CHAPTER 51

EVAPORATIVE COOLING APPLICATIONS

EVAPORATIVE cooling is energy-efficient, environmentally benign, and cost-effective in many applications and all climates. Applications range from comfort cooling in residential, agricultural, commercial, and institutional buildings, to industrial applications for spot cooling in mills, foundries, power plants, and other hot environments. Several types of apparatus cool by evaporating water directly in the airstream, including (1) direct evaporative coolers, (2) spray-filled and wetted-surface air washers, (3) sprayed-coil units, and (4) humidifiers. Indirect evaporative cooling equipment combines the evaporative cooling effect in a secondary airstream with a heat exchanger to produce cooling without adding moisture to the primary airstream.

Direct evaporative cooling reduces the dry-bulb temperature and increases the relative humidity of the air. It is most commonly applied to dry climates or to applications requiring high air exchange rates. Innovative schemes combining evaporative cooling with other equipment have resulted in energy-efficient designs.

When temperature and/or humidity must be controlled within narrow limits, heat and mechanical refrigeration can be combined with evaporative cooling in stages. Evaporative cooling equipment, including unitary equipment and air washers, is covered in Chapter 19 of the 2000 *ASHRAE Handbook—HVAC Systems and Equipment*.

GENERAL APPLICATIONS

Cooling

Evaporative cooling is used in almost all climates. The wet-bulb temperature of the entering airstream limits direct evaporative cooling. The wet-bulb temperature of the secondary airstream limits indirect evaporative cooling.

Design wet-bulb temperatures are rarely higher than 78°F, making direct evaporative cooling economical for spot cooling, kitchens, laundries, agricultural, and industrial applications. At lower wet-bulb temperatures, evaporative cooling can be effectively used for comfort cooling, although some climates may require mechanical refrigeration for part of the year.

Indirect applications lower the air wet-bulb temperature and can produce leaving dry-bulb temperatures that approach the wet-bulb temperature of the secondary airstream. Using room exhaust as secondary air or incorporating precooled air in the secondary airstream lowers the wet-bulb temperature of the secondary air and further enhances the cooling capability of the indirect evaporative cooler.

Direct evaporative cooling is an adiabatic exchange of heat. Heat must be added to evaporate water. The air into which water is evaporated supplies the heat. The dry-bulb temperature is lowered, and sensible cooling results. The amount of heat removed from the air equals the amount of heat absorbed by the water evaporated as heat of vaporization. If water is recirculated in the direct evaporative cooling apparatus, the water temperature in the reservoir approaches the wet-bulb temperature of the air entering the process. By definition, no heat is added to, or extracted from, an adiabatic process; the initial and final conditions fall on a line of constant total heat (enthalpy), which nearly coincides with a line of constant wet-bulb temperatures.

The maximum reduction in dry-bulb temperature is the difference between the entering air dry- and wet-bulb temperatures. If the air is cooled to the wet-bulb temperature, it becomes saturated and the process would be 100% effective. *Effectiveness* is the depression of the dry-bulb temperature of the air leaving the apparatus divided by the difference between the dry- and wet-bulb temperatures of the entering air. Theoretically, adiabatic direct evaporative cooling is less than 100% effective, although evaporative coolers are 85 to 95% (or more) effective.

When a direct evaporative cooling unit alone cannot provide desired conditions, several alternatives can satisfy application requirements and still be energy-effective and economical to operate. The recirculating water supplying the direct evaporative cooling unit can be increased in volume and chilled by mechanical refrigeration to provide lower leaving wet- and dry-bulb temperatures and lower humidity. Compared to the cost of using mechanical refrigeration only, this arrangement reduces operating costs by as much as 25 to 40%. Indirect evaporative cooling applied as a first stage, upstream from a second, direct evaporative stage, reduces both the entering dry- and wet-bulb temperatures before the air enters the direct evaporative cooler. Indirect evaporative cooling may save as much as 60 to 75% or more of the total cost of operating mechanical refrigeration to produce the same cooling effect. Systems may combine indirect evaporative cooling, direct evaporative cooling, heaters, and mechanical refrigeration, in any combination.

The psychrometric chart in Figure 1 illustrates what happens when air is passed through a direct evaporative cooler. In the example shown, assume an entering condition of 95°F db and 75°F wb. The initial difference is $95 - 75 = 20$°F. If the effectiveness is 80%, the depression is $0.80 \times 20 = 16$°F db. The dry-bulb temperature leaving the direct evaporative cooler is $95 - 16 = 79$°F. In the adiabatic evaporative cooler, only part of the water recirculated is assumed to evaporate and the water supply is recirculated. The recirculated water will reach an equilibrium temperature approximately the same as the wet-bulb temperature of the entering air.

The performance of an indirect evaporative cooler can also be shown on a psychrometric chart (Figure 1). Many manufacturers define effectiveness similarly for both direct and indirect evaporative cooling equipment. In indirect evaporative cooling, the cooling process in the primary airstream follows a line of constant moisture content (constant dew point). Indirect evaporative cooling effectiveness is the dry-bulb depression in the primary airstream divided by the difference between the entering dry-bulb temperature of the primary airstream and the entering wet-bulb temperature of the secondary air. Depending on heat exchanger design and relative quantities of primary and secondary air, effectiveness ratings may

The preparation of this chapter is assigned to TC 5.7, Evaporative Cooling.

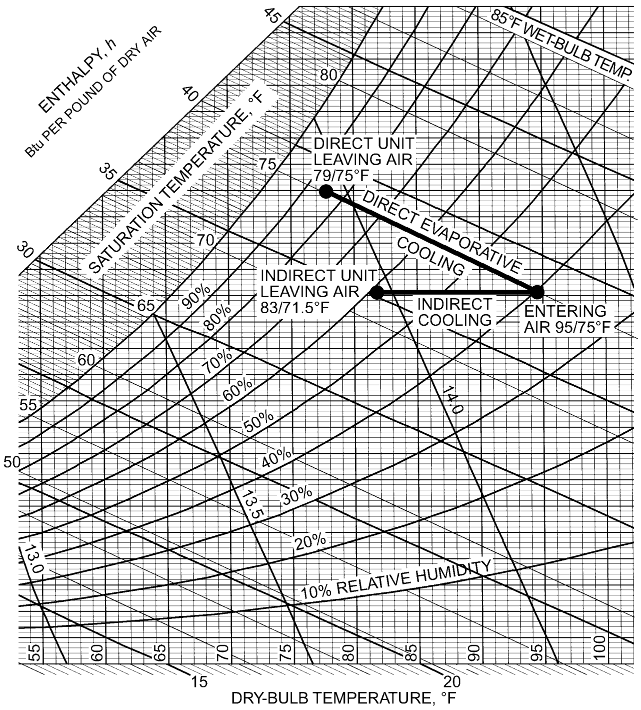


Fig. 1 Psychrometrics of Evaporative Cooling

be as high as 85%.

Assuming 60% effectiveness, and assuming both primary and secondary air enter the apparatus at the outside condition of 95°F db and 75°F wb, the dry-bulb depression is 0.60(95 − 75) = 12°F. The dry-bulb temperature leaving the indirect evaporative cooling process is 95 − 12 = 83°F. Because the process cools without adding moisture, the wet-bulb temperature is also reduced. Plotting on the psychrometric chart shows that the final wet-bulb temperature is 71.5°F. Because both wet- and dry-bulb temperatures in the indirect evaporative cooling process are reduced, indirect evaporative cooling can substitute for part of the refrigeration load in many applications.

Humidification

Air can be humidified with a direct evaporative cooler by three methods: (1) using recirculated water without prior treatment of the air, (2) preheating the air and treating it with recirculated water, or (3) heating recirculated water. The air leaving an evaporative cooler used as either a humidifier or a dehumidifier will be substantially saturated when in operation. Usually, the spread between leaving dry- and wet-bulb temperatures is less than 1°F. The temperature difference between leaving air and leaving water depends on the difference between entering dry- and wet-bulb temperatures and on certain physical features, such as the length and height of a spray chamber, the cross-sectional area and depth of the wetted media being used, quantity and velocity of air, quantity of water, and the spray pattern. In any direct evaporative humidifier installation, the air should not enter with a dry-bulb temperature of less than 39°F; otherwise, the water may freeze.

Recirculated Water. Except for the small amount of energy added by shaft work from the recirculating pump and the small amount of heat leakage into the apparatus through the unit enclosure, evaporative humidification is strictly adiabatic. As the recirculated liquid evaporates, its temperature approaches the thermodynamic wet-bulb temperature of the entering air.

The airstream cannot be brought to complete saturation, but its state point changes adiabatically along a line of constant enthalpy. Typical saturation or humidifying effectiveness of various air washer spray arrangements is between 50 and 98%. The degree of saturation depends on the extent of contact between air and water. Other conditions being equal, low-velocity airflow is conducive to higher humidifying effectiveness.

Preheated Air. Preheating air increases both the dry- and wet-bulb temperatures and lowers the relative humidity; it does not, however, alter the humidity ratio (i.e., the mass ratio of water vapor to dry air) or the dew-point temperature of the air. At a higher wet-bulb temperature, but with the same humidity ratio, more water can be absorbed per unit mass of dry air in passing through the direct evaporative humidifier. Analysis of the process that occurs in the direct evaporative humidifier is the same as that for recirculated water. The desired conditions are achieved by heating to the desired wet-bulb temperature and evaporatively cooling at constant wet-bulb temperature to the desired dry-bulb temperature and relative humidity. Relative humidity of the leaving air may be controlled by (1) bypassing air around the direct evaporative humidifier or (2) reducing the number of operating spray nozzles or the area of media wetted.

