

passing warm air over the cooler basement walls and floor. In areas of high prevailing dew points, however, this practice may cause objectionable dampness to develop in the basement.

Complete summer air conditioning can be readily combined with forced warm air systems either by using factory-built units incorporating both refrigeration and heating equipment, or in some cases by adapting separate refrigeration equipment or well-water coils to existing warm air systems.

A more complete treatment of residential summer air conditioning is given in Chapter 46.

GRAVITY WARM AIR SYSTEMS

In gravity warm air heating systems the motive head producing flow depends upon the difference in weight between the heated air leaving the top of the furnace casing and the cooled air entering the bonnet of the casing. Hence, the motive head is very small and the system must allow free flow.

A gravity warm air furnace heating plant consists of a fuel-burning furnace or heater, enclosed in a casing of sheet metal, which is placed in the basement of the building. The heated air, taken from the bonnet on the top of the furnace casing, is distributed to the various rooms of the building through sheet-metal warm air pipes. The warm air pipes in the basement are known as leaders, and the vertical warm air pipes which are installed in the inside partitions of the building are called stacks. The heated air is discharged into the rooms through registers which are set in register boxes placed either in the floor or in the side wall, usually at or near the baseboard.

The air supply to the furnace is usually taken entirely from inside the building through one or more recirculating ducts, although in some cases an outside air supply duct is provided.

Gravity warm air heating systems may be designed* by following the procedures given in Manual 5 of the National Warm Air Heating and Air Conditioning Association. This publication also gives information on terminology, outlet and return locations, and standard sizes of pipe and fittings. The data underlying this information and the design procedure are given in a circular* issued by the University of Illinois, and are based on research conducted there.

REFERENCES

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CENTRAL SYSTEMS FOR AIR CONDITIONING

Features of Systems, Zoning, Humidity Control, Cooling Load, Heating Load, Air Quantity and Temperature Differential, Unitary-Central Systems, High-Pressure Induction Convectors, High-Velocity Systems, Fan and Coil Units, Evaporative Cooling, Precooling, Sensible Cooling with Unwetted Coils, Selection of System, Location of Apparatus

THE term, central, applied to an air conditioning system implies that the equipment such as fans, coils, filters and their encasement are designed for assembly in the field rather than in a factory as a unit. As a central system usually serves several different rooms, or spaces, individual controls are required for each room.

FEATURES OF CENTRAL SYSTEMS

One advantage of a central air-supply system is that one apparatus serving many rooms may involve a lower investment cost than that for a number of self-contained plants, each serving a single room. A central system may occupy basement or attic space that is relatively unimportant, whereas individual factory-assembled apparatus placed in each room may occupy otherwise valuable space. Another advantage of a central system is accessibility for servicing, since it is possible to provide doors in the encasement for cleaning and inspecting all of the component parts in a manner usually superior to that practicable with compact factory-assembled equipment. In addition service is concentrated in one or just a few places.

Central air-conditioning systems usually are connected by ducts with the various rooms served, and preferably have exhaust fans that may effect complete removal and disposal of any desired proportion of the air. The return-air fan may return air to the supply system for recirculation, as a measure of economy of fuel or refrigeration.

Central air-conditioning systems are served by heating and refrigerating equipment which may be located at some distance from the air-supply apparatus, and which may serve one or more central air-supply systems.

Fig. 1 is a sketch of a typical year-round central system. Outdoor air enters from an intake preferably on that side of the building least exposed to solar heat, and not close to the ground or to a sun-heated or dust-gathering roof. The outdoor-air damper is split into two sections, minimum outdoor-air and maximum outdoor-air, with the maximum outdoor-air damper interlocked with the return-air damper in such a manner that as the outdoor-air volume increases the return-air volume decreases. The return-air duct or connection could come from a return-air fan. The return-air and outdoor-air connections should be arranged for complete mixing of the two air streams to minimize the possibility of stratification through equipment. All the air passes through filters which must have ample room on both sides of the filters for servicing. The filters may be of a mechanically-cleaned type, a replaceable-cell type, or may be electronic as described in Chapter 24.

The cleaned air passes to the equipment that changes its temperature and humidity. Except in very warm climates,

heating or tempering coils are required to warm the entering outdoor air to a temperature above freezing, the heat being supplied by means of hot water or steam. Cooling coils provide the necessary sensible cooling and dehumidification. The coils may be chilled by direct expansion of an approved refrigerant within the tubes, or by a pump-circulated liquid such as water or brine. A water-tight drainage tank must be installed under the cooling coil and should extend for a distance toward the fan.

Reheater coils, utilizing steam or hot water, reheat the air in warm weather for control purposes or bring the air to its final temperature in cold weather. For humidification in dry weather, water sprays are used either separately as shown or combined with the cooling coils having the spray nozzles directed against the coil surfaces. The spray water

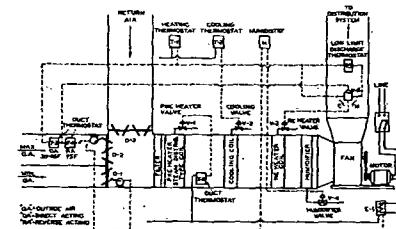


Fig. 1 . . . Typical Year-Round Central System

may be circulated by a small pump from the water tank under the spray chamber.

The general requirements for the control of the various components of the central station apparatus are covered in Chapter 43. The functioning of a typical set of controls as illustrated in Fig. 1 is as follows:

Whenever the fan is started, solenoid air valve or relay E-1, actuated by the fan motor starter, opens minimum outdoor-air damper D-1, places humidistat H in service, and allows duct thermostats T-3 and T-4 to control the maximum outdoor-air damper D-2 and the return-air damper D-3.

When the fans stop, E-1 is de-energized to close the outdoor-air dampers and also to close humidifier valve V-4.

Thermostat T-1 positions reheat valve V-3, on the reheat coil, to maintain a constant space temperature. As the space temperature rises, T-1 positions reheat valve V-3 to a closed or to a minimum open position, as determined by low limit discharge thermostat T-5. Duct thermostat T-6, in the pre-