

The Duct Man

HVAC Contractor News You Can Use

HVAC Industry Forecast for Summer 2022: What to Expect in the Upcoming Busy Season

The busy cooling season is upon us, and weather services are forecasting a wet summer with warmer temperatures than usual for New Jersey. This is welcome news for HVAC companies whose livelihoods depend on keeping customers comfortable during hot weather, but our industry, like so many others, will be facing some unusual challenges this coming season.

First, as we all know, the cost of gas and materials are up, as are labor rates. Contractors must consider whether to increase hourly service fees, raise equipment prices, or impose fuel surcharges to compensate for these added expenses. Supply chain issues and long lead times on parts and equipment that have been hampering our industry are expected to continue through the summer before they begin to ease during the fourth quarter of 2022.

Consumers will ultimately be the ones to drive this atypical market, so HVAC businesses, engineers, and suppliers are watching closely to see what they'll do. Industry experts are predicting that home and business owners will lean more toward servicing and maintaining existing HVAC systems this summer and hold off on investing in new equipment. This indicates that HVAC contractors should focus more on service and maintenance while product shortages, long lead times, fluctuating fuel prices, and other uncertainties persist.

HVAC companies should also consider stocking more critical spare parts than usual this summer and, if at all possible, pre-purchasing common-sized equipment to have on hand when failed equipment is beyond repair and replacements may be hard to find.

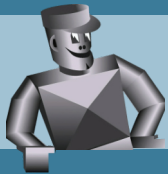


EPH Open House Returns to Union after 2-Year Hiatus

Gray skies and a light rain prevailed over New Jersey on Friday, May 6, but that didn't stop the impressive turnout of customers for the **2022 E.P. Homiek Open House** held at our Union location.

Several manufacturer representatives were on hand to demonstrate their equipment and field customer questions including **Bryant Heating & Cooling Systems, Resideo /Honeywell, and Crown Boiler**, and delicious, complimentary food and refreshments were provided by perennial EPH crowd favorite **Fork in the Road** food truck. All who attended the Open House were entered to win prizes that included a Bryant 3-ton split system, a Bryant mini-split system, REME HALO air purifier, Yankees tickets, and \$50 gift cards. Congratulations to all the lucky winners, and thanks to all who turned out to enjoy the day with us

E.P. Homiek will be hosting another Open House at our Lakewood location on **September 9, 2022**, in celebration of our 35th anniversary, where we'll be pulling out all the stops with more vendor demonstrations, free food, and high-value prizes. We look forward to seeing you there!



DUCT LEAKAGE TESTING: When to Do It, Best Techniques



The N.J. Residential Energy Code requires that all new homes undergo and pass a duct leakage test by a third-party inspection company (unless all ductwork is located entirely within the home's conditioned space) in order to secure a Certificate of Occupancy.

HVAC contractors have the option of either choosing to have the test performed at either the rough, pre-drywall stage, or at the completion stage. While duct leakage thresholds can be more difficult to achieve when testing is performed during the rough stage, problems are much easier to correct than when they're discovered at the final stage of construction, after drywall has been installed.

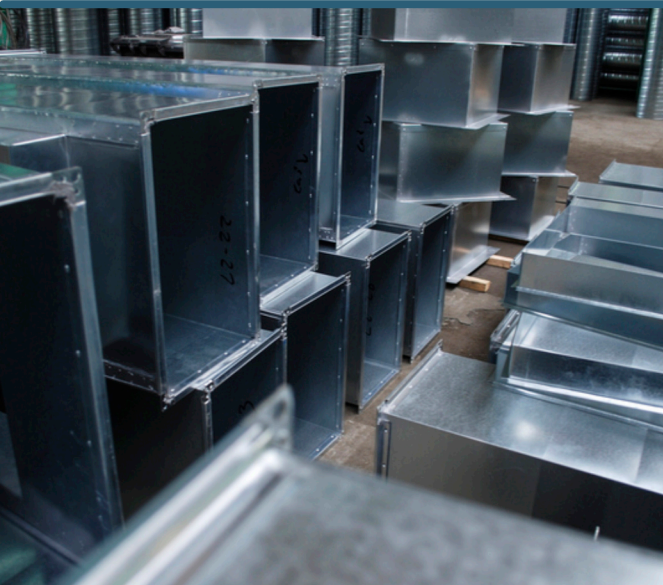
There are a number of ways to prepare for duct leakage testing to help ensure a successful outcome. First, it is best to perform the test after the furnace has been installed. Testing done prior to furnace installation is more expensive and time-consuming, and a stricter leakage threshold must be met. Ensure that furnace front panels are installed, and that seams, gaps, and holes in the furnace are properly sealed. Filter covers must be installed and made airtight. Registers and other ductwork terminations must be sealed airtight with tape or other means or the system will fail the test. All boots and covers must be sealed both above and below the subfloor. It is recommended that testing be performed before insulation is installed. Avoid panned joist returns, which are notoriously leaky and poor practice in general. Duct leakage testing of systems with panned joist returns is not permitted during the rough stage and may only be performed at the final stage of construction, at which time leaks are likely to be found and repairs will be difficult to access.

HVACR LICENSE REMINDER!

New Jersey Master HVACR License renewal deadline is June 30, 2022.

Have you completed your 5-hour Continuing Education requirement?

Visit www.njconsumeraffairs.gov for more information or call EPH at 732-364-7644.



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- ▶ Competitive prices
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