Heated Recirculated Water. Heating humidifier water increases direct evaporative humidifier effectiveness. When heat is added to the recirculated water, mixing in the direct evaporative humidifier may still be modeled adiabatically. The state point of the mixture should move toward the specific enthalpy of the heated water. By raising the water temperature, the air temperature (both dry- and wet-bulb) may be raised above the dry-bulb temperature of the entering air. The relative humidity of the leaving air may be controlled by methods similar to those used with preheated air.

Dehumidification and Cooling

Direct evaporative coolers may also be used to cool and dehumidify air. If the entering water temperature is cooled below the entering wet-bulb temperature, both the dry- and wet-bulb temperatures of the leaving air are lowered. Dehumidification results if the leaving water temperature is maintained below the entering air dew point. Moreover, the final water temperature is determined by the sensible and latent heat absorbed from the air and the amount of water circulated. However, the final water temperature cannot exceed the final required dew-point temperature, with 1 to 2°F below the dew point being common.

The air leaving a direct evaporative cooler being used as a dehumidifier is substantially saturated. Usually, the spread between dry- and wet-bulb temperatures is less than 1°F. The temperature difference between leaving air and leaving water depends on the difference between entering dry- and wet-bulb temperatures and on certain design features, such as the cross-sectional area and depth of the media or spray chamber, quantity and velocity of air, quantity of water, and the water distribution.

Air Cleaning

Direct evaporative coolers of all types perform some air cleaning. Rigid-media direct evaporative coolers are effective at removing particles down to about 1 μm in size. Air washers are effective down to about 10 μm.

The dust removal efficiency of direct evaporative coolers depends largely on the size, density, wettability, and solubility of the dust particles. Larger, more wettable particles are the easiest to remove. Separation is largely a result of the impingement of particles on the wetted surface of the eliminator plates or on the surface of the media. Because the force of impact increases with the size of the solid, the impact (together with the adhesive quality of the wetted surface) determines the cooler's usefulness as a dust remover. The standard low-pressure spray is relatively ineffective in removing most atmospheric dusts. Direct evaporative coolers are of little use in removing soot particles because their greasy surface will not adhere to the wet plates or media. Direct evaporative coolers are also ineffective in removing smoke, because the small particles (less than 1 µm) do not impinge with sufficient impact to pierce the water film and be held on the media. Instead, the particles follow the air path between the media surfaces.

Control of Gaseous Contaminants. When used in a makeup air system comprised of a mixture of outside air and recirculated air, direct evaporative coolers function as scrubbers and reduce some gaseous contaminants found in outside air. These contaminants may concentrate in the recirculating water, so some water needs to be bled off. For more information regarding the control of gaseous contaminants, see Chapter 45.

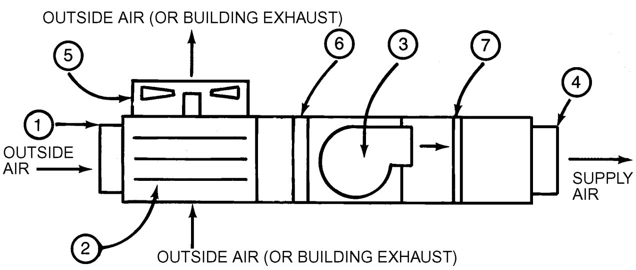
INDIRECT EVAPORATIVE COOLING

Outside-Air Systems

Because indirect evaporative cooling does not increase the absolute humidity in the primary airstream, it is well suited for precooling air entering a refrigerated coil. This precooling reduces the sensible load on the refrigerated coil and compressor. As a result, the size of refrigeration equipment may be reduced, which reduces energy use and operating cost. By contrast, direct evaporative cooling equipment, when used with a refrigerated coil, exchanges latent heat for sensible heat, increasing the latent load on the coil in proportion to the sensible cooling achieved. The enthalpy of the air entering the coil is not changed. The power input per ton of cooling effect is substantially lower with indirect evaporative cooling than with conventional refrigerated equipment.

Peterson and Hunn (1992) observed in a study in Dallas that (1) the seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) of an indirect evaporative cooler can be 70% higher than that of a conventional air conditioner and (2) nearly 12% of the air-conditioning capacity can be displaced by the indirect evaporative cooler. However, additional static pressure created by the indirect equipment increases the motor power of the primary air fan and must be considered, even when continuous cooling is not required. The additional static pressure loss may be as low as 0.2 in. of water, which increases the supply fan power very little. The equipment may also require additional energy for water pumping and for moving secondary air across the evaporative surfaces.

The cooling configuration is shown in Figure 2. The primary air side of the indirect unit is positioned at the intake to the refrigerated cooling coil. The secondary air to the unit can come from outside ambient or room exhaust air. Exhaust air from the space may have a lower wet-bulb temperature than outside ambient, depending on climate, time of year, and space latent load. Latent cooling may be possible in the primary airstream using room exhaust air as secondary air, if the dew-point temperature of the primary air is above the exhaust (secondary air) wet-bulb temperature. If this is possible, provision to drain the water condensed from the primary airstream may be necessary. In many areas, an indirect precooler can satisfy more than one-half of the annual cooling load. For example, Supple (1982) showed that 30% of the annual cooling load for Chicago could be accomplished by indirect evaporative precooling. Indirect evaporative precooling using exhaust air for secondary air may be as effective in warm, humid climates as in drier areas.



1 Screened air intake
2 Indirect evaporative cooler
3 Dry side, air-moving device
4 Duct to convey air to conditioned space
5 Wet side, air-moving device; may be part of building exhaust
6 Chilled-water, direct-expansion, or direct evaporative cooling coil section (optional)
7 Heating section, hot water coil, etc. (optional)

Fig. 2 Indirect Evaporative Cooling Configuration

Mixed-Air Systems

Indirect evaporative cooling can also save energy in systems that use a mixture of return and outside air. The configuration is similar to that shown in Figure 2, except that a mixing section with outside and return-air dampers is added upstream of the indirect precooling section. Outside air is used as secondary air for the indirect evaporative cooler.

A typical indirect evaporative precooling stage can reduce the dry-bulb temperature by as much as 60 to 80% of the difference between the entering dry-bulb temperature and the wet-bulb temperature of the secondary air. When the dry-bulb temperature of the mixed air is more than a few degrees above the wet-bulb temperature of the secondary air, indirect evaporative cooling of the mixed air may reduce the amount of refrigerated cooling required. The cooling contribution depends on the differential between the mixed air dry-bulb temperature and secondary air wet-bulb temperature. As mixture temperature increases, or as secondary air wet-bulb decreases, the precooling contribution becomes more significant.

In variable air volume (VAV) systems, a decrease in supply air volume (during periods of reduced load) results in lower air velocity through the indirect evaporative cooler; this increases equipment effectiveness. Lower static pressure loss reduces the energy consumed by the supply fan motor.

Indirect Evaporative Cooling With Heat Recovery

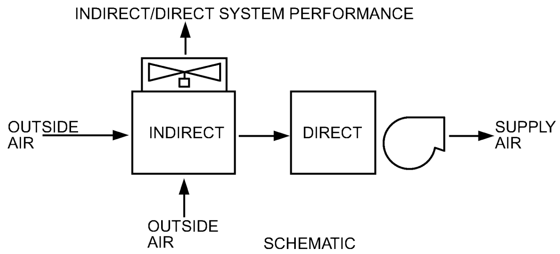
In indirect evaporative cooling, outside supply air passes through an air-to-air heat exchanger and is cooled by evaporatively cooled air exhausted from the building or application. The two airstreams never mix or come into contact, so no moisture is added to the supply air stream. Cooling the building's exhaust air results in a larger overall temperature difference across the heat exchanger and a greater cooling of the supply air. Indirect evaporative cooling requires only fan and water pumping power, so the coefficient of performance tends to be high. The principle of indirect evaporative cooling is effective in most air-conditioned buildings, because evaporative cooling is applied to exhaust air rather than to outside air.

Indirect evaporative cooling has been applied in a number of heat recovery applications (Mathur et al. 1993), such as plate heat exchangers (Scofield and DesChamps 1984; Wu and Yellot 1987), heat pipe exchangers (Mathur 1998; Scofield 1986), rotary regenerative heat exchangers, and two-phase thermosiphon loop heat exchangers (Mathur 1990, 1992). In residential air conditioning, the outside condensing unit can be evaporatively cooled to enhance performance (Mathur 1997; Mathur and Goswami 1995; Mathur et al. 1993). Indirect evaporative cooling with heat recovery is covered in detail in Chapter 44, Air-to-Air Energy Recovery, of the 2000 *ASHRAE Handbook—HVAC Systems and Equipment*.

