P-T card determine the suction saturation temperature
3. Place the probe of a temperature tester on the suction line next to the suction service valve
4. The number of degrees of measured temperature above the saturation temperature (from the P-T card) is the SUPERHEAT

69. In order to take accurate superheat readings on a non-TXV system, the airflow must be correct and the outdoor temperature must be above minimum. The system should be past the initial pull down period and should have a 15 to 25 degree delta drop across the evaporator. Finally, the system should be leak free.

To determine superheat, check the suction pressure at the suction service valve, using a gauge manifold set. Using a P-T card, determine the suction saturation temperature.

Next, place the probe of a temperature tester on the suction line next to the suction service valve. The difference between this figure and the saturation temperature from the P-T card is the SUPERHEAT.



70. Because a TXV maintains a constant superheat over a range of load conditions, an alternative to the superheat method must be used to determine proper charging of systems with TXVs.

In cases involving a TXV we check the subcooling to check the charge. **Subcooling** is the temperature that is removed from refrigerant after it has condensed to a liquid.

SUBCOOLING

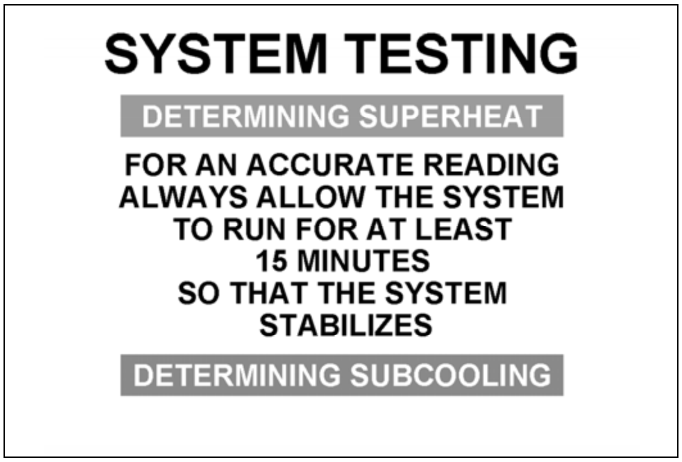
DETERMINING SUBCOOLING

1. Check the liquid line pressure using a gauge manifold set
2. Convert the pressure using a P-T card to determine the saturation temperature
3. Place the probe of a temperature tester on the liquid line leaving the condenser
4. The difference between the temperature tester reading and the saturation temperature (from the P-T card) is our SUBCOOLING

71. In order to take accurate subcooling readings on a non-TXV system, again, the airflow must be correct and the outdoor temperature must be above minimum. The system should be past the initial pull down period and should have a 15 to 25 degree delta drop across the evaporator. Finally, the system should be leak free.

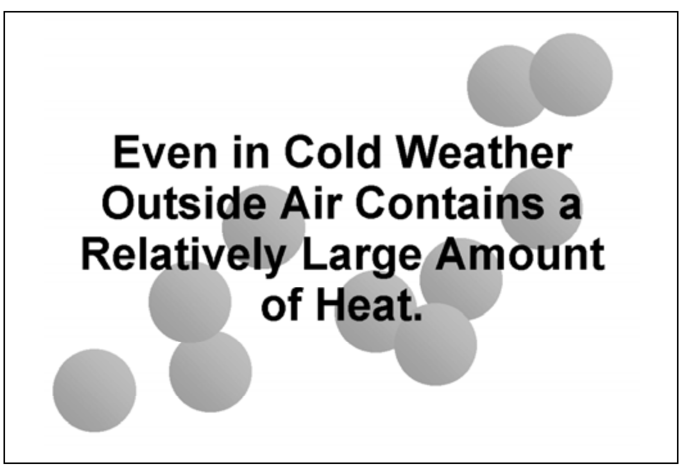
To determine subcooling, check the liquid line pressure, using a gauge manifold set. Convert the pressure using a P-T card to determine the saturation temperature.

Next, place the probe of a temperature tester on the liquid line leaving the condenser. The difference between this temperature and the saturation temperature from the P-T card is the SUBCOOLING.



