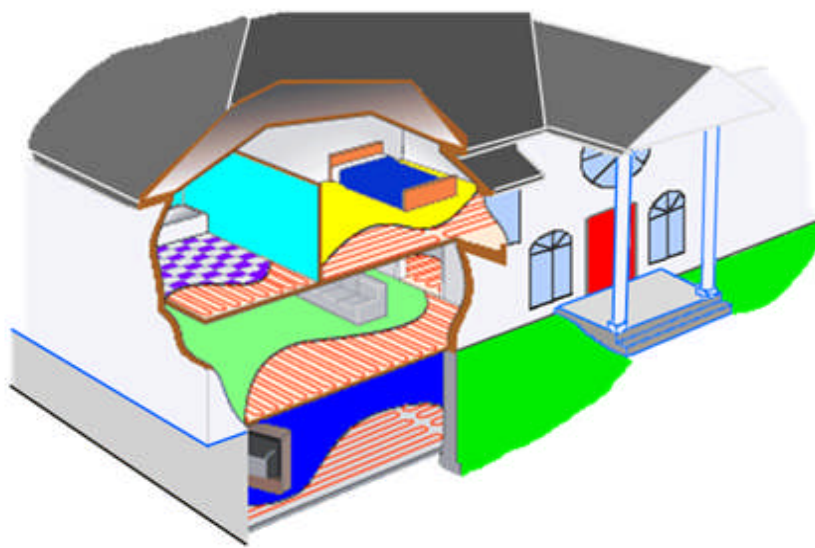


THE INSPECTORS' JOURNAL

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Radiant Heating



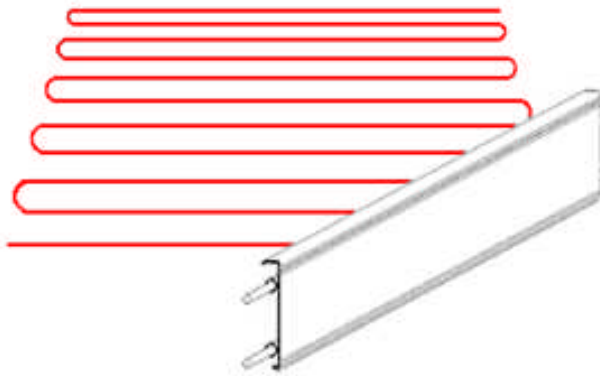
Radiant heating is an extremely ingenious means of distributing heat. This concept of heating was developed several hundred years ago by the Romans. These people would build a so-called basement and foundation with pillars that would support large squares of stone, which made up the floor. A vent would be built on one end of the basement.

To heat the structure, a fire would be started in the opposite end of the basement from the vent. The heat and smoke from the fire would rise to heat the stone floor and then be expelled through the vent. The heated stone floor would then transfer radiant heat to all of the rooms' occupants to create an extremely comfortable environment.

In the late 1940's radiant heating became widely utilized in the United States by Sam Levitt an architect/builder in the northeast that built affordable track homes in a community he called Levitt Town. Mr. Levitt was a revered architect that was well known for his design and building techniques one of which was the utilization of radiant floor heating in a majority of his homes.

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Unfortunately the pipe that is used today was not available at that time and metal pipes were used most of which have corroded to create leaks in the floors, but some do still function today. The advancements in technology have lead to the development of PEX and PEX-AL-PEX pipes (find their descriptions in the [Pipe](#) section)for radiant floor heating and [Slimline](#) hot-water radiant baseboard heating panels for perimeter heating.



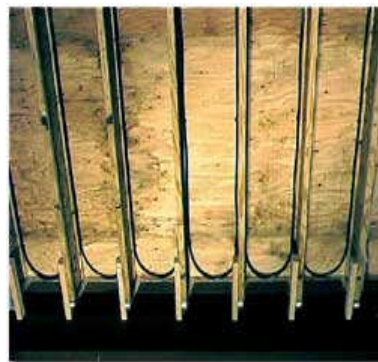
The reason that radiant heating has become so popular is that it has several advantages over conventional heating systems. Radiant heating systems operate by heating the objects in the room first and then those objects in turn warm the air around them. Any object that produces radiant heat is referred to as a panel. A floor, wall or ceiling, if heated, are all also considered and referred to as radiant panels. These products have revolutionized the heating industry to the point that a great deal of well-known companies such as Lennox, Slant-fin, Weil-McLian and Burnham are jumping on the radiant heating bandwagon.