BOOSTER REFRIGERATION

Staged evaporative coolers can completely cool office buildings, schools, gymnasiums, sports facilities, department stores, restaurants, factory space, and other buildings. These coolers can control room dry-bulb temperature and relative humidity, even though one stage is a direct evaporative cooling stage. In many cases, booster

City	Outside Air Design db/wb, °F	Indirect/Direct Performance (Supply Air = 0.733 W per cfm) Indirect db/wb, °F	Supply Air db, °F	EER	EUC, %
Los Angeles, CA	85/64	72.4/59.6	60.8	28.2	31.9
San Francisco, CA	83/63	71.0/58.7	59.9	29.6	30.4
Seattle, WA	85/65	73.0/60.9	62.1	26.4	34.1
Albuquerque, NM	96/60	74.4/51.4	53.7	38.7	23.3
Denver, CO	96/60	74.4/51.4	53.7	38.7	23.3
Salt Lake City, UT	96/62	75.6/54.3	56.4	34.8	25.9
Phoenix, AZ	110/70	86.0/62.3	64.7	22.6	39.8
El Paso, TX	101/64	78.8/55.9	58.2	32.1	28.0
Santa Rosa, CA	85/67	74.2/63.4	64.5	22.8	39.5
Spokane, WA	92/62	74.0/55.2	57.1	33.7	26.7
Boise, ID	96/63	76.2/55.7	57.7	32.8	27.4
Billings, MT	93/63	75.0/56.4	58.3	32.0	28.1
Portland, OR	90/67	76.2/62.4	63.8	23.9	37.7
Sacramento, CA	100/69	81.4/63.0	64.8	22.3	40.4
Fresno, CA	103/71	83.8/65.1	66.9	19.3	46.6
Austin, TX	98/74	83.8/69.9	71.3	12.9	69.8



Outdoor air design condition: 0.4% dry bulb/mean coincident wet bulb (2001 *ASHRAE Handbook—Fundamentals*, Chapter 27).

EER = Energy Efficiency Ratio = Btu/h cooling output per watt of electrical input. Comparison base to conventional refrigeration with 60°F supply air and 20°F temperature drop.

EUC = Energy Use Comparison to conventional refrigeration with EER = 9.

I/D effectiveness: Indirect = 60% or 0.6 (dry bulb − wet bulb); Direct = 90% or 0.9 (dry bulb − wet bulb).

Note: Sea level psychrometric chart used. At 5000 ft elevation, supply air temperature increases 3 to 4%.

Fig. 3 Indirect/Direct Two-Stage System Performance

refrigeration is not required. Supple (1982) showed that even in higher-humidity areas with a 1% mean wet-bulb design temperature of 75°F, 42% of the annual cooling load can be satisfied by two-stage evaporative cooling. Refrigerated cooling need supply only 58% of the load.

Figure 3 shows indirect/direct two-stage performance for 16 cities in the United States. Performance is based on 60% effectiveness of the indirect stage and 90% for the direct stage. Supply air temperatures (leaving the direct stage) at the 0.4% design dry-bulb mean coincident wet-bulb condition range from 53.7 to 71°F. Energy use ranges from 23.4 to 71.4%, compared to conventional refrigerated equipment.

Booster mechanical refrigeration provides inside design comfort conditions regardless of the outside wet-bulb temperature without having to size the mechanical refrigeration equipment for the total cooling load. If the inside humidity level becomes uncomfortable, the quantity of moisture introduced into the airstream must be limited to control room humidity. Where the upper relative humidity design level is critical, a life-cycle cost analysis favors a design with an indirect cooling stage and a mechanical refrigeration stage.

RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL COOLING

In dry climates, evaporative cooling is effective at lower air velocities than those required in humid climates. Packaged direct evaporative coolers are used for residential and commercial application. Cooler capacity may be determined from standard heat gain calculations (see Chapters 28 and 29 of the 2001 *ASHRAE Handbook—Fundamentals*).

Detailed calculation of heat load, however, is usually not economically justified. Instead, one of several estimates gives satisfactory results. In one method, the difference between dry-bulb design temperature and coincident wet-bulb temperature divided by 10 is equal to the number of minutes needed for each air change. This or any other arbitrary method for equating cooling capacity with airflow depends on a direct evaporative cooler effectiveness of 70 to 80%. Obviously, the method must be modified for unusual conditions such as large unshaded glass areas, uninsulated roof exposure, or high internal heat gain. Also, such empirical methods make no attempt to predict air temperature at specific points; they merely establish an air quantity for use in sizing equipment.

Example 1. An indirect evaporative cooler is to be installed in a 50 by 80 ft one-story office building with a 10 ft ceiling and a flat roof. outside design conditions are assumed to be 95°F db and 65°F wb. The following heat gains are to be used in the design:

	Heat Gains, Btu/h
All walls, doors, and roof	78,500
Glass area	5,960
Occupants (sensible load)	17,000
Lighting	62,700
Total sensible heat load	164,160
Total latent load (occupants)	21,250
Total heat load	185,410

Find the required air quantity, the temperature and humidity ratio of the air leaving the cooler (entering the office), and the temperature and humidity ratio of the air leaving the office.

Solution: A temperature rise of 10°F in the cooling air is assumed. The airflow rate that must be supplied by the indirect evaporative cooler may be found from the following equation:

$$Q_{ra} = \frac{q_s}{60\rho c_p(t_1 - t_s)} = \frac{164,160}{60 \times 0.018 \times 10} = 15,200 \text{ cfm} \qquad (1)$$

where

Q_{ra} = required airflow, cfm
q_s = instantaneous sensible heat load, Btu/h
t_1 = inside air dry-bulb temperature, °F
t_s = room supply air dry-bulb temperature, °F
ρc_p = density times specific heat of air ≈ 0.018 Btu/ft^3·°F

This air volume represents a 2.6 min [50 × 80 × 10/15,200] air change for a building of this size. The indirect evaporative air cooler is assumed to have a saturation effectiveness of 80%. This is the ratio of the reduction of the dry-bulb temperature to the wet-bulb depression of the entering air. The dry-bulb temperature of the air leaving the indirect evaporative cooler is found from the following equation:

$$t_2 = t_1 - \frac{e_h}{100}(t_1 - t') = 95 - \frac{80}{100}(95 - 65) = 71°F \quad (2)$$

where

t_2 = dry-bulb temperature of leaving air, °F
t_1 = dry-bulb temperature of entering air, °F
e_h = humidifying or saturating effectiveness, %
t' = thermodynamic wet-bulb temperature of entering air, °F

From the psychrometric chart, the humidity ratio W_2 of the cooler discharge air is 0.01185 lb/lb dry air. The humidity ratio W_3 of the air leaving the space being cooled is found from the following equation:

$$W_3 = \frac{q_e}{4840 Q_{ra}} + W_2 \quad (3)$$

$$W_3 = \frac{21250}{4840 \times 15200} + 0.01185 = 0.01214 \text{ lb/lb (dry air)}$$

where q_e = latent heat load in Btu/h.

The remaining values of wet-bulb temperature and relative humidity for the problem may be found from the psychrometric chart. Figure 4 illustrates the various relationships of outside air, supply air to the space, and discharge air.

The wet-bulb depression (WBD) method to estimate airflow gives the following result:

$$\text{WBD}/10 = (95 - 65)/10 = 3.0 \text{ min per air change}$$

$$Q_{ra} = \frac{\text{volume}}{\text{air change rate}} = \frac{80 \times 50 \times 10}{3.0} = 13{,}300 \text{ cfm}$$

Although not exactly alike, these two air volume calculations are close enough to select cooler equipment of the same size.

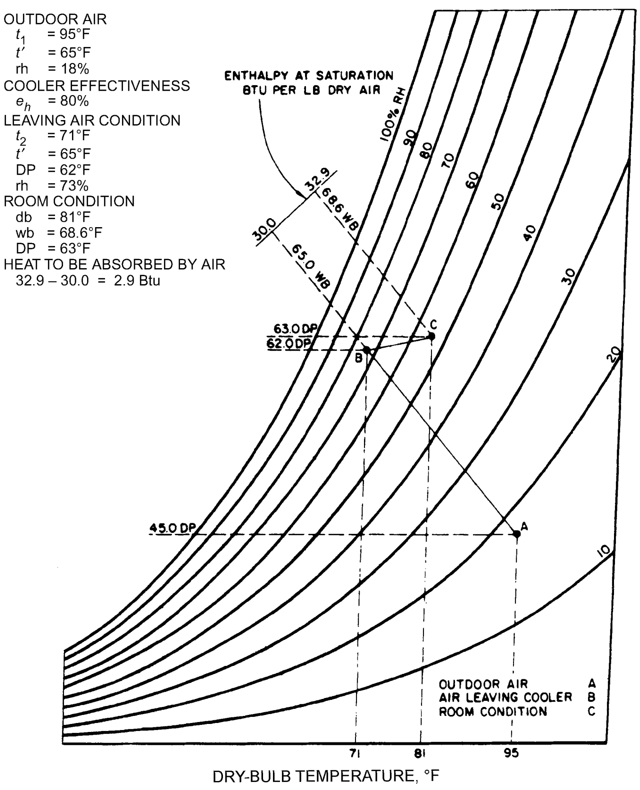


Fig. 4 Psychrometric Diagram for Example 1

EXHAUST REQUIRED

If air is not exhausted freely, the increased static pressure will reduce airflow through the evaporative cooler. The result is a marked increase in the moisture and heat absorbed per unit mass of air leaving the evaporative cooler. Reduced airflow also reduces the air velocity in the room. The combination of these effects reduces the comfort level. Properly designed systems should have a minimum of 2 ft^2 of exhaust area for every 1000 cfm. If the exhaust area is not sufficient, a powered exhaust should be used. The amount of power depends on the total airflow and the amount of free or gravity exhaust. Some applications require that the powered exhaust capacity equal the cooler output.

