



# HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM AIR CONDITIONING

In 1902, the first modern electrical air conditioning unit was invented by Willis Carrier in Buffalo, New York. He was working at the Buffalo Forge Company, experimenting with air conditioning as a way to solve an application issue for the Sackett-Wilhelms Lithographing and Publishing Company in Brooklyn, New York. On July 17<sup>th</sup> 1902 the first "air conditioner" was designed and built in Buffalo by Carrier. However air conditioning was not used in residential housing until 1914.

## **PURCHASE AN AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM WITH A UNIT RATING THAT BEST FITS YOUR USAGE**

An air-conditioning system rated at 13 will draw less electricity to power it than a system rated at 10. It will cost you less to operate a system rated 13 than one rated 10 for the same amount of cooling. If you use air-conditioning a great deal, a higher-rated system will cost you less to operate in the long run. However, its up-front cost (purchase price) is generally much higher. So if you use air-conditioning a great deal, you will get that money back within a few years. About the highest rating you'll see is 15 to 18, with some older units being rated as low as 6.

## **ALREADY HAVE AN AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM, STEPS TO KEEP IT FUNCTIONING EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY**

An air conditioner's filters, coils, and fins require regular maintenance for the unit to function effectively and efficiently.

- 1.) Clean or replace dirty filters. Cleaning them is possible, but it involves picking wads of dust and dirt out of the filter by hand. Purchasing new filters is an inexpensive option. If you don't clean or replace the filters, the dirt will cause your equipment to work harder, cause a musty smell and increase your electric or natural-gas bill.
- 2.) Clear away anything that inhibits air flow to the outside condenser unit. Impeding air will cause your system to work harder.
- 3.) Inspect your duct work for leaks. Duct work that has holes in it should be patched. Use duct tape, then apply insulation over it.
- 4.) Prepare for winter. In the winter, either cover your room air conditioner or remove and store it. Covering the outdoor unit of a central air conditioner will protect the unit from winter weather and debris.
- 5.) Hiring a Professional. When your air conditioner needs more than regular maintenance, hire a professional service technician. A well-trained technician will find and fix problems in your air conditioning system.
  - o The technician should:
    - Check for correct amount of refrigerant
    - Test for refrigerant leaks using a leak detector
    - Capture any refrigerant that must be evacuated from the system, instead of illegally releasing it to the atmosphere
    - Check for and seal duct leakage in central systems
    - Measure airflow through the evaporator coil
    - Verify the correct electric control sequence and make sure that the heating system and cooling system cannot operate simultaneously
    - Inspect electric terminals, clean and tighten connections, and apply a non-conductive coating if necessary
    - Oil motors and check belts for tightness and wear
    - Check the accuracy of the thermostat.

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