Many companies have found out through system problems and failures that simply the fact that they are well known in one industry does not make them experts in the radiant heating industry.

Radiant Floor Heat



Radiant heat is comfortable and Floor drafts, cold associated with forced



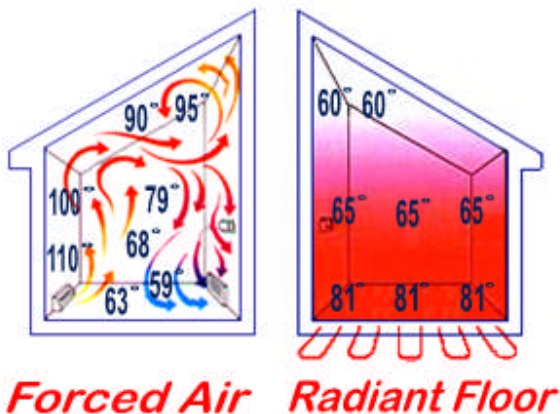
regarded as the most healthiest heating solution. spots, and dry air, all problems hot air heat, are eliminated.

What is radiant heat?

of coffee and feel the heat. The logical conclusion is but incorrect! Hot air rises but heat can travel in any direction. That is why you can feel the heat of the cup where you place your hand to the side of it. Radiant energy transfer is caused by a warm surface giving up its heat to a cooler surface.

Hold your hand over a hot cup that heat rises. Logical maybe,

Whenever there is a temperature difference between two surfaces, both surfaces will attempt to equalize. Radiant energy travels through space without heating the space itself. It only turns into heat when it contacts a cooler surface. Our human core relies just as much on radiant heat transfer as it does on air yet the majority of heating and conditioning professionals think only in terms of air to temperature. As a result, Americans are missing out on a truly comfortable living environment in their homes or places of business. By controlling both the air temperature and the radiant transfer, radiant panel systems deliver a comfort that is unsurpassed.



With radiant heat the room and every object in it becomes a radiator. The temperature of the room and the objects matches your body temperature thus eliminating heat loss from your body. You feel more comfortable at a lower temperature.

Benefits of Radiant Heat

- Highest level of heating
- Unparalleled comfort
- Easily installed in new construction
- Accommodates any floor covering
- Lower operating costs due to lower system water temperatures
- No ducts fans or blowers, virtually noiseless with no air movements
- Extremely uniform heat with little or no temperature stratification
 - Limitless interior design, no vents or appliances to work

***A.I.M. specializes in radiant heating. We are a radiant heating manufacturer and supplier.
We support contractors as well as Do It Yourselfers.***

Reprinted with permission from A.I.M.

www.aimradiantheating.com

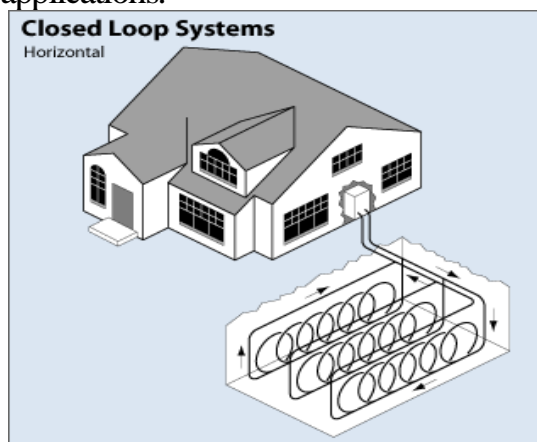
Types of Geothermal Heat Pump Systems

There are four basic types of ground loop systems. Three of these—horizontal, vertical, and pond/lake—are closed-loop systems. The fourth type of system is the open-loop option. Which one of these is best depends on the climate, soil conditions, available land, and local installation costs at the site. All of these approaches can be used for residential and commercial building applications.