TWO-STAGE COOLING

Two-stage coolers for commercial applications can extend the range of atmospheric conditions under which comfort requirements can be met, as well as reduce the energy cost. For the same design conditions, two-stage cooling provides lower cool-air temperatures, which reduces required airflow.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS

In factories with large internal heat loads, it is difficult to approach outside conditions during the summer simply by ventilating without using extremely large quantities of outside air. Both direct and indirect evaporative cooling may be used to reduce heat stress with less outside air. Evaporative cooling normally results in lower effective temperatures than ventilation alone, regardless of the ambient relative humidity.

Effective Temperature. Comfort cooling in air-conditioned spaces is usually based on providing space temperature and relative humidity conditions for human comfort without a draft. The effective temperature relates the cooling effects of air motion and relative humidity to the effect of conditioned (cooled) air. Figure 5 shows an effective temperature chart for air velocities from 20 to 700 fpm. Although the maximum velocity shown on the chart is 700 fpm, workers exposed to high-heat-producing operations may prefer air movement up to 4000 fpm to offset the radiant heat effect of equipment. Because the normal working range of the chart is approximately midway between the vertical dry- and wet-bulb scales, changes in either dry-bulb or wet-bulb temperatures have similar effects on worker comfort. A reduction in either one will decrease the effective temperature by about one-half of the reduction. Lines ED and CD on the chart illustrate this.

A condition of 95°F db and 75°F wb was chosen as the original state, because this condition is usually considered the summer design criterion in most areas. Reducing the temperature 15°F by evaporating water adiabatically provides an effective temperature reduction of 5.5°F for air moving at 20 fpm and a reduction of 9.5°F for air moving at 700 fpm, an improvement of 4°F.

The reduction in dry-bulb temperature through water evaporation increases the effectiveness of the cooling power of moving air in this example by 137%. On Line ED, the effective temperature varies from 83°F at 20 fpm to 79.5°F at 700 fpm with unconditioned air, whereas Line CD indicates an effective temperature of 77.5°F at 20 fpm and 70°F at 700 fpm with air cooled by a simple direct evaporative process. In the unconditioned case, increasing the air velocity from 20 to 700 fpm resulted in only a 3.5°F decrease in effective temperature. This contrasts with a 7.5°F decrease in effective temperature for the same range of air movement when the dry-bulb temperature was lowered by water evaporation. This demonstrates that direct evaporative cooling can provide a more comfortable environment regardless of geographical location.

Two methods are demonstrated to illustrate the environmental improvement that may be achieved with evaporative coolers. In one method, shown in Figure 6, temperature is plotted against time of

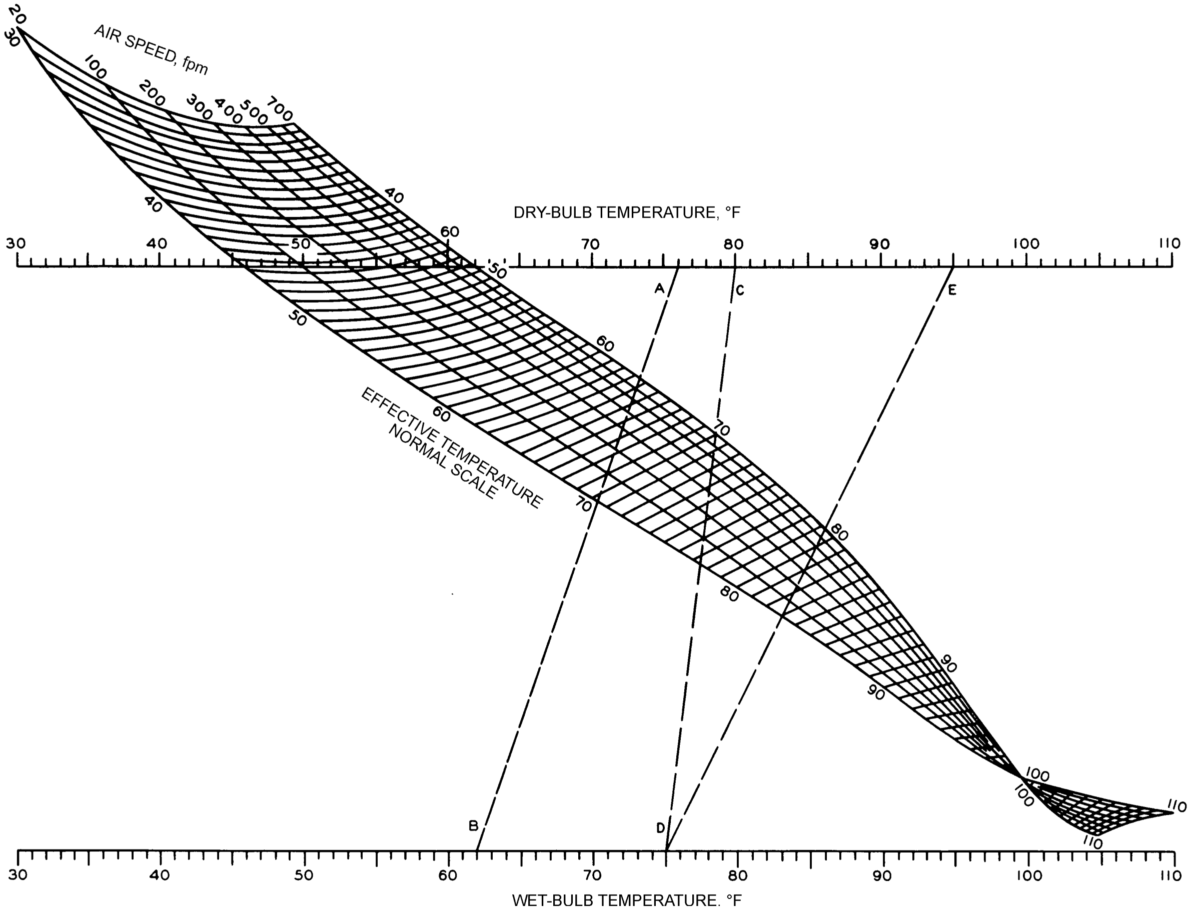


Fig. 5 Effective Temperature Chart

day to illustrate effective temperature depression over time. Curve A shows ambient maximum dry-bulb temperature recordings. Curve B shows the corresponding wet-bulb temperatures. Curve C depicts the effective temperature when unconditioned air is moved over a person at 300 fpm. Curve D illustrates air conditioned in an 80% effective direct evaporative cooler before being projected over the person at 300 fpm. Curve E shows the additional decrease in effective temperature with air velocities of 700 fpm. Although a maximum suggested effective temperature of 80°F is briefly exceeded with unconditioned air at 300 fpm (Curve C), both the differential and the total hours are substantially reduced from still air conditions. Curves D and E illustrate that, in spite of the high wet-bulb temperatures, the in-plant environment can be continuously maintained below the suggested upper limit of 80°F effective temperature. This demonstration assumes that the combination of air velocity, duct length, and insulation between the evaporative cooler and the duct outlet is such that there is little heat transfer between air in the ducts and warmer air under the roof.

Figure 7 illustrates another method of demonstrating the effect of using direct evaporative coolers by plotting effective comfort zones using ambient wet- and dry-bulb temperatures on an ASHRAE Psychrometric Chart (Crow 1972). The dashed lines show the improvement to expect when using an 80% effective direct evaporative cooler.

Area Cooling

Both direct and indirect evaporative cooling may be used for area or spot cooling of industrial buildings. Both can be controlled either automatically or manually. In addition, evaporative coolers can supply tempered air during fall, winter, and spring. Gravity or power ventilators exhaust the air. Area cooling works well in buildings where personnel move about and workers are not subjected to concentrated, radiant heat sources. Area cooling may be used in either high- or low-bay industrial buildings, but may provide significant advantages in high-bay construction where cooling loads associated with roofs, lighting, and heat from equipment may be effectively eliminated by taking advantage of stratification. When cooling an area, ductwork should be designed to distribute air to the lower 10 ft of the space to ensure that cooler air is supplied to the workers.

Cooling requirements change from day to day and season to season, so, if discharge grilles are used, they should be adjustable to prevent drafts. The horizontal blades of an adjustable grille can be adjusted so that the air is discharged above the workers' heads rather than directly on them. In some cases, the air volume can be adjusted, either at each outlet or for the entire system, in which case the exhaust volume may need to be varied accordingly.

Spot Cooling

Spot cooling is a more efficient use of equipment when personnel work in one spot. Cool air is brought to the spot at levels below 10 ft, and may even be delivered from floor outlets. Selection of the duct height may depend on the location of other equipment in the area. For best results, air velocity should be kept low. Controls may be automatic or manual, with the fan often operating throughout the year. Workers are especially appreciative of spot cooling in hot environments, such as in chemical plants and die casting shops, and near glass-forming machines, billet furnaces, and pig and ingot casting.

