

RETAIL STORE HVAC GUIDE

Retailers range from small stand-alone stores and department stores to shopping malls and multi-use complexes. Regardless of the size of your store, you need to keep it comfortable with heating and cooling equipment. Use this guide to help maintain a comfortable environment for your employees and customers while keeping operating costs down year-round.



Types of Retail Store HVAC Systems

Packaged Rooftop Systems

- Cost-effective, pre-engineered, and adaptable
- Heating and cooling capabilities available from a single packaged unit

VRF/VRV Systems

- Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) and Variable Refrigerant Volume (VRV) are interchangeable terms
- Ideal for large, mixed-use retail buildings

Water-Cooled Systems

- Ideal for air conditioning small stores
- Cooling towers may be required

Central Heating & Air Conditioning Systems

- Suitable for large department stores
- Zoning is required to meet varying loads throughout the building

Service Requirements for Retail Store HVAC Systems

Preventative maintenance tunes up, cleans, and corrects issues with retail store HVAC systems. Services should be performed by a licensed commercial HVAC technician.

Heating equipment should be serviced in the fall, while cooling equipment should be maintained in the spring.

Common Retail Store HVAC System Problems & Solutions

Problem: Faulty Thermostat

- Solutions:**
- Check the power.
 - Change the batteries.
 - Replace the thermostat if necessary. Install it in a central location out of direct sunlight.

Problem: Hot Air While in Cooling Mode

- Solutions:**
- Check the thermostat.
 - Change the air filter.
 - Call a technician to clean/maintain the system and recharge the refrigerant if needed.

Problem: Airflow Issues

- Solutions:**
- Make sure return and supply vents are not blocked.
 - Change the air filter.
 - Call a technician to check for ductwork leaks or other possible issues.

Problem: Lack of Maintenance

- Solution:**
- Sign up for a maintenance agreement from a commercial HVAC contractor to ensure you never forget to schedule services again.

Factors that Affect the Cost of New Retail Store HVAC Systems

Commercial heating and cooling equipment lasts 10 to 20 years. Servicing your equipment regularly can help prolong its lifespan.

Factors that affect the cost of a new system:

- Building size
- Heating and cooling requirements
- Complexity of the installation
- Whether new ductwork is required
- Efficiency rating and overall quality of the new equipment

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