

Whole House Humidification

So what's the big deal about humidifying a home? There's been a lot of talk lately about adding a self-contained device to your furnace which makes your home more comfortable. Why do all the consumer and energy-watchdog groups recommend a Whole House Humidifier? Simple.

Dryer than a desert – In the winter time, it's common for the humidity level in a home to drop as low as 8%. That's dryer than the desert in a heat wave! At such low levels, the skin becomes very dry and itchy, the nasal passages become extremely sensitive and parched allowing viruses easier penetration into the body, and the temperature of the air feels colder due to evaporation from the skin.

When winter air is heated, the humidity level drops precipitously. When air contains only 8% moisture, everything dries out – usually causing **damage** in the process:

- Wood floors shrink
- Pianos go out of tune
- Wood furniture loosens
- Carpets become electric
- Skin dries out
- Snoring increases
- Asthma worsens
- Allergies increase
- Nasal passages dry out
- Temperatures feel colder



Saves energy – A whole House Humidifier installs on the ductwork near your furnace and reduces energy costs by making the air feel warmer. Here's how it works. The skin is always evaporating moisture, even when we're resting quietly. When the air is extremely dry, this moisture evaporates more quickly making the skin feel colder than it should. As a result we turn up the thermostat to compensate, thus raising our energy bill. With a Whole House Humidifier, the humidity level can be kept between 25% and 40% constantly. At these humidity levels, the skin doesn't evaporate as fast, we feel warmer, and as a result we keep the temperature lower. It is common for temperatures to be reduced 3 to 5 degrees without any loss in comfort – in fact, just the opposite. Wood floors and furniture stays put, carpets act as they should, the skin feels better, asthma and allergies are reduced, energy consumption is lowered, and we feel better and maintain better health.

Installation takes less than an hour in most cases, and the equipment is totally automatic. You can choose the level of humidity which is right for you. A "Humidistat" is installed giving you complete control over the equipment. Humidifiers only work in the wintertime while the furnace is in operation. In the summer, they automatically shut off so they don't interfere with central air conditioning. Maintenance is virtually zero – there is no monthly or quarterly upkeep. Every couple of years a new "water panel" is recommended to maintain performance (available at a nominal cost through your heating contractor).

