

# HVAC SYSTEMS FOR WAREHOUSES & FACTORIES

Warehouses, factories, and distribution centers have unique heating and cooling requirements because of their vast open spaces and high ceilings. Keeping your workers comfortable may require an investment, but it protects their health and ensures maximum productivity.



## Types of Warehouse & Factory HVAC Systems

### Direct Fired Heaters

- Ideal for heating large spaces while keeping operating costs low
- Multiple configurations available, including radiant and air-recirculation
- High ventilation requirements can increase installation costs

### Indirect Fired Heaters

- Excellent at heating large spaces affordably
- Ideal for relatively small warehouses
- Minimal ventilation required

### Electric Heating & Cooling

- Convection, forced-air, and radiant heating and cooling available
- Suitable for small warehouses
- Higher operating costs

## Servicing HVAC Systems in Warehouses & Factories

Your facility likely operates nearly 365 days a year. A broken HVAC system could be detrimental to comfort, productivity, and your bottom line. Fortunately, you can keep breakdowns to a minimum with preventative maintenance performed by a commercial HVAC technician.

The cleaning, tightening, and tuning up that occur during a maintenance visit can help your system operate smoothly in the coming months. Schedule cooling maintenance in the spring and heating maintenance in the fall.

## Problems with Heating & Cooling Warehouses & Factories

### Problem: Minimal Airflow

HVAC systems maintain a steady temperature, but in a large warehouse setting, workers may not feel any airflow.

- Solutions:**
- Use high-volume, low-speed fans to direct heated air down to the floor for greater comfort in the winter.
  - Use these same fans to circulate tremendous amounts of air in the summer to create a breeze with low operating costs.

### Problem: Air Leaks

Large facilities are more likely to have energy-wasting leaks.

- Solutions:**
- Seal and insulate windows and doors.
  - Use air curtains to provide a thermal barrier while dock doors are open.

### Problem: Susceptibility to Sick Building Syndrome

Lack of airflow is more likely to result in stagnant air that makes workers ill.

- Solutions:**
- Ensure adequate ventilation with heat recovery devices.
  - Use and change filters frequently to remove contaminants from the air.

### Problem: High Humidity

Elevated humidity levels are problematic in both summer and winter.

- Solutions:**
- Run a dehumidifier as a standalone system or part of an HVAC package.
  - Ensure adequate ventilation.

## Considering the Cost to Install Warehouse & Factory HVAC Systems

The sheer scale of warehouses and factories means they often require complex HVAC solutions. It may be necessary to replace the equipment every 10 to 20 years, though you can extend the lifespan of your system with proper maintenance.

### Factors affecting the cost of a new system:

- Warehouse size
- Specific heating and cooling requirements
- Installation complexity
- Any upgrades needed to the ductwork
- Quality and efficiency rating of the replacement system

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