

Why All the Static?

By: Thomas R. Johnson

Those of us who work in the HVAC field presumably are all familiar with static pressure within our duct systems. Why then is it not on the top of the minds of all of our installers and technicians.

At a recent training class put on by Amana's National Director of training, Michael Chandlee, he cited the 3 biggest causes of warranty failure of furnaces and air conditioners in North America: **1. Static Pressure, 2. Static Pressure, 3. Static pressure.** According to Chandlee, it is by far and away the biggest problem in modern heating and cooling systems throughout America.

In a landmark ongoing study by the National Comfort Institute of well over 20,000 residential installations all across America, they found that the average heating and cooling system was working at *only* 57% of its rated efficiency. The major problem: **excess static pressure!**

In 2017, with the excess amount of information available to us, why are our duct systems so awful? I believe the answer is we have allowed other forces to determine how we will install our duct systems. What are those forces? They include:

1. The lack of any effective licensing and/or enforcement of codes.

2. Unqualified persons allowed to do installations.
3. Continued price pressure, especially from new construction builders, to provide a cheaper product.

I believe that 2017 should be the year that we, the professional contractor, begin to take our profession back in Minnesota. The way we do this is **one customer** and **one job** at a time. There is no reason at all that static pressure testing of duct systems does not become the 'normal' within every professional shop. Without it, there is *no possible way* to set the fan speed correctly. There is *no way* to set the super heat and sub-cool properly. There is *no way* to set the combustion properly. Thus, without checking static pressure you **cannot set up a system to work properly. So why then are we not doing it??**

At MN PHCC we feel part of our job is to provide educational opportunities to our members. We would like to hear if HVAC classes are of interest to you. If so, please contact myself at: tom@TMJohnsonBros.com or our MN PHCC executive director Jessica Bartram at: jbartram@intrinxec.com. We would love to hear from you!

Tom Johnson is one of the board members of MN PHCC. He is a long time PHCC member. He owns and operates T M Johnson Bros Inc. out of Cambridge MN. He has won the PHCC National HVAC Contractor of the Year award in 2010 and National Comfort Institute's National Contractor of the Year in 2014. In April he was awarded NCI's 2017 National Training Excellence Award.



HEATING • AIR • PLUMBING

(763) 689-3141 | TMJohnsonBros.com