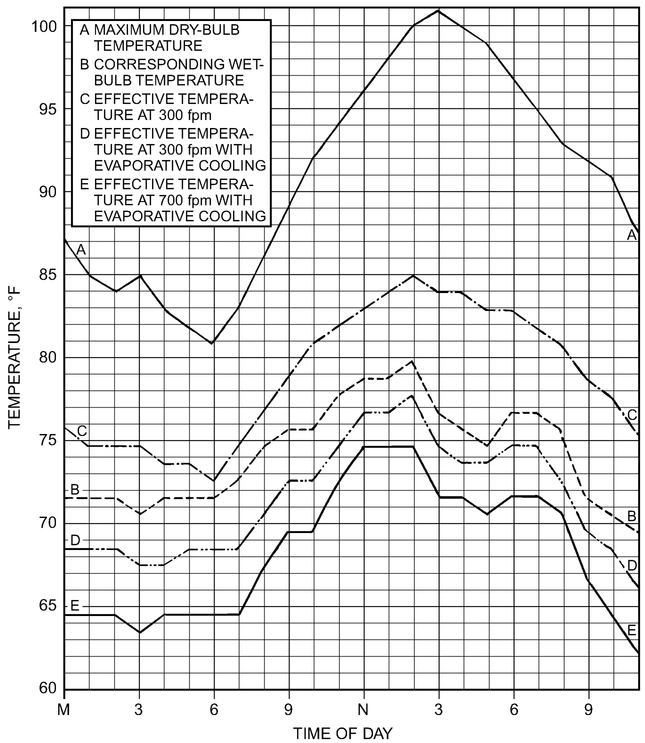


Fig. 6 Effective Temperature for Summer Day in Kansas City, Missouri (Worst-Case Basis)

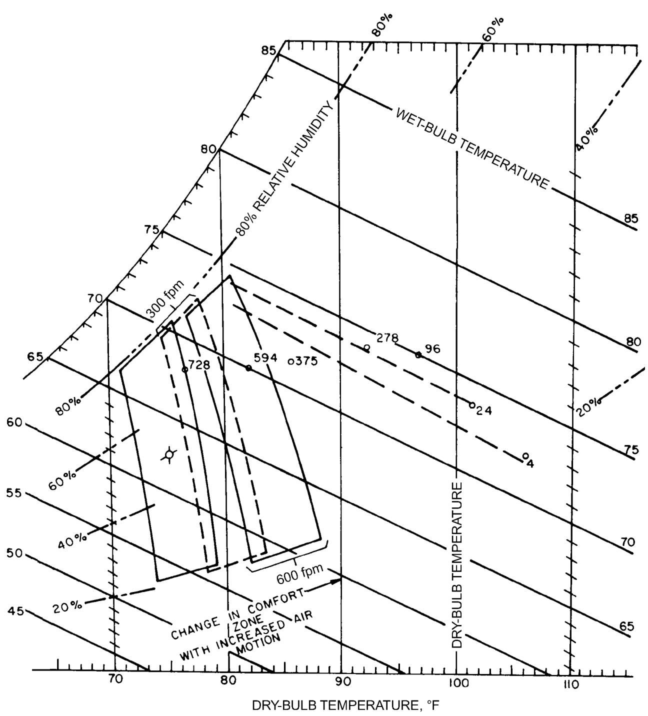


Fig. 7 Change in Human Comfort Zone as Air Movement Increases

When spot-cooling a worker, the air volume depends on the throw of the air jet, the activity of the worker, and the amount of heat that must be overcome. Air volumes can vary from 200 to 5000 cfm per worker, with target velocities ranging between 200 to 4000 fpm. The outlets should be between 4 to 10 ft from the workstations to avoid entrainment of warm air and to effectively blanket workers with cooler air. Provisions should be made for workers to control the direction of air discharge, because air motion that is appropriate for hot weather may be too great for cool weather or even cool mornings. Volume controls may be required to prevent overcooling the building and to minimize excessive grille blade adjustment.

Spot cooling is useful in rooms with elevated temperatures, regardless of climatic or geographical location. When the dry-bulb temperature of the air is below skin temperature, convection rather than evaporation cools workers. In these conditions, an 80°F airstream can provide comfort regardless of its relative humidity.

Cooling Large Motors

Electrical generators and motors are generally rated for a maximum ambient temperature of 104°F. When this temperature is exceeded, excessive temperatures develop in the electrical windings unless the load on the motor or generator is reduced. By providing evaporatively cooled air to the windings, this equipment may be safely operated without reducing the load. Likewise, transformer capacity can be increased using evaporative cooling.

The heat emitted by high-capacity electrical equipment may also be sufficient to raise the ambient condition to an uncomfortable level. With mill drive motors, an additional problem is often encountered with the commutator. If the air used to ventilate the motor is dry, the temperature rise through the motor results in a still lower relative humidity, at which the brush film can be destroyed, with unusual brush and commutator wear as well as the occurrence of dusting.

As a rule, a motor having a temperature rise of 25°F requires approximately 120 cfm of ventilating air per kilowatt hour of loss. If the inlet air to the motor is 95°F, the air leaving the motor would be 120°F. This average motor temperature of over 107°F is 3°F higher than it should be for the normal 104°F ambient. The same quantity of 95°F db inlet air at 75°F wb can be cooled by a direct evaporative cooler with a 97% saturation effectiveness. The resulting 88°F average motor temperature would eliminate the need for special high-temperature insulation and improve the ability of the motor to absorb temporary overloads. By comparison, an air quantity of 185 cfm would be required if supplied by a cooler with 80% saturation effectiveness.

Figure 8 shows three basic arrangements for motor cooling. The air from the evaporative cooler may be directed on the motor windings, or into the room, which requires an increased air volume to compensate for the building heat load. Operation of a direct evaporative cooler should be keyed to motor operation to ensure that (1) saturated or nearly saturated air is never introduced into a motor until it has had time to warm up, and (2) if more than one motor is served by a single system, air circulation through idle motors should be prevented.

Cooling Gas Turbine Engines and Generators

Combustion turbines used for electric power production are normally rated at 59°F. Their performance is greatly influenced by the compressor inlet air temperature because temperature affects air density and therefore mass flow. As ambient temperature increases, demand on electric utilities increases and the capacity of the combustion turbine decreases. Recovery of capacity because of inlet air cooling is approximately 0.4%/°F (cooling). Direct and indirect evaporative cooling is beneficial to gas turbine performance in almost all climates because when the air is the hottest, it generally has the lowest relative humidity. Expected increases in output using direct evaporative cooling range from 5.8% in Albany, New York, to 14% in Yuma, Arizona. In addition to increasing gas turbine output, direct evaporative cooling also improves heat rate and reduces NO_x emissions.

For an installation of this type, the following precautions must be taken: (1) mist eliminators must be provided to stop entrainment of

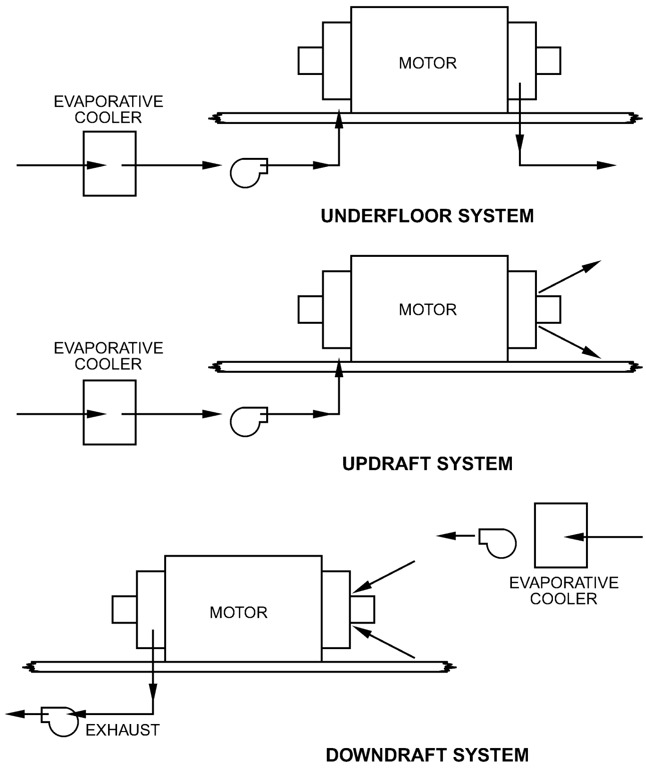


Fig. 8 Arrangements for Cooling Large Motors

free moisture droplets, (2) coolers must be turned off at a temperature below 45°F to prevent icing, and (3) water quality must be monitored closely (Stewart 1999).

Process Cooling

In the manufacture of textiles and tobacco and in processes such as spray coating, the required accurate relative humidity control can be provided by direct evaporative coolers. For example, textile manufacturing requires relatively high humidity and the machinery load is heavy, so a split system is customarily used whereby free moisture is introduced directly into the room. The air handled is reduced to approximately 60% of that normally required by an all-outside-air, direct evaporative cooler.