Closed-Loop Systems

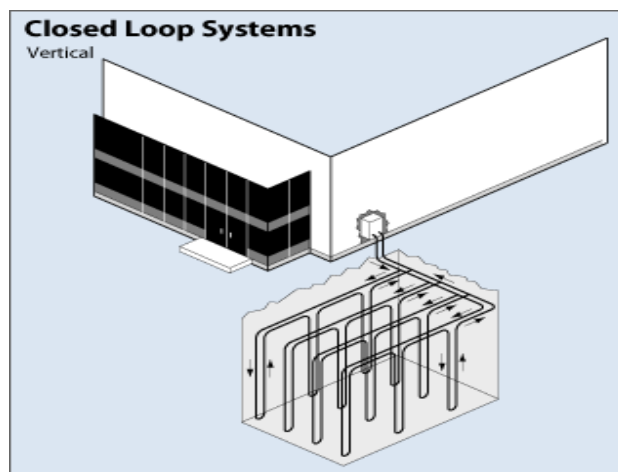
Horizontal

This type of installation is generally most cost-effective for residential installations, particularly for new construction where sufficient land is available. It requires trenches at least four feet deep. The most common layouts either use two pipes, one buried at six feet, and the other at four feet, or two pipes placed side-by-side at five feet in the ground in a two-foot wide trench. The Slinky™ method of looping pipe allows more pipe in a shorter trench, which cuts down on installation costs and makes horizontal installation possible in areas it would not be with conventional horizontal applications.



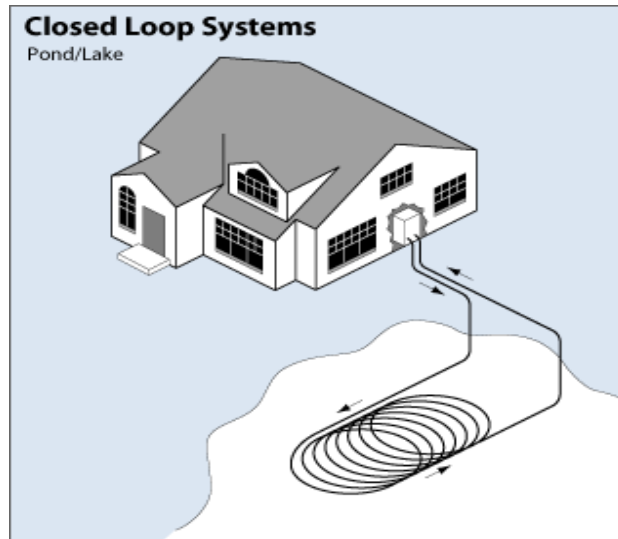
Vertical

Large commercial buildings and schools often use vertical systems because the land area required for horizontal loops would be prohibitive. Vertical loops are also used where the soil is too shallow for trenching, and they minimize the disturbance to existing landscaping. For a vertical system, holes (approximately four inches in diameter) are drilled about 20 feet apart and 100–400 feet deep. Into these holes go two pipes that are connected at the bottom with a U-bend to form a loop. The vertical loops are connected with horizontal pipe (i.e., manifold), placed in trenches, and connected to the heat pump in the building.