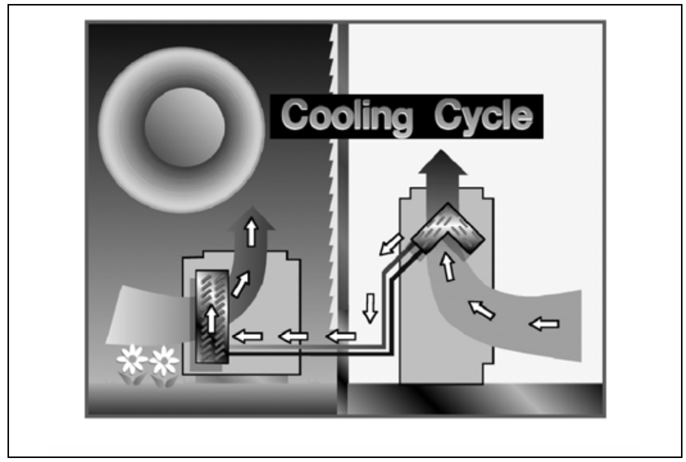
72. When testing a system for superheat or subcooling we should always allow the system to run for at least 15 minutes to get the system past the initial pull down period. This allows the system to stabilize and therefore allow for accurate readings

HEAT PUMP OPERATION

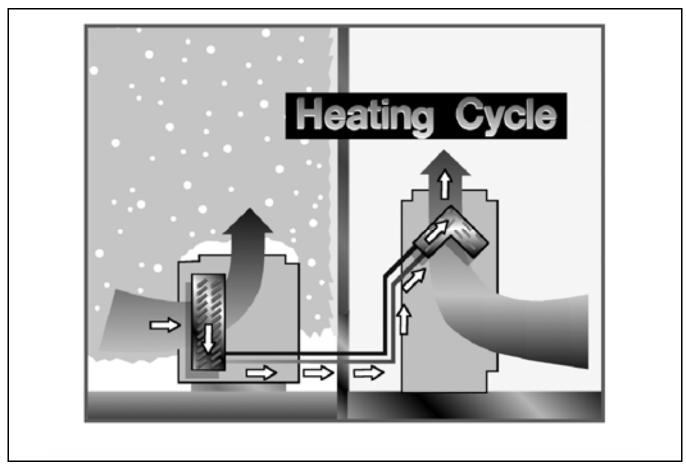


73. How is "heat" extracted from cold outside air?

There is some heat in the air as long as the temperature is above absolute zero (-459°F). Therefore, if the refrigerant flowing through the outdoor coil is colder than the outside air, heat exchange will take place.

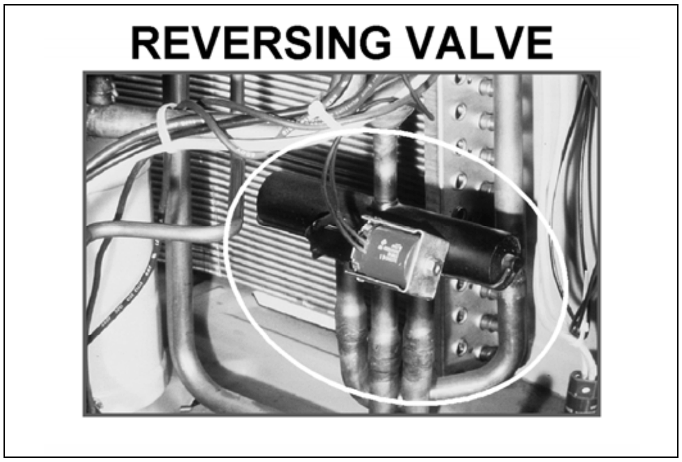


74. During the cooling season, the heat pump performs the same as any air conditioning system by picking up heat from the space to be conditioned and rejecting it outdoors. Notice that the flow of heat is to the outdoors.



