



Bry-Air

Dehumidification Application

The choice for
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DEHUMIDIFICATION IN ICE SKATING ARENAS

Bry-Air environmental control systems allow for consistent control to efficiently prevent the effects of humidity.



Photo Courtesy of MCT Direct Photos

According to the physical laws of nature, moisture migrates through the air from a higher concentration to the lower concentration due to a difference in vapor pressure. When air is cooled it is not able to hold as much moisture. Thus, moisture will condense on any surface that has a lower temperature than the dewpoint temperature of the air.

This is particularly a problem in ice arenas where the condensed moisture is deposited onto the

surface of the ice in the form of water droplets and also, in the form of fog above the surface of the ice. When moisture condenses and accumulates on the surface of the ice, it is known as “frosting”. This “frosting” in turn, results in “slow” ice and also imposes an additional load on the ice making system.

These conditions cannot be solved by ventilation because the introduction of outside air only aggravates the problem when the weather outside is mild and

humid. Insulating the roof also aggravates drip during mild outside weather conditions. Low emissivity ceilings stay warmer and thus, reduce condensation and dripping. Under these conditions, to prevent condensation in the ceiling space and to eliminate the fogging, there are two approaches; refrigeration or desiccant dehumidification.

REFRIGERATION

In the past, refrigeration air conditioning systems, utilized in ice skating, curling and hockey rinks, have had a history of humidity related problems along with high energy consumption rates. Conventional refrigeration equipment can maintain space conditions in a skating rink of 45°F to 60°F at a relative humidity of 60% to 75%. This can result in the air so close to saturation that it actually forms a fog over the rink and condensation inside the building and on the surface of the ice.

Any attempt to maintain lower humidity levels would necessitate



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maintaining evaporator temperatures lower than 32°F which would result in frost formation on the evaporator coil. A more effective and energy efficient solution is a desiccant dehumidification system.

DESICCANT DEHUMIDIFICATION

The primary advantage for a desiccant dehumidification system is its ability to dry air down to very low humidity levels. A desiccant dehumidifier can easily maintain 30% to 40% relative humidity within an ice skating rink thus, eliminating fog and condensation year-round, regardless of outdoor weather conditions.

According to studies conducted by ASHRAE and several manufacturers of desiccant systems, the average energy consumption of a desiccant dehumidifier is as much as 70% less than a comparable refrigeration system. So, desiccant dehumidification systems can eliminate fog and condensation while, at the same time, reducing operating costs. There is also the potential for a reduction in maintenance to the building and equipment inside as it is no longer subject to excessive humidity and the problems associated with it.

For more information on Bry-Air's products and services please visit www.bry-air.com

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