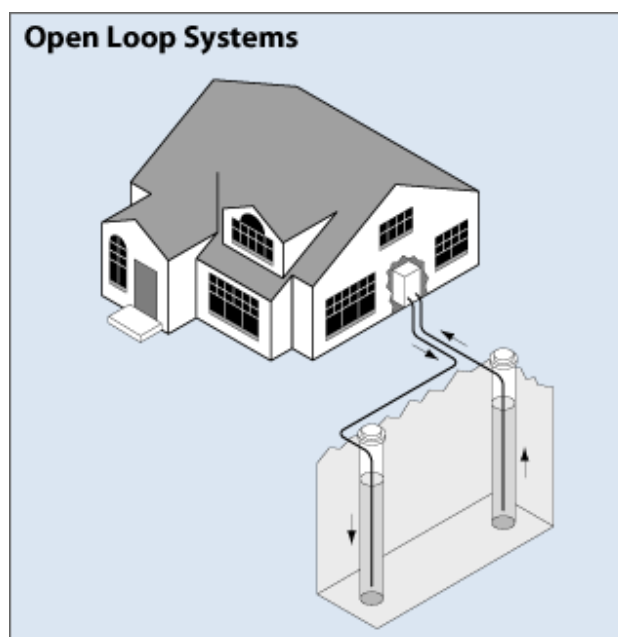
Pond/Lake

If the site has an adequate water body, this may be the lowest cost option. A supply line pipe is run underground from the building to the water and coiled into circles at least eight feet under the surface to prevent freezing. The coils should only be placed in a water source that meets minimum volume, depth, and quality criteria.



Open-Loop System

This type of system uses well or surface body water as the heat exchange fluid that circulates directly through the GHP system. Once it has circulated through the system, the water returns to the ground through the well, a recharge well, or surface discharge. This option is obviously practical only where there is an adequate supply of relatively clean water, and all local codes and regulations regarding groundwater discharge are met.



Geothermal Basics



Hot Springs in Steamboat Springs, Nevada.



Several geothermal power plants at The Geysers.

Geothermal Overview

Heat from the Earth, or geothermal — Geo (Earth) + thermal (heat) — energy can be and already is accessed by drilling water or steam wells in a process similar to drilling for oil. Geothermal energy is an enormous, underused heat and power resource that is clean (emits little or no greenhouse gases), reliable (average system availability of 95%), and homegrown (making us less dependent on foreign oil).

Geothermal resources range from shallow ground to hot water and rock several miles below the Earth's surface, and even farther down to the extremely hot molten rock called magma. Mile -or-more-deep wells can be drilled into underground reservoirs to tap steam and very hot water that can be brought to the surface for use in a variety of applications. In the U.S., most geothermal reservoirs are located in the western states, Alaska, and Hawaii.



A diamond-studded drill bit developed at Sandia National Laboratories.

Power Plants Generate Electricity from Geothermal Reservoirs

Mile-or-more-deep wells can be drilled into underground reservoirs to tap steam and very hot water that drive turbines that drive electricity generators.

Three types of power plants are operating today:

- **Dry steam plants**, which directly use geothermal steam to turn turbines;
- **Flash steam plants**, which pull deep, high-pressure hot water into lower-pressure tanks and use the resulting flashed steam to drive turbines; and
- **Binary-cycle plants**, which pass moderately hot geothermal water by a secondary fluid with a much lower boiling point than water. This causes the secondary fluid to flash to vapor, which then drives the turbines.

Direct-Use Piped Hot Water Warms Greenhouses and Melts Sidewalk Snow

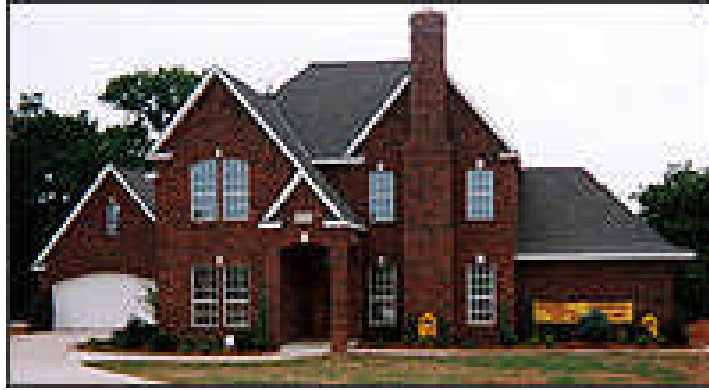
In the U.S., most geothermal reservoirs are located in the western states, Alaska, and Hawaii. Hot water near Earth's surface can be piped directly into facilities and used to heat buildings, grow plants in greenhouses, dehydrate onions and garlic, heat water for fish farming, and pasteurize milk. Some cities pipe the hot water under roads and sidewalks to melt snow. District heating applications use networks of piped hot water to heat buildings in whole communities. For more information on direct use of geothermal energy.



