

The Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration NEWS[®]

BNP BUSINESS NEWS PUBLISHING CO.

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AUGUST 11, 1997

Ductwork gets a UV-Rx, curing mold growth problems

TULSA, Okla. — Mold growth in and around hvac system coil and drain pan

VENTILATION

areas was causing maintenance and management headaches at the headquarters building of the Public Service Company of Oklahoma, even after cleaning all the air-handling units and applying a germicidal agent several times a year.

Tom McKain, building services coordinator, said that despite all efforts, "In a short while, various odors would signal that the mold and bacteria had returned."

McKain investigated the use of a high-output germicidal ultraviolet light device manufactured specifically for hvac systems by Steril-Aire Inc.

Its patented "UVC Emitter" is said to be the first UVC energy source engineered to produce maximum output and performance in cold air and/or air-moving systems. Properly configured, it kills surface mold and bacteria that grow and disseminate from an AHU's coil and drain

pan area, while killing airborne microorganisms that circulate through it — with no secondary contamination.

INSTALLATION

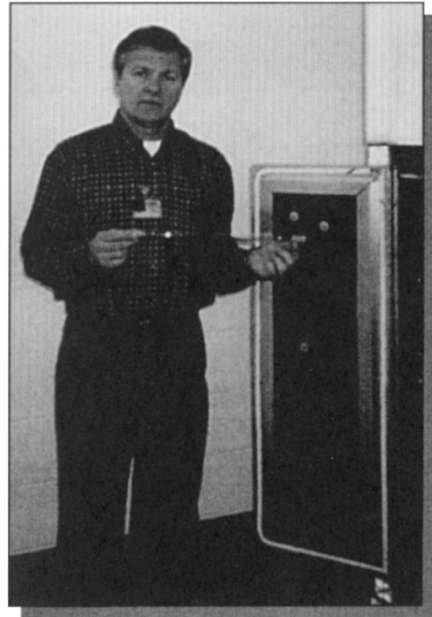
Red Bud Service, a Tulsa-based hvac service and equipment supplier, installed the units in part of the building's fourth floor.

The units were deemed so successful, they were later installed throughout the building. In combination with new, higher-efficiency rigid filters, the level of contaminants has dropped appreciably.

This also has helped to reduce the need for air handler maintenance. Coil and drain pans are reported free of mold, reducing chances for microbiological problems to develop. Cleaner coils also improve heat transfer.

And employees are no longer complaining about odors.

McKain said he believes this applied technology "promises to have a sweeping impact on IAQ problems in all types of environments." Applications include homes, hospitals, schools, food processing and pharmaceutical plants, cleanrooms, and commercial and industrial buildings.



UV light-emitting tubes are installed in ductwork to reduce mold growth and kill airborne microbials.