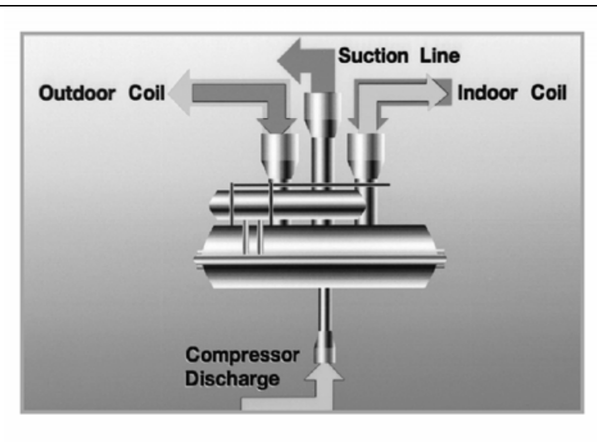
75. During the heating season, the direction of heat transfer is to the indoors. The unit absorbs heat from the outdoor air and moves it to the conditioned space.

Because the unit changes from heating to cooling by reversing the direction of refrigerant flow, heat pumps are often called "reverse-cycle air conditioners."



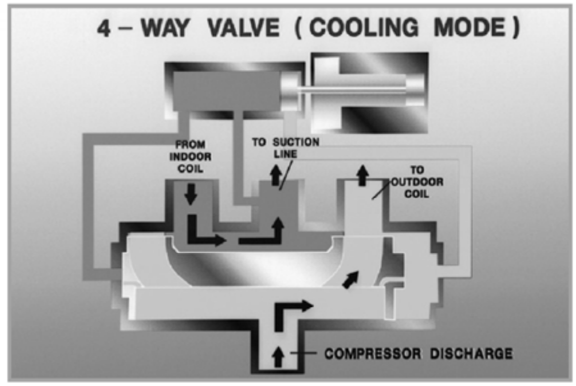
76. In heat pumps, changeover between heating and cooling modes is accomplished with a **reversing valve**, also known as a **4-way valve**, which reverses the flow of refrigerant in the system.

When troubleshooting a reversing valve, the unit must have a *full refrigerant charge*. If the charge is sufficient but the reversing valve is not shifting, it could be an electrical or mechanical problem. Symptoms of a non-shifting valve will be lower discharge pressures and higher suction pressures, causing the compressor to cycle on the internal overload in both modes of operation.

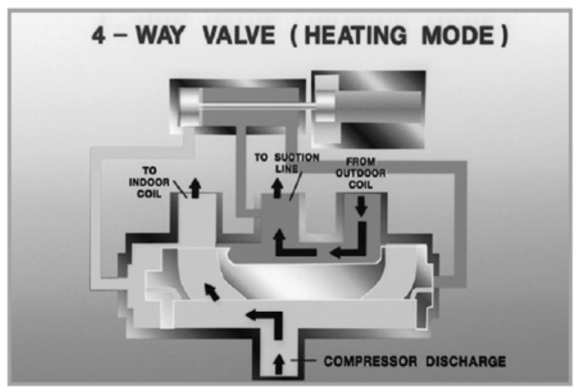


77. The 4-way valve has four refrigerant connections: one to the compressor discharge, one to the compressor suction, and one to each coil. The 4-way valve is shifted pneumatically by a solenoid-operated pilot valve, which is part of the 4-way valve.

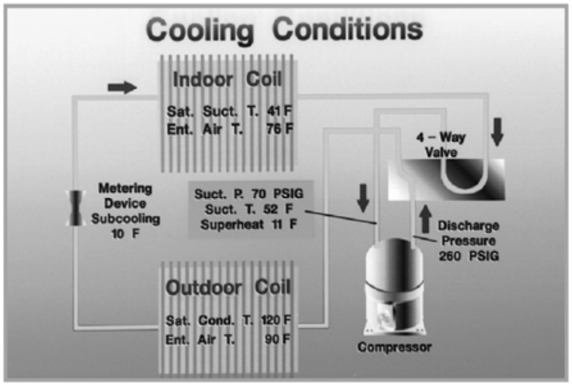
In some cases, the 4-way valve is electrically energized in cooling and de-energized in heating. On some systems, that arrangement is reversed.



