

Frequently Asked Questions – Aprilaire Dehumidifiers

1. What is the warranty on the dehumidifier compressor?

The compressor warranty is the same as your unit's warranty. Smaller compressors tend to carry shorter warranties in order to keep costs down. This does not indicate shorter life. Typically, if a compressor is going to fail, it will do so in the first months after installation which falls in the warranty period. Although it is common to have a 10 year warranty in larger HVAC equipment, the length of warranty does not indicate a shorter life for the Aprilaire unit.

2. Does the dehumidifier require any maintenance?

Yes, the filter should be cleaned or replaced annually and the coil checked for contaminants to ensure pressure drops and even air distribution across the coils.

3. What are the electrical needs of the dehumidifier?

It is 110-120 VAC, with a current draw of 8 AMPS. The total power is 825 Watts.

4. Other than dehumidification, what is the benefit of running the dehumidifier in a basement?

Because the air coming from the dehumidifier is slightly warmer than the room temperature, there can be a slight warming effect in the basement. This will further assist in lowering the Rh of the basement, as the same air at higher temperatures has a lower Rh.

5. Do I have to replace the Dehumidifier filter with an Aprilaire filter?

The filters should be Aprilaire filters. This will ensure proper pressure drops, even air distribution across the evaporator coil, and overall safe operation.

6. How does the unit know there is a need for dehumidification?

The unit automatically turns on the dehumidifier blower for 2 minutes in a preset timeframe to sample temperature and dew point. You can customize the interval to 30 min, 1, 2, or 3 hours. If the house's Rh is above set-point, the dehumidifier will then energize its compressor. This automatic control is built into the dehumidifier.

7. What is the energy usage of the dehumidifier?

Using the following assumptions at "NORMAL" indoor (Model 1700 inlet) air conditions: Indoor Temperature: 75° Indoor RH: 55% Model 1700 Air Flow: 275 CFM Typical Model 1700 power consumption at above conditions: 825W Electricity Rate: \$0.09/kWh Cost of Operation per Hour: \$0.075 Example: If the unit runs 24 hours per day at these conditions, it will cost approximately \$1.80 per day.

8. What is the rating of the dehumidifier filter?

The filter is MERV 8 and should be cleaned or replaced on a yearly basis.

9. What happens to a home when its air conditioner is over-sized?

Over-sized air conditioners tend to run very short cycles because they are able to quickly

satisfy the temperature needs of the home. This means that they rarely reach the point at which they can remove any significant moisture in the home.

10. What areas of the country need whole-house dehumidification?

Any region with a summer dew point average above 55° needs dehumidification separate from cooling. This would include cities such as Chicago, St. Louis, Baltimore, Atlanta, Orlando and more – all have dehumidification needs.

11. Why do you want to keep indoor relative humidity (Rh) between 30-60%?

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recommends keeping the relative humidity in a home between 30-60% to limit the effects of many unwanted conditions and harmful household particles. In addition, the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology recommends keeping indoor relative humidity below 51% in order to deter dust mites and boost overall comfort of the home.