



Equipment Talk

When it comes to property restoration, every single job is different and every job requires different tools and pieces of equipment to get the project complete. There are dozens upon dozens of different types of tools and types of equipment that help facilitate the restoration process. They can be as simple as hammers, screw drivers, or retractable knives and to more complicated machines such as thermal foggers, ozone machines, and desiccant dehumidifiers.

However, there are a few pieces of equipment that are a staple amongst restoration professionals and are used on a regular basis. The air mover (axial and centrifugal), dehumidifier (conventional and LGR), and air scrubber are most commonly used pieces of equipment. Below we will talk about each of the pieces of equipment and their unique features.

Air Mover: there are two primary types of air movers, axial and centrifugal. “Axial air movers are designed to move large amounts of air across a wide space. These tend to be larger commercial air movers that produce high airflow. Unlike centrifugal models, which can direct air in several directions, axial units only move air in one direction. They’re ideal for drying walls or top-down drying treatments on carpets. They’re sometimes used for ventilation and equipment cooling.” The best feature about axial air movers is they draw fewer AMPS than the centrifugal air movers. “Centrifugal air movers have a more compact design and are used for spot treatments. Centrifugal units draw air from several sources and direct it to a particular spot. They are often used in restoration work to dry hard to reach areas like under cabinets, in crawl spaces and closets. Most centrifugal air movers can be adjusted to provide airflow at a few different angles. Centrifugal units produce lower CFM than axial models.”

Dehumidifier: there are two primary types of dehumidifiers, conventional and low-grain-refrigerant (LGR). Conventional dehumidifiers work by condensing water vapor in the air over refrigerated coils. The moisture laden air is fanned into the dehumidifier where it is cooled below its dew point and begins to condense on the super cold coils. The dry air is reheated by a heat pump that also prevents frost on the coils, and is then exhausted from the machine. “Low-grain-refrigerant dehumidifiers contain an enhanced refrigeration system that can dry a space to lower humidity than conventional-refrigerant dehumidifiers. A low-grain dehumidifier features a double-cooling action. They pre-cool the incoming air stream with a heat exchanger or heat-pipe technology, which removes more water per kilowatt of electricity than its conventional-dehumidifier counterparts. It moves air over a cold surface and a cooling device, then forces the water vapor to condense at a greater degree of efficiency compared to a standard dehumidifier. An LGR dehumidifier removes water below 55 or even 40 grains per pound of air. The fan inside a dehumidifier pulls the humid air in and pushes out the exhaust, and its power is expressed as the cubic feet per minute (CFM). The higher-CFM fan processes more air and can pull it in from farther distances to cover more square footage. LGRs extract greater amounts of water and continue to dry air to a lower humidity more effectively than traditional dehumidifiers.”

Air Scrubber: “An air scrubber is a portable air cleaning device that uses air circulation to remove odors, dust, mold spores, gasses, chemicals and other pollutants from the air. Through three-stage filtration system, this unit cleans contaminants from the surrounding area. An air scrubber size and parameters depend on several factors from air “pollution” degree to scrubbing area size. Once the air has been cleaned, it is the released back into the environment. Most air scrubbers will feature a three-stage filtration system to clean the contaminated air. The first stage is the pre-filter stage where only the largest particles in the air are trapped. This ensures that airflow and filtration remain highly efficient. The second stage is the filter made of carbon which will adsorb gas and vapor-phase molecules. These are the particles that cause odors. The carbon filter attracts these molecules to its surface area, effectively removing them from the air. The third stage is the primary filter which completes the removal of unwanted pollutants from the air. HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filters are the most efficient type of filter since it can trap 99.97% of particles as small as 0.3 microns.”

Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe and have a Happy Thanksgiving



Holiday.

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 IFMA Luncheon	7 ACA Luncheon	8	9
10	11	12	13 AAFAME Luncheon	14 IREM Luncheon	15	16
17	18	19	20 IIASA Luncheon	21 SAABE Luncheon	22	23
24	25	26 IWSA Luncheon	27	28 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	29 Holiday Office Closed	30

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Events

November 6: IFMA Luncheon
November 7: ACA Luncheon
November 13: AAFAME Luncheon
November 14: IREM Luncheon
November 20: IIASA Luncheon
November 21: SAABE Luncheon
November 26: IWSA Luncheon
November 28: Thanksgiving Day Holiday
November 29: Holiday Office Closed

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