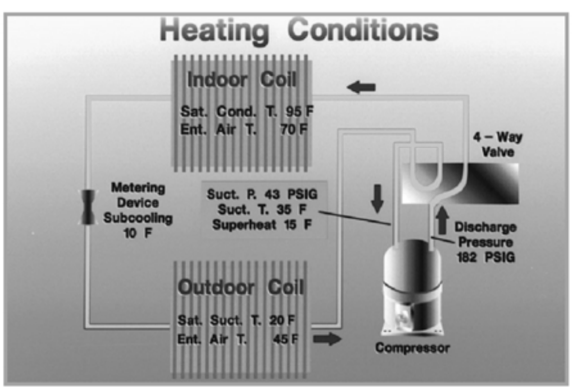
78. This illustration shows the arrangement inside the valve in the cooling mode, with the pilot valve energized. The main valve body is positioned so that the compressor discharge is routed to the outdoor coil; the compressor suction comes from the indoor coil.



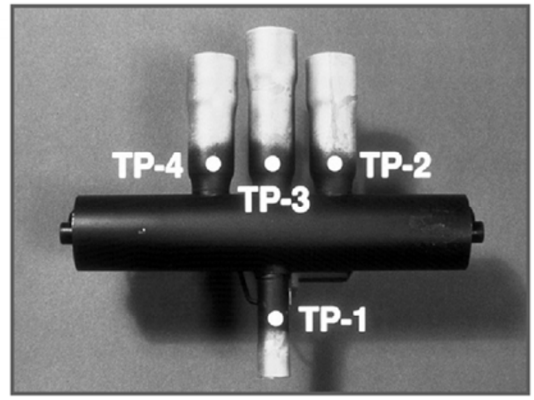
79. In the heating mode, when the pilot is de-energized, the compressor discharge is routed to the indoor coil and the compressor suction comes from the outdoor coil.



80. Temperature and pressure conditions for heat pumps operating in the cooling mode are about the same as those of a typical air conditioner. Typical heat pump conditions with 90°F outdoor air and 76°F indoor air are shown in this illustration.

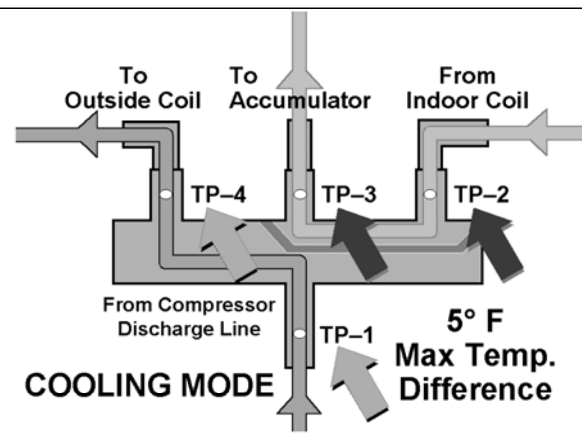


81. Conditions for a heat pump operating in the heating mode vary significantly from cooling conditions. A typical heating condition may be 45°F outdoor air and 70°F indoor air. Typical operating pressures and temperatures for a heat pump operating at these conditions are shown here.

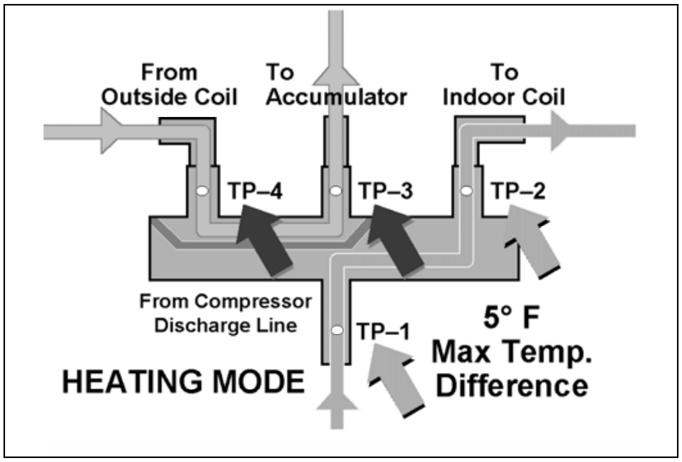


82. Temperatures are best checked with a remote-reading electronic-type thermometer with multiple probes. Route the thermocouple leads to the inside of the coil area to the reversing valve.