Snow melting on sidewalks in Klamath Falls, OR.

The Future of Geothermal Energy

The three technologies discussed above use only a tiny fraction of the total geothermal resource. Several miles everywhere beneath Earth's surface is hot, dry rock being heated by the molten magma directly below it. Technology is being developed to drill into this rock, inject cold water down one well, circulate it through the hot, fractured rock, and draw off the heated water from another well. One day, we might also be able to recover heat directly from the magma.



This 3,000 sq. ft. house in Oklahoma City has a verified average electric bill of \$60 per month - using a geothermal heat pump. [Geothermal Technologies Program Home](#) | [EERE Home](#) | [U.S. Department of Energy](#)

SPECIAL IAQ NOTICE



American Council for
Accredited Certification

August 3, 2009

IAQ Council Becomes ACAC

Exciting changes are taking place in the IAQ industry.

We are pleased to announce that the **American IAQ Council** (AmIAQC) is now known as the **American Council for Accredited Certification** (ACAC). Our new name more accurately reflects our past achievements as a certifying body as well as our goals for the future of professional certification. The termination of our Unification Agreement with IAQA and IESO, which became final on July 10th, completes the IAQ Council's journey to full independence and marks the perfect occasion for unveiling our new organization name. Henceforth, all new certifications issued by the Council will bear the ACAC logo in addition to the IAQ Council logo. We will gradually phase out the IAQ Council logo in 2011.

Importantly, though our name has changed, our policies, procedures – and most importantly, our people – remain the same. We look forward to serving you as ACAC with the same integrity, credibility and independence that you have come to expect from the American IAQ Council.

You will find new logos and more information at our new website, www.certificationcouncil.org.



All Homes Have Mold

Mold exists in every home. Not all mold is potentially dangerous or indicative of water damage. That's why AssuredBio tests only look for certain types of mold. The molds in our DIY test, *Stachybotrys* and *Aspergillus* family molds, are highly correlated with water intrusion (or damaging) events and potential health hazards.

The EPA splits molds into two groups: Group 2 consists of common outdoor molds and Group 1 consists of water intrusion molds. Group 2 molds are on leaves, in your yard, and in dirt. They are commonly found in homes as well, as people, animals, and air bring them in. Most mold tests almost always show a positive result because they test for mold that are present in every home. Group 1 molds are typically only found in homes that have water damage. These are the molds that damage buildings and can present health hazards. AssuredBio's DIY mold test for homes, schools, and offices only looks for water intrusion molds, so you won't become concerned unnecessarily.

All Mold Tests Are Not the Same

Mold self-tests range from \$10 to \$350. A higher price does not mean a better mold test. The cheap 'growth plate' mold tests provide nothing more than whether there is or isn't mold. They do not determine the type of mold present, much less the quantity of water intrusion molds present. Often the mold detected should not cause concern, but there is no way to tell. The AssuredBio test only looks for molds that signify a problem. The amount of mold is quantified in the test as well, so you know how severe the issue is instead of a simple positive/negative.

Mold tests without laboratory analysis will not provide valid results. There is simply no way to differentiate types of mold on-site. Any mold test that does not use DNA analysis, including very expensive tests, provides less accurate, less precise, and less reliable information than this test. The best non-DNA tests are 56% accurate, compared with the 99.99% accuracy of this test. DNA tests detect all spores present, while non-DNA methods are likely to miss problems. AssuredBio offers additional and more in-depth tests - including ARMI and ERMI. We will gladly discuss further testing options if you need additional analysis.

