



The Duct Man

HVAC Contractor News You Can Use

FEBRUARY WEBINARS

Goodman

HVAC Refrigerant Piping & Proper Procedures for System Evacuation

Thursday, Feb. 10, 2021
4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

- Good practices, specifications and correct construction of HVAC refrigerant piping
- Proper procedures and equipment for degassing and dehydrating an HVAC system

resideo **Universal Parts Strategy**

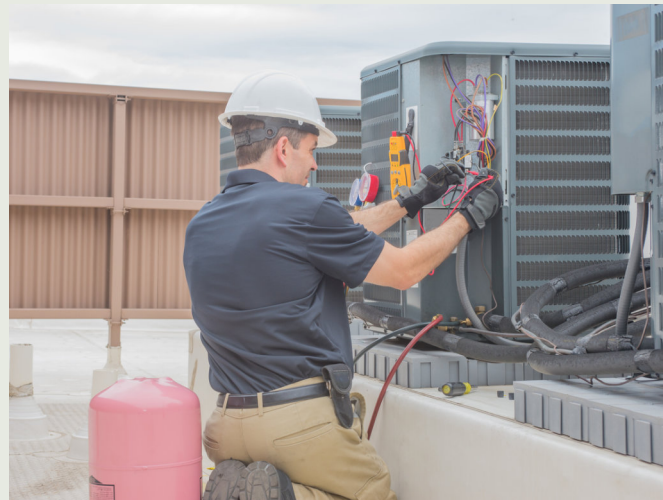
Thursday, Feb. 24, 2021
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

- Understanding the value and benefits of utilizing universal HVAC parts
- Types of universal parts
- Cross referencing tools and resources

These FREE webinars are hosted by E.P. Homiek and instructed by expert manufacturer representatives. Please call our Lakewood branch (732-364-7644) to register and receive your webinar link

New HFC Phasedown is Now Underway

Steep cuts in R-410A production are slated for 2024



The U.S. has officially entered the first stage of the new HFC refrigerant phasedown that aims to reduce hydrofluorocarbon production and consumption by 85% over the next fifteen years. On January 1, 2022, production of HFCs including the widely-popular R-410A was reduced by 10%. While it's unlikely that this reduction will have

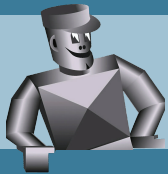
much of an effect on the HVAC industry, a **much larger impact will surely be felt in 2024** when production is slated to be reduced to 60% of the EPA's baseline.

HFC refrigerants were good, reliable alternatives for R-22 and other HCFCs that were phased out as of 2020 due to their high ozone depletion potential (ODP). While HFCs don't pose a danger to the ozone layer, they are greenhouse gases that have high global warming potential (GWP). This current phasedown, as mandated by the AIM Act, is expected to avoid up to 0.5° Celsius (32.9°F) of global warming by the year 2100.

In addition to the phasedown schedule set forth, **multiple petitions that seek further HFC restrictions are currently under review by the EPA**, including one that proposes a ban on the use of R-410A in new residential and commercial air conditioning equipment beginning on Jan. 1, 2025. The EPA has two years to address these petitions, but the HVAC industry must prepare for the possibility that they will be accepted.

Most of us can agree that the phasedown of R-22 and other HCFCs that ended in 2020 went relatively smoothly, but the transition from HFCs to new low-GWP refrigerants will be a different story. **The top contenders for replacing R-410A currently under consideration are mildly flammable (A2L)**, and most building codes do not allow installation of comfort cooling equipment containing A2L refrigerants. The next international building code update is due in 2024, however, and industry experts are hopeful that it will include the use of A2L refrigerants. What all of this

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HFC Phasedown is Now Underway

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means is that if the EPA does go through with the proposed ban on production of new R-410A equipment in 2025, HVAC technicians will have little time to gain training and experience in the new technology.

A2L training is currently offered by several organizations such as ACCA and ESCO Group, and HVAC contractors should start considering whether to start training their technicians now to prepare for the eventual transition, or watch and wait to see how EPA guidelines progress and more information comes out regarding which A2L refrigerants will emerge as the industry frontrunners.

Educate Customers on the Benefits of Whole-House Humidification

Heating season is still in full swing, and many of your customers are certainly feeling the detrimental affects that dry, unhumidified air can have on health, comfort and utility bills. When selling a **whole-house humidifier**, here are a few facts your customers should know:

- **Humidified air is healthier than dry air.** Dry mucous membranes in the throat, nasal passages, and sinuses are less able to filter out pathogens and pollutants and provide an ideal breeding ground for virus and bacteria growth. Maintaining proper humidity levels significantly decreases susceptibility to illness. ASHRAE recommends RH levels between 40-60% to help prevent the spread of various illnesses including Covid-19.
- **Humidified air feels warmer than dry air** because it slows the rate of moisture evaporation on the skin. At the proper RH, 67° feels more like 70°, and lower thermostat settings mean lower heating costs.
- **Humidified air helps alleviate allergy and asthma symptoms.**
- **Humidified air means healthier skin.** The body's largest organ is less prone to drying, cracking, peeling and itching when proper humidity levels are maintained.
- **Humidified air dissipates static electricity** that can cause shocks to occupants as well as interference in computers and electronic equipment.
- **Humidified air keeps wood floors, cabinets, furniture and fixtures from drying and cracking.** It reduces dust levels and damage to artwork, as well.



E.P. Homiek Sheet Metal & HVAC Supply carries a complete line of Honeywell whole-house humidifiers to meet your customers' specific needs. For more information, please contact our Lakewood, NJ location at (732) 364-7644 or Union, NJ at (908) 688-9104.