Cooling Laundries

Laundries have one of the most severe environments in which direct evaporative air cooling is applied because heat is produced not only by the processing equipment, but by steam and water vapor as well. A properly designed direct evaporative cooler reduces the temperature in a laundry 5 to 10°F below the outside temperature. With only fan ventilation, laundries usually exceed the outside temperature by at least 10°F. Air distribution should be designed for a maximum throw of not more than 30 ft. A minimum circulated velocity of 100 to 200 fpm should prevail in the occupied space. Ducts can be located to discharge the air directly onto workers in exceptionally hot areas, such as pressing and ironing departments. For these outlets, there should be some means of manual control to direct the air where it is desired, with at least 500 to 1000 cfm at a target velocity of 600 to 900 fpm for each workstation.

Cooling Wood and Paper Products Facilities

Wood-processing plants and paper mills are good applications for evaporative cooling because of the high temperatures and gases associated with wood-processing equipment. Wood dust should be kept out of the recirculation sumps of evaporative coolers, because the dust contains microorganisms and worm larvae that will grow in sumps.

Because of the types of gases and particulates present in most paper plants, water-cooled systems are preferred over air-cooled systems. The most prevalent contaminant is wood dust. Chlorine gas, caustic soda, sulfur, hydrogen sulfide, and other compounds are also serious problems, because they accelerate the corrosion of steel and yellow metals. With more efficient air scrubbing, ambient air quality in and about paper mills has become less corrosive, allowing the use of equipment with well-analyzed and properly applied coatings on coils and housings. Phosphor-free brazed coil joints should be used in areas where sulfur compounds are present.

Heat is readily available from processing operations and should be used whenever possible. Most plants have good-quality hot water and steam, which can be readily geared to unit heater, central station, or reheat use. Newer plant air-conditioning methods, including evaporative cooling, that use energy-conservation techniques (such as temperature stratification) lend themselves to this type of large structure. Chapter 24 has further information on air-conditioning of paper facilities.

OTHER APPLICATIONS

Cooling Power-Generating Facilities

An appropriate air-cooling system can be selected once preliminary heating and cooling loads are determined and criteria are established for temperature, humidity, pressure, and airflow control. The same considerations for selection apply to power-generating facilities and industrial facilities.

Cooling Mines

Chapter 27 describes evaporative cooling methods for mines.

Cooling Animals

The design criteria for farm animal environments and the need for cooling animal shelters are discussed in Chapter 22. Direct evaporative cooling is ideally suited to farm animal shelters because 100% outside air is used. The fresh air removes odors and reduces the harmful effects of ammonia fumes. At night and in the spring and fall, direct evaporative cooling can also be used for ventilation.

Equipment should be sized to change the air in the shelter in 1 to 2 min, assuming the ceiling height does not exceed 10 ft. This flow rate will usually keep the shelter at or below 80°F. In addition, conditions can be improved with portable or packaged spot coolers.

For poultry housing, most applications require an air change every 0.75 to 1.5 min, with the majority at 1 min. Placing the fans at the ends or the center of the house, with the direct evaporative cooler located at the opposite end, creates a tunnel ventilation system with an air velocity of 300 to 500 fpm. Fans are generally selected for a total pressure drop of 0.125 in. of water, which means that the direct evaporative cooling media cannot have a pressure drop in excess of 0.075 in. of water. Thus, to prevent an inadequate volume of air being pulled through the poultry house, the designer must carefully size the media selected.

Using direct evaporative cooling for poultry broiler houses decreases bird mortality, improves feed conversion ratio, and increases the growth rate. Poultry breeder houses are evaporatively cooled to improve egg production and fertility during warm weather. Evaporative cooling of egg layers improves feed conversion, shell quality, and egg size. When the ambient outside temperature exceeds 100°F, evaporative cooling is often the only way to keep a flock alive. Direct evaporative cooling is also used to cool swine farrowing and gestation houses to improve production.

Table 1 Air Speeds for Potato Storage Evaporative Cooler

Opening	Minimum Speed, fpm	Maximum Speed, fpm	Desired Speed, fpm
Fresh air inlet	1000	1400	1200
Return air opening	1000	1400	1200
Exhaust opening	1000	1200	1100
Main duct	500	900	700
Lateral duct	750	1100	900
Slot	900	1300	1050

Produce Storage Cooling

Potatoes. Direct evaporative cooling for bulk potato storage should pass air directly through the pile. The ventilation and cooling system should provide 1.0 to 1.5 cfm/100 lb of potatoes. Average potato density is 45 lb/ft^3 in the pile. Pile depths range from 12 to 20 ft, which creates a static pressure of 0.15 to 0.25 in. of water. Ventilation consists of fresh air inlets, return air openings, exhaust air openings, main air ducts, and lateral ducts with holes or slots to distribute air uniformly through the pile. Distribution ducts should be placed no farther apart than 80% of the potato pile depth, and should extend to within 18 in. of the storage walls. Ducts, the direct evaporative cooling media, and any refrigeration coils cause a static pressure ranging from 0.5 to 1.0 in. of water. Typically the total static pressure ranges from 0.75 to 1.25 in. of water, depending on the equipment. Air speed through each of the openings in the ventilation/cooling system should be as listed in Table 1.

Direct evaporative cooling media should be 90 to 95% effective, depending on the climate. In arid regions, 95% effective media are recommended. In more humid climates, such as in the midwestern and eastern United States, 90% effective media are commonly used. Air speed through the media should be 500 to 550 fpm to ensure high pad efficiency with low static-pressure penalty.

For more information, see Chapter 23 of the 2002 *ASHRAE Handbook—Refrigeration*

Apples. Direct evaporative cooling for apple storage without refrigeration should distribute cool air to all parts of the storage. The evaporative cooler may be floor-mounted or located near the ceiling in a fan room. Air should be discharged horizontally at ceiling level. Because the prevailing wet-bulb temperature limits the degree of cooling, a cooler with maximum reasonable size should be installed to reduce the storage temperature rapidly and as close to the wet-bulb temperature as possible. Generally, a cooler designed to exchange air every 3 min (20 air changes per hour) is the largest that can be installed. This capacity provides a complete air change every 1 to 1.5 min (40 to 60 air changes per hour) when the storage is loaded.

For further information on apple storage, see Chapter 21 of the 2002 *ASHRAE Handbook—Refrigeration*.

Citrus. The chief purpose of evaporative cooling as applied to fruits and vegetables is to provide an effective, inexpensive means of improving storage. However, it also serves a special function in the case of oranges, grapefruit, and lemons. Although mature and ready for harvest, citrus fruits are often still green. Color change (degreening) is achieved through a sweating process in rooms equipped with direct evaporative cooling. Air with a high relative humidity and a moderate temperature is circulated continuously during the operation. Ethylene gas, the concentration depending on the variety and intensity of green pigment in the rind, is discharged into the rooms. Ethylene destroys the chlorophyll in the rind, allowing the yellow or orange color to become evident. During degreening, a temperature of 70°F and a relative humidity of 88 to 90% are maintained in the sweat room. (In the Gulf States, 82 to 85°F with 90 to 92% rh is used.) The evaporative cooler is designed to deliver 11 cfm per pound of fruit.

Direct and indirect evaporative cooling is also used as a supplement to refrigeration in the storage of citrus fruit. Citrus storage requires refrigeration in the summer, but the required conditions can often be obtained using evaporative cooling during the fall, winter, and spring when the outside wet-bulb temperature is low. For further information, see Chapter 22 of the 2002 *ASHRAE Handbook—Refrigeration*.

Cooling Greenhouses

Proper regulation of greenhouse temperatures during the summer is essential for developing high-quality crops. The principal load on a greenhouse is solar radiation, which at sea level at about noon in the temperate zone is approximately 200 Btu/h·ft^2. Smoke, dust, or heavy clouds reduce the radiation load. Table 2 gives solar radiation loads for representative cities in the United States. Note that the values cited are average solar heat gains, not peak loads. Temporary rises in temperature inside a greenhouse can be tolerated; an occasional rise above design conditions is not likely to cause damage.

Not all solar radiation that reaches the inside of the greenhouse becomes a cooling load. About 2% of the total solar radiation is used in photosynthesis. Transpiration of moisture varies by crop, but typically uses about 48% of the solar radiation. This leaves 50% to be removed by the cooler. Example 2 shows a method for calculating the size of a greenhouse evaporative cooling system.

Example 2. A direct evaporative cooler is to be installed in a 50 by 100 ft greenhouse. Design conditions are assumed to be 92°F db and 73°F wb, and average solar radiation is 138 Btu/h·ft^2. An inside temperature of 90°F db must not be exceeded at design conditions.

Solution: The direct evaporative air cooler is assumed to have a saturation effectiveness of 80%. Equation (2) may be used to determine the dry-bulb temperature of the air leaving the direct evaporative cooler:

$$t_2 = 92 - \frac{80}{100}(92 - 73) = 77°\text{F}$$

The following equation, a modification of Equation (1), may be used to calculate the airflow rate that must be supplied by the direct evaporative cooler:

$$Q_{ra} = \frac{0.5AI_t}{\rho c_p(t_1 - t_2)} \qquad (4)$$

where

A = greenhouse floor area, ft^2
I_t = total incident solar radiation, Btu/h·ft^2 of receiving surface
$60\rho c_p$ = density times specific heat of air times 60 min/h ≈ 1.0 Btu/ft^3·°F at design conditions

For this problem

$$Q_{ra} = \frac{0.5 \times 50 \times 100 \times 138}{1.0(90 - 77)} = 26{,}500 \text{ cfm}$$

Horizontal illumination from the direct rays of noonday summer sun with clear sky can be as much as 10,000 footcandles (fc); under clear glass, this is approximately 8500 fc. Crops such as chrysanthemums and carnations grow best in full sun, but many foliage plants, such as gloxinias and orchids, do not need more than 1500 to 2000 fc. Solar radiation is nearly proportional to light intensity. Thus, the greater the amount of shade, the smaller the cooling capacity required. A value of 100 fc is approximately equivalent to 3 Btu/h·ft^2. Although atmospheric conditions such as clouds and haze affect the relationship, this is a safe conversion factor. This relationship should be used instead of Table 2 when illumination can be determined by design or measurement.