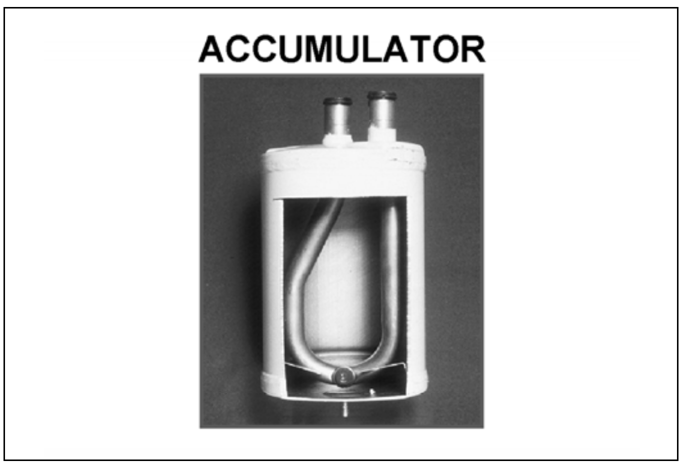
One test probe would be attached to each of the reversing valve's ports. Be sure to insulate the probes for accurate readings. Test in both the cooling mode and the heat pump mode.



83. For checking the reversing valve in the cooling mode, read and record test points 2 and 3. These should be cool or cold and may have condensation or frost on both lines. The maximum temperature difference across a normally operating valve is 5°F. Test points 1 and 4, the hot lines, should have 5°F maximum across a normally operating valve.

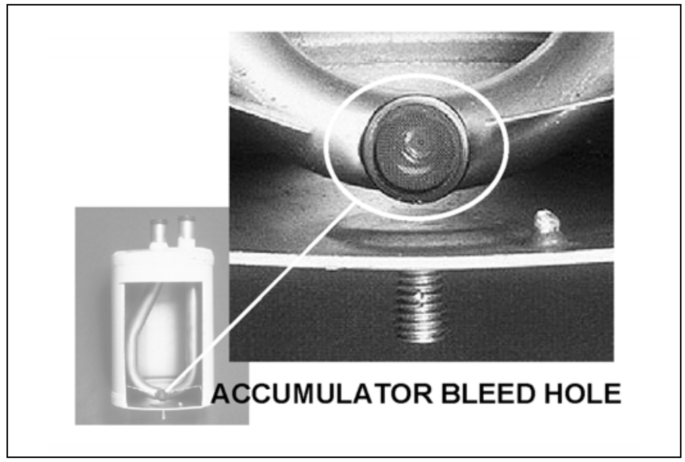


84. In the heating mode, the valve reverses; test points 1 and 2 are hot and test points 3 and 4 are cool or cold. Again, the maximum temperature difference is 5°F. Record the temperatures. If the temperature differences are higher, the valve is either leaking, stuck or defective and must be replaced.

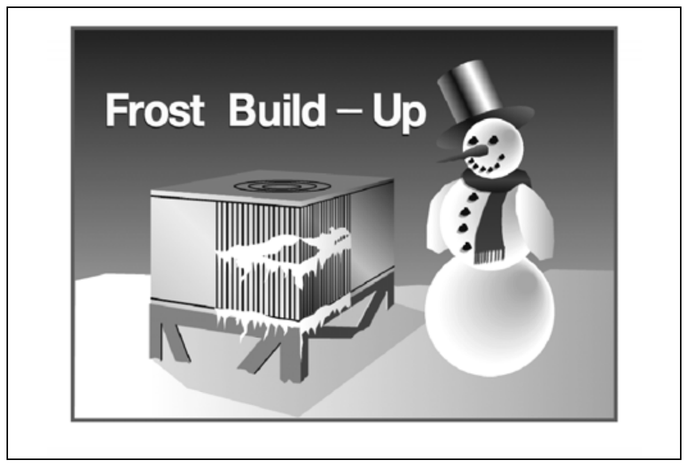


85. Most heat pump systems will have an accumulator installed in it from the factory. The **accumulator** is a passive device that adds extra protection to the heat pump, especially when it runs under adverse conditions. It is located in the suction line between the compressor and the reversing valve.

