

# Conn's Inc. improves indoor air quality, saves on energy

Excess amounts of humid air entering a retail space causes an uncomfortable store environment. This not only leaves consumers and employees feeling cold and clammy, but causes electricity bills to skyrocket. Conn's Inc., an industry leader in retail electronics, was struggling with the amount of outside air they needed to bring into their facilities. With Munters' patent DryCool dehumidification system, Conn's was able to create a more comfortable store environment while saving significantly on energy costs.

The specifications designed by ASHRAE 62 states that there must be at least 15 cfm of outside air per person in an interior space for proper indoor air quality performance.

Typically, outside air is brought in through conventional roof top air-conditioning units, but unfortunately conventional units are not designed to treat large amounts of outside air. Consequentially, humid outside air is forced into the buildings. As humidity rises in the space, it becomes necessary to lower the space temperature in an attempt to lower humidity.

"Our company spends hundreds of thousands of dollars a month on electricity. I am always searching for ways to conserve energy without sacrificing the personal comfort of our customers and associates," said Larry Coker, Conn's Director of Real Estate and Construction.



## CASE STUDY: Conn's Inc.



## BENEFITS

- Comfortable Environment
- Reduced Operating Costs
- Reduced Liability/Risk
- No Mold



Munters solved the problem by installing a DryCool Packaged System. The DryCool technology pretreats and dehumidifies outside air with a condenser reactivated desiccant process before the air enters the building. DryCool systems don't require gas reactivation heat, but rather utilize waste heat from the condenser, which is free.

Using DryCool products is the most energy efficient way to treat make up air. With the DryCool packaged system, Conn's energy savings were substantial. By

controlling the humidity in the store they were able to raise the temperature of the space. Raising the thermostat set point from 72°F to 76°F can result in HVAC savings of over 20%.

"All of our stores are located in the south where humidity is a year-round problem. Working with Munters and our mechanical engineer we determined that supplementing our standard cooling package unit with a DryCool unit would allow

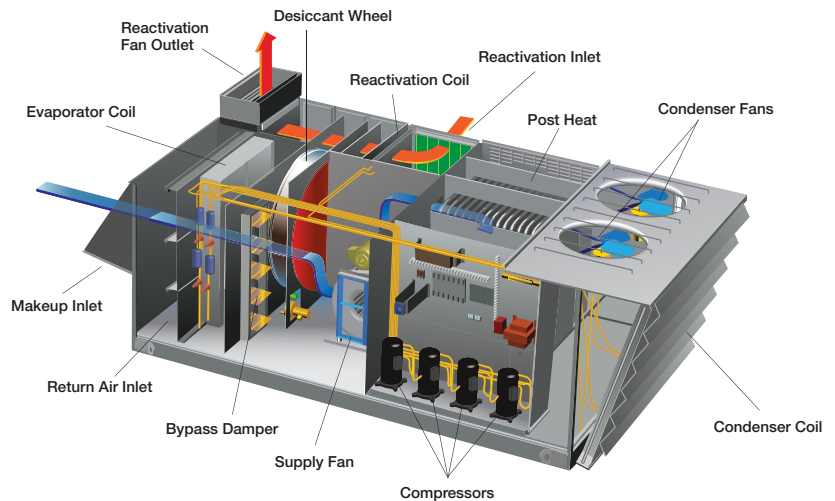
us to push the upper limits of the ASHRAE Comfort Zone by efficiently controlling the humidity inside the store. We could not economically achieve this using only a conventional DX system," Coker said.

The DryCool Packaged System has not only saved Conn's on their initial equipment investment, but has proven to be an energy saving addition to the retail outlet.

"Utilizing a combination of DX units and a single Munters DryCool Packaged System to handle the makeup air allows Conn's to maintain a pleasant interior environment at a higher temperature set point without compromising interior building comfort. This and other measures have allowed us to achieve significant reductions in electrical consumption," Coker said.

Thanks to Munters' DryCool technology, Conn's now has a more pleasant environment to work and shop.

## DryCool Packaged System Illustration



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