Direct evaporative cooling for greenhouses may be under either positive or negative pressure. Regardless of the type of system used, the length of air travel should not exceed 160 ft. The temperature rise of the cool air limits the throw to this value. Air movement must be kept low because of possible mechanical damage to the plants,

Table 2 Three-Year Average Solar Radiation for Horizontal Surface During Peak Summer Month

City	Btu/h·ft^2	City	Btu/h·ft^2
Albuquerque, NM	198	Lemont, IL	142
Apalachicola, FL	170	Lexington, KY	170
Astoria, OR	132	Lincoln, NE	150
Atlanta, GA	158	Little Rock, AR	148
Bismarck, ND	140	Los Angeles, CA	162
Blue Hill, MA	128	Madison, WI	138
Boise, ID	155	Medford, OR	170
Boston, MA	125	Miami, FL	153
Brownsville, TX	175	Midland, TX	177
Caribou, ME	115	Nashville, TN	154
Charleston, SC	152	Newport, RI	138
Cleveland, OH	152	New York, NY	140
Columbia, MO	153	Oak Ridge, TN	148
Columbus, OH	127	Oklahoma City, OK	165
Davis, CA	184	Phoenix, AZ	200
Dodge City, KS	184	Portland, ME	133
East Lansing, MI	132	Prosser, WA	176
East Wareham, MA	132	Rapid City, SD	152
El Paso, TX	195	Richland, WA	137
Ely, NV	175	Riverside, CA	176
Fort Worth, TX	176	St. Cloud, MN	132
Fresno, CA	188	San Antonio, TX	176
Gainesville, FL	156	Santa Maria, CA	188
Glasgow, MT	152	Sault Ste. Marie, MI	138
Grandby, CO	149	Sayville, NY	148
Grand Junction, CO	173	Schenectady, NY	117
Great Falls, MT	150	Seabrook, NJ	135
Greensboro, NC	155	Seattle, WA	117
Griffin, GA	164	Spokane, WA	139
Hatteras, NC	177	State College, PA	141
Indianapolis, IN	140	Stillwater, OK	167
Inyokern, CA	218	Tallahassee, FL	134
Ithaca, NY	145	Tampa, FL	167
Lake Charles, LA	160	Upton, NY	148
Lander, WY	177	Washington, D.C.	142
Las Vegas, NV	195		

but it should generally not be less than 100 fpm in areas occupied by workers.

ECONOMIC FACTORS

Design of direct and indirect evaporative cooling systems and sizing of equipment is based on the load requirements of the application and on the local dry- and wet-bulb design conditions, which may be found in Chapter 27 of the 2001 *ASHRAE Handbook—Fundamentals*. Total energy use for a specific application during a set period may be forecasted by using annual weather data. Dry-bulb and mean coincident wet-bulb temperatures, with the hours of occurrence, can be summarized and used in a modified bin procedure. The calculations must reflect the hours of use, conditions of load, and occupancy. Because of annual variations in dry and wet-bulb temperatures, and the effect of increasing cooling capacity with decreasing wet-bulb temperatures, bin calculations using mean coincident wet-bulb temperatures generally produce conservative results. When comparing various cooling systems, cost analysis should include annual energy reduction at the applicable electrical rate, plus anticipated energy cost escalation over the expected life.

Many areas have time-of-day electrical metering as an incentive to use energy during off-peak hours when rates are lowest. Reducing air-conditioning kilowatt demand is especially important in areas with ratcheted demand rates (Scofield and DesChamps 1980). Thermal storage using ice banks or chilled-water storage may be used as part of a multistage evaporatively refrigerated cooler to combine the energy-saving advantages of evaporative cooling and off-peak savings of thermal storage (Eskra 1980).

Direct Evaporation Energy Saving

Direct evaporative cooling may be used in all climates to save cooling and humidification energy. In humid climates, the benefits of direct evaporation are realized during periods when outside air is warm and dry, but cooling savings are unlikely to be realized during peak design conditions. In more arid areas, direct evaporative cooling may partially or fully offset mechanical cooling at peak load conditions. Humidification energy savings may be realized during the heating season when outside air is used to provide cooling and humidification. If properly controlled, direct evaporative cooling can use waste heat otherwise rejected from buildings when outside air is used for cooling.

Indirect Evaporation Energy Saving

Indirect evaporative cooling may be used in all climates to save cooling and, in some applications, heating energy. In humid climates, indirect evaporative cooling may be used throughout the cooling cycle to precool outside air. Indirect evaporative cooling can be used to extend the range of 100% outside air ventilation to both higher and lower temperatures, and to increase the percentage of outside air a system can support at any given temperature through heat recovery. In high-humidity areas, indirect evaporative cooling may be used to (1) partially offset mechanical cooling requirements at peak load conditions and (2) provide better control over low-load humidity conditions by permitting the use of smaller refrigeration equipment to provide ventilation over a wider range of outside air conditions. The cost of heating may be reduced when operating below temperatures at which minimum outside air quantities exceed the rates of ventilation required for free cooling by using heat recovered from building exhausts.

Water Cost for Evaporative Cooling

Typically, domestic service water is used for evaporative cooling to avoid excessive scaling and associated problems with poor water quality. In designing evaporative coolers, the cost of water treatment is included in the overall project cost. However, water cost is typically ignored for evaporative coolers because it is usually an insignificant part of the operational cost. Depending on the ambient dry-bulb temperature and wet-bulb depression for a specific location, the cost of water could become a significant part of the operational cost, because the greater the differential between dry- and wet-bulb temperatures, the greater the amount of water evaporated (Mathur 1997, 1998).

PSYCHROMETRICS

Figure 9 shows the two-stage (indirect/direct) process applied to nine cities in the western United States. The examples indicated are primarily shown for arid areas, but the principles also apply to moderately humid and humid areas when weather conditions permit. For each city indicated, the entering conditions to the first-stage indirect unit are at or near the 0.4% design dry- and wet-bulb temperatures in Chapter 27 of the 2001 *ASHRAE Handbook—Fundamentals*. Although higher effectiveness can be achieved for both the indirect and direct evaporative processes modeled, the effectiveness ratings are 60% for the first (indirect) stage and 90% for the second (direct) stage. Leaving air temperatures range from 52 to 70°F, with leaving conditions approaching saturation.

Figure 9 projects space conditions in each city at 78°F db for these second-stage supply temperatures based on a 95% room sensible heat factor (i.e., room sensible heat/room total heat). Except in Wichita, Los Angeles, and Seattle, room conditions can be maintained in

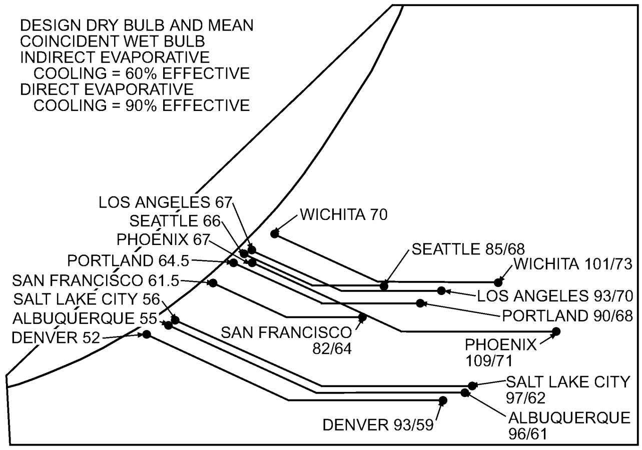


Fig. 9 Two-Stage Evaporative Cooling at 0.4% Design Condition in Various Cities in Western United States

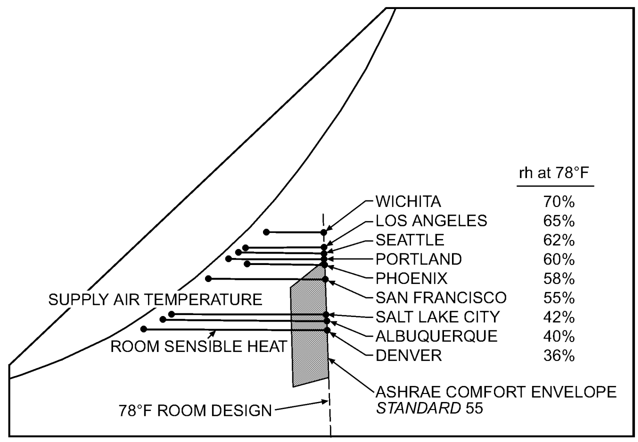


Fig. 10 Final Room Design Conditions After Two-Stage Evaporative Cooling

the comfort zone without a refrigerated third stage. But even in these cities, third-stage refrigeration requirements are sharply reduced as compared to conventional mechanical cooling. However, Figures 9 and 10 indicate the need to consider the following factors when deciding whether to include a third cooling stage:

- As the room sensible heat factor decreases, the supply air temperature required to maintain a given room condition decreases.
- As supply air temperature increases, the supply air quantity must increase to maintain space temperature, which results in higher air-side initial cost and increased supply air fan power.
- A decrease in the required room dry-bulb temperature requires an increase in the supply air quantity. For a given room sensible heat factor, a decrease in room dry-bulb temperature may cause the relative humidity to exceed the comfort zone.
- The suggested 0.4% entering design (dry-bulb/mean wet-bulb) conditions are only one concern. Partial-load conditions must also be considered, along with the effect (extent and duration) of spike wet-bulb temperatures. Mean wet-bulb temperatures can be used to determine energy use of the indirect/direct system. However, the higher wet-bulb temperature spikes should be considered to determine their effect on room temperatures.