The accumulator will insure that liquid refrigerant, present in suction gas when the heat pump runs under light load conditions, does not enter the compressor. It accomplishes this by storing the liquid refrigerant and allowing it to boil off into a vapor before it returns to the compressor.



86. Occasionally, the accumulator's internal screen, oil return orifice, or **bleed hole** may become plugged with dirt or sludge. Bleed holes are very small and nearly impossible to clean. If they become plugged the accumulator must be replaced.



87. During the heating mode, outside air passing through the outdoor coil gives up its heat to the refrigerant because the refrigerant is colder than the air.

Even though the outside air may be 35 or 40°F, the lower refrigerant temperature within the outdoor coil will cause moisture in the air to freeze, forming frost on the coil. Snow or rain falling on the coil also causes ice buildup. Frost accumulation is greater during periods of high humidity when the temperature is 30 to 40°F and less severe at lower temperatures because cold air contains less moisture.

In any case, it is necessary to periodically defrost the coil, otherwise the buildup would block the coil and result in significant capacity reduction.

Defrost Methods

Timed Defrost

- Cyclic (30, 60, 90 Minutes)
- Time & Temperature

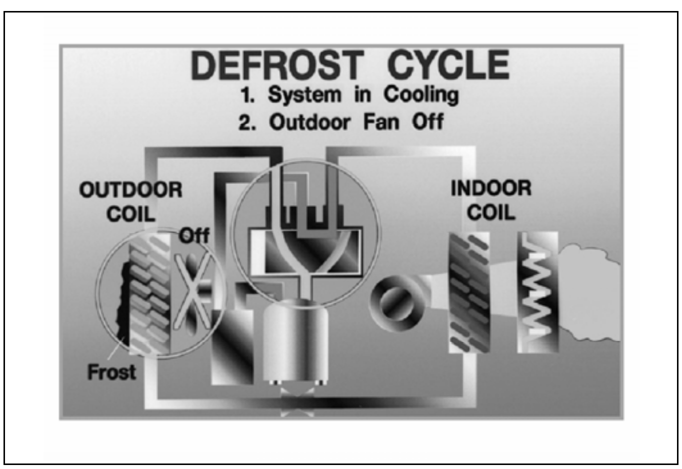
Demand Defrost

- Outdoor Air Temperature / Outdoor Coil Temperature Difference
- Air Pressure Drop
- Refrigerant Pressure

88. **Timed defrost** and **demand defrost** are the primary methods for initiating defrost.

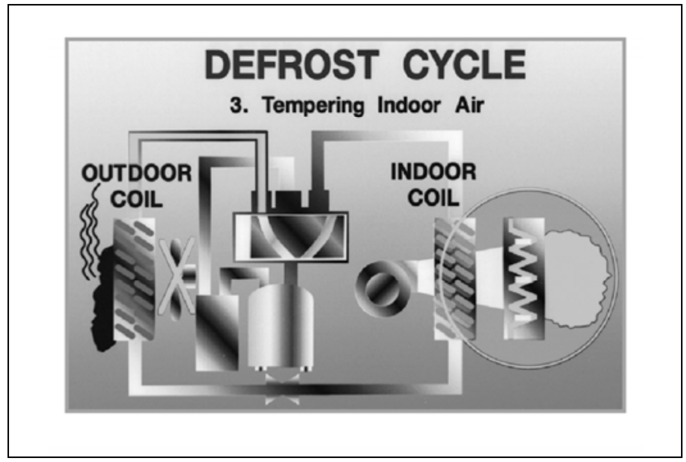
In the timed method, defrost is initiated on a cycle (30, 60, or 90 minutes) and requires that the outdoor temperature be below a certain level (such as 40°F) to avoid unnecessary activation.

In demand defrost systems, one of three methods is used to sense when defrost is needed. In one method, the difference between outdoor air temperature and outdoor coil refrigerant temperature (which increases as frost accumulates) is sensed. In the second method, the air pressure drop across the outdoor coil is used. The third method uses the increase in refrigerant pressure to indicate frost buildup and initiate defrost. Most systems use a combination of time and temperature to *terminate* defrost.



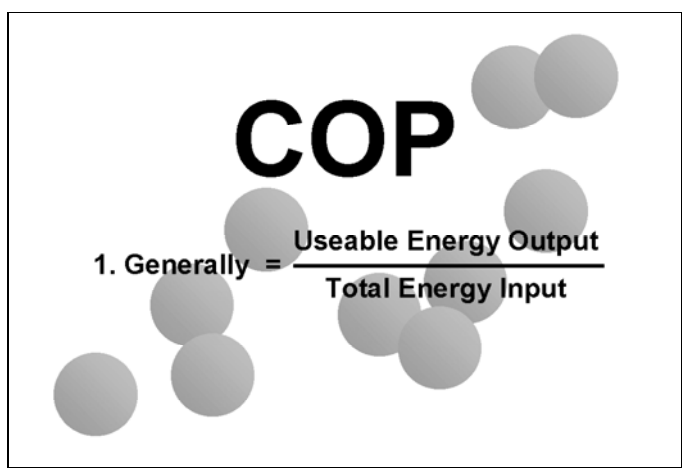
89. There are several methods for defrosting the outdoor coil. The most popular is to reverse the 4-way valve, placing the system in the cooling mode for a short period. The outdoor coil then acts as a condenser coil and hot discharge gas melts away the frost buildup.

To shorten the duration of the defrost cycle, the outdoor fan is normally shut off during defrost, so that cold air does not blow across the outdoor coil and hinder the defrost process.



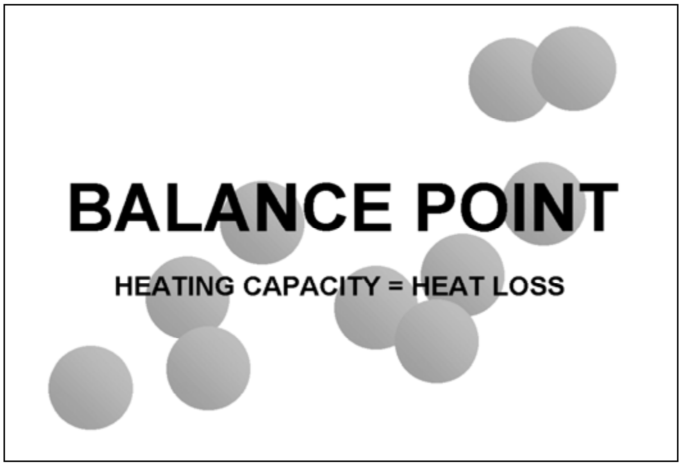
90. In defrost, the system is running in the cooling mode. To offset the effect of cool air being blown into the conditioned space by the indoor fan, and to maintain heating during the defrost cycle, electric resistance heaters in the indoor air stream are energized.

When the defrost controls sense that the frost has melted, or when the selected time has elapsed, the 4-way valve reverses and the system resumes heating operation. Since the outdoor coil is hot during defrost, "steam" may be observed rolling off the coil. This is a common occurrence and there is no need for alarm.

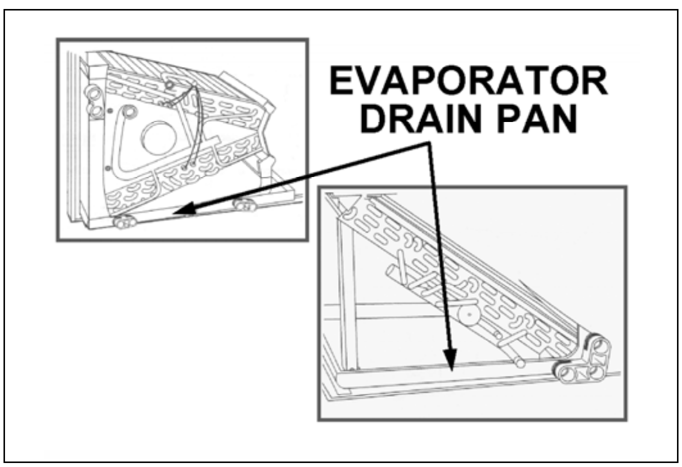


91. Heat pump performance is rated by **Coefficient of Performance** or **COP**. COP is the ratio that measures a machine's heat transfer efficiency. It is the useful energy output divided by the energy input and the