An ideal condition for maximum use with minimum energy consumption of a two- and three-stage indirect/direct system is a room sensible heat factor of 90% and higher, a supply air temperature of 60°F, and a dry-bulb room design temperature of 78°F. In many cases, third-stage refrigeration is required to ensure satisfactory dry-bulb temperature and relative humidity. Example 3 shows a method for determining the refrigeration capacity for three-stage cooling. Figure 11 is a psychrometric diagram of the process.

Example 3. Assume the following:

- Supply air quantity = 24,000 cfm; supply air temperature = 60°F
- Design condition = 99°F db and 68°F wb
- Effectiveness of indirect unit = 60%;
- Effectiveness of direct unit = 90%

Using Equation (2), indirect unit performance is

$$99 - 0.60(99 - 68) = 80.4\text{°F db leaving } (61.8\text{°F wb})$$

Using Equation (2), direct unit performance is

$$80.4 - 0.90(80.4 - 61.8) = 63.7\text{°F db supply air temperature}$$

Calculate booster refrigeration capacity to drop the supply air temperature from 63.7°F to the required 60°F.

If the refrigerating coil is located ahead of the direct unit,

$$\text{Btu/h cooling} = \frac{60(h_1 - h_2)(\text{supply air, cfm})}{\text{Specific volume dry air at leaving air condition}}$$

With numeric values of enthalpies h_1 and h_2 (in Btu/lb) and the specific volume of air (in ft^3/lb dry air) taken from ASHRAE Psychrometric Chart No. 1, the cooling load is calculated as follows:

$$60(27.6 - 25.5)24{,}000/13.78 = 219{,}400 \text{ Btu/h} = 18.3 \text{ tons}$$

The load for a coil located in the leaving air of the direct unit is

$$60(27.6 - 25.5)24{,}000/13.43 = 225{,}000 \text{ Btu/h} = 18.8 \text{ tons}$$

Depending on the location of the booster coil, the preceding calculations can be used to determine third-stage refrigeration capacity and to select a cooling coil.

Using this example, refrigeration sizing can be compared to conventional refrigeration without staged evaporative cooling. Assuming mixed air conditions to the coil of 81°F db and 66.5°F wb, and the same 60°F db supply air as shown in Figure 11, the refrigerated capacity is

$$60(31.1 - 25.7)24{,}000/13.31 = 584{,}200 \text{ Btu/h} = 48.7 \text{ tons}$$

This represents an increase of 30.4 tons. The staged evaporative effect reduces the required refrigeration by 62.4%.

ENTERING AIR CONSIDERATIONS

The effectiveness of direct and indirect evaporative cooling depends on the entering air condition. Where outside air is used in a direct evaporative cooler, the design is affected by the prevailing outside dry- and wet-bulb temperatures as well as by the application. Where conditioned exhaust air is used as secondary air for indirect evaporative cooling, the design is less affected by local weather conditions, which makes evaporative cooling viable in hot and humid environments.

For example, in arid areas like Reno, Nevada, a simple, direct evaporative cooler with an effectiveness of 80% provides a leaving air temperature of 68°F when dry-bulb and wet-bulb temperatures of the entering air are 96 and 61°F, respectively. In the same location, adding an indirect evaporative precooling stage with an effectiveness of 80% produces a leaving air condition of 53.6°F.

In a location such as Atlanta, Georgia, with design temperatures of 94 and 74°F, the same direct evaporative cooler could supply only 78°F. This could be reduced to 71.1°F by adding an 80% effective indirect evaporative precooling stage (Supple 1982). If exhaust air from the building served is provided at a stable 75°F db and 62.5°F wb, an indirect evaporative precooler could deliver air at 68.8°F, substantially reducing outside-air cooling loads. Under these conditions, indirect evaporative precoolers can provide limited dehumidification capabilities.

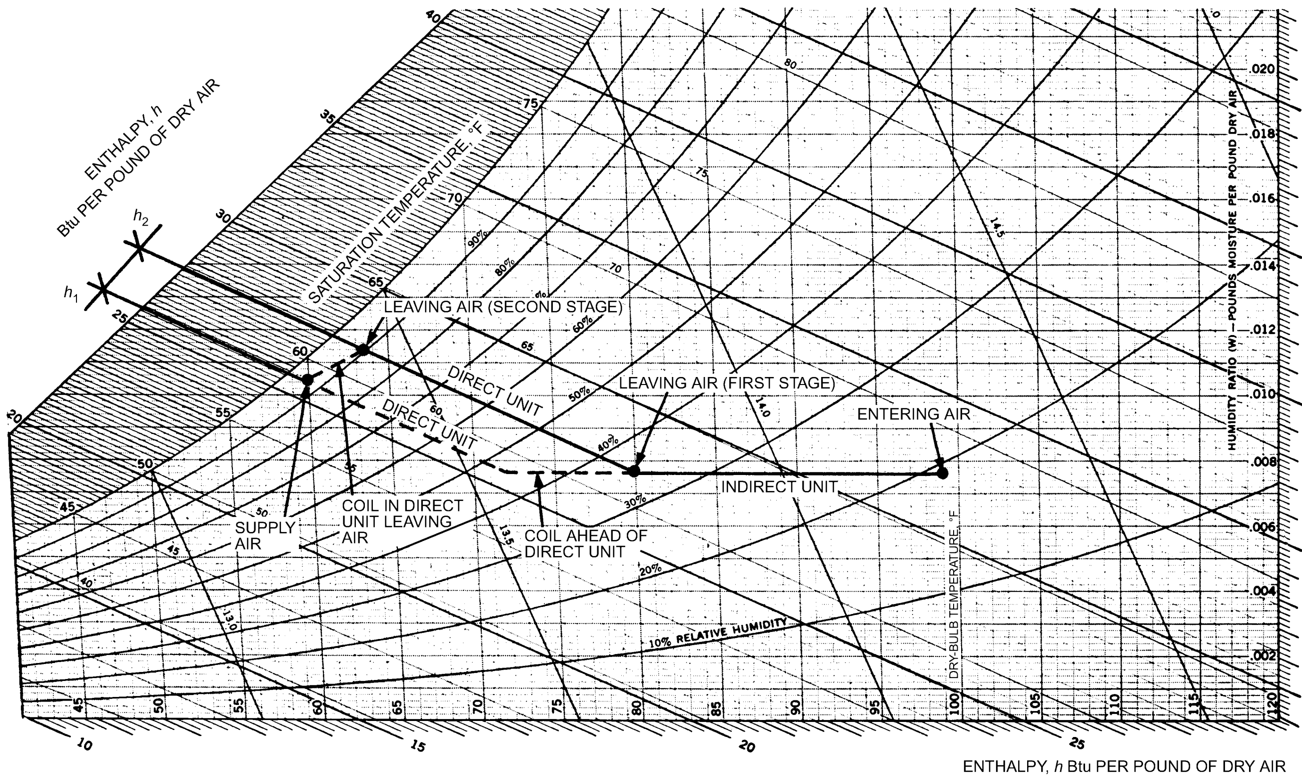


Fig. 11 Psychrometric Diagram of Three-Stage Evaporative Cooling Example 3

Long-term benefits to owners of direct evaporative cooling systems include a 20 to 40% reduction of utility costs compared to mechanical refrigeration (Watt 1988). When used to control humidity, the reduction in cooling and humidification energy use ranges from 35 to 90% (Lentz 1991). Although direct evaporative cooling does not reduce peak cooling loads in other than arid areas, it can reduce both total cooling energy and humidification energy requirements in a wide range of environments, including hot and humid ones.

Indirect evaporative cooling lowers the temperature (both dry- and wet-bulb) of the air entering a direct evaporative cooling stage and, consequently, lowers the supply air temperature. When used with mechanical cooling on 100% outside air systems, with the secondary air taken from the conditioned space, the precooling effect may reduce peak cooling loads between 50 and 70%. Total cooling requirements may be reduced between 40 and 85% annually depending on location, system configuration, and load characteristics. Indirect evaporative coolers may also function as heat recovery systems, which expands the range of conditions over which the process is used. Indirect evaporative cooling, when used with building exhaust air, is especially effective in hot and humid climates.

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