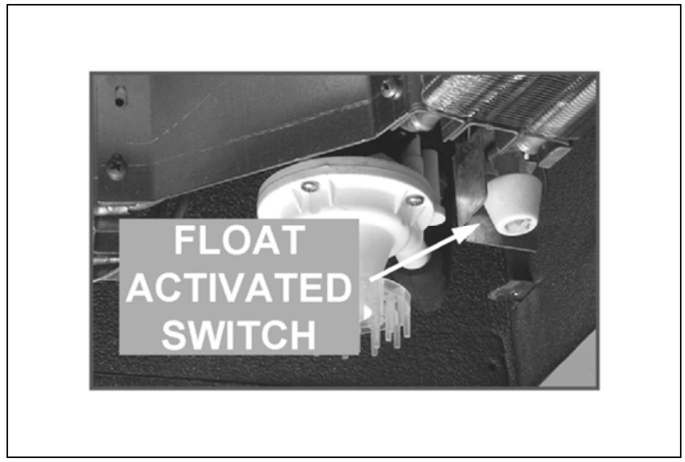
higher the number, the more efficient the unit and the less it costs to operate the system.



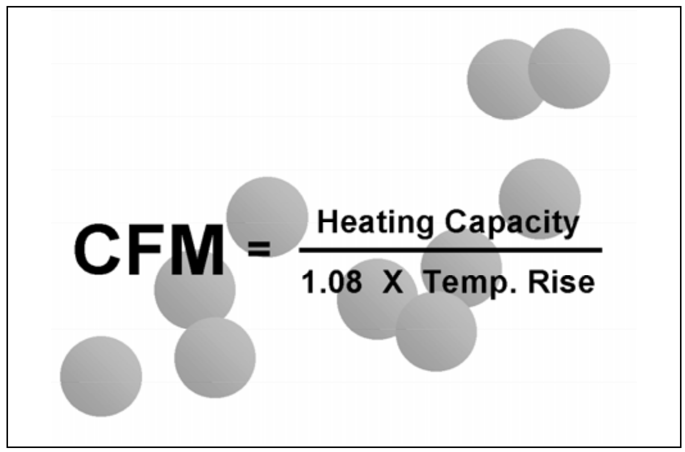
92. The balance point for a heat pump is where the unit's capacity is equal to the heat loss of the building. At any outdoor temperature below the balance point, supplemental heat will be necessary to assist the heat pump in maintaining comfort. The outdoor thermostats are usually set about 2°F above the balance point.



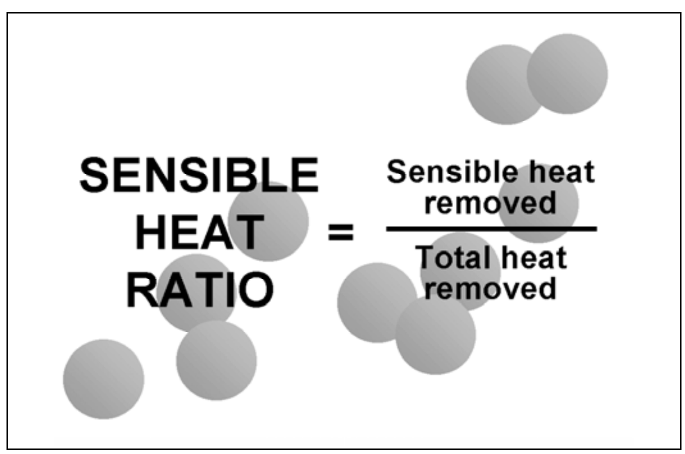
93. The drain pan of an evaporator should be installed level with or slightly tilted toward the drain line.



94. To prevent flooding a **float activated switch** may be installed that will stop the unit from operating.



95. Air quantity is measured in **cubic feet per minute** or CFM. **CFM** is found by dividing the heating capacity by a factor of 1.08 times the heat rise.



96. The sensible heat ratio is the ratio of the sensible heat removed divided by the total heat removed.

Carrier Corporation
Syracuse, New York
800-644-5544
www.training.carrier.com
Cat. No. 020-018
GT72-01