Settling Plates should not be used

Settling plate testing, where a dish with activated gel is exposed to room air for a period of time, is not a valid mold test for homes, offices, and schools. This method of testing is only applicable to Clean Rooms in laboratories and Micro-sensitive Manufacturing Facilities. In a home, these tests will almost always yield a positive result and are used as a scare tactic by unethical mold inspectors to create remediation business. Most mold tests you can buy in stores are this type and are not reliable.



When should I test my home for mold?

There are several scenarios where you should test your home for mold.

- 1. When purchasing a home. Most people have mold tests performed with home inspections, but know little about it. DNA mold testing will find hidden problems all other tests miss and are often cheaper too.**
- 2. Your home had water damage, or a water intrusion event, and had remediation. Testing can verify that remediation is complete and the building is back to normal.**
- 3. You feel ill in your home. Mold-based indoor air quality testing can determine the ‘moldiness’ of your home and indicate whether mold may be the problem.**
- 4. You want to monitor your home and detect issues before they become a major problem. Quarterly testing is recommended and very economical with our DIY mold test.**

The best way to insure that your home is safe from hazardous mold species is quarterly testing using EPA DNA detection technology and AssuredBio’s Clean Air Index.

Comparison Chart of Mold Testing Methods

Feature	DNA-based Testing	Microscopic Examination	Petri Dishes / Growth Plates
Accuracy	99.99%	11-56%	<10%
Precision	Single Spore	Per Volume of Air	Not Quantitative
Species Identification	Yes	No	No
Interpretation of Results	Easy	Moderate	Positive or Negative
Interferences	None	Weather, HVAC, Overloading	Overgrowth, Placement
Professional Inspector Required	No	Yes	Yes - For Lab Analysis
Likely to Find Hidden Issue	Yes	No	No
Human Error Potential in Analysis	No	Yes	No Analysis
Cost (2,500 sq ft home)	\$49.99 - \$119.99	\$295 - \$500	\$60 (\$15 x 4)

www.assuredbio.com

NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2009

Release # 09-305

Homelite/Husky Recall Hotline: (800) 242-4672

Black Max Recall Hotline: (800) 726-5760

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

Homelite, Husky and Black Max Generators Recalled Due to Fire Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Home Depot and Sam's Club Stores

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Homelite, Husky and Black Max Brand Generators

Units: About 51,750

Distributor: Homelite Consumer Products Inc., of Anderson, S.C.

Hazard: The fuel gauge can leak excessive amounts of gasoline, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: This recall involves Homelite and Husky brand generators sold exclusively at Home Depot stores and Black Max brand generators sold exclusively at Sam’s Club stores. Affected generators include Homelite models HG3500, HG3510, HG5700 and HG5700R, Husky models HU3650, HUCA5700 and HUCA7000 and Black Max models BM10700A, BM10700B, BM10711A, BM10700DG, BM10700R, BM10700BR & BM10722G. Generators included in this recall have manufacturing date codes between BML306-BMM151, CHL122-CHM151 and CRL153-CRM059. The model number and manufacturing date code are included on the data label located on the top or side of the generator engine. Products with a green “dot” on the outside of the package or a “silver dot” on the fuel gauge face are not included in the recall.

Sold exclusively at: Home Depot and Sam’s Club stores nationwide from July 2008 through May 2009 for between \$480 and \$1,600.

Manufactured in: China


Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using their generator and contact Homelite Consumer Products Inc. (Homelite and Husky brands only) or Black Max (Black Max brands only) for a free repair kit.

Consumer Contact: For additional information regarding Homelite or Husky brand generators, contact Homelite Consumer Products, Inc. at (800) 242-4672 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit www.homelite.com. For additional information regarding Black Max brand generators, contact Black Max at (800) 726-5760 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visiting www.blackmaxtools.com



Homelite®		MODEL NO: HG5700	
SERIAL NO:	XXXXXX XXXX	FREQUENCY:	60 Hz
AC VOLTAGE:	120/240V	PHASE:	SINGLE
CURRENT:	47.5/23.75A	RPM:	3600
DC VOLTAGE:	N/A	POWER FACTOR:	1
CURRENT:	N/A	INSUL CLASS:	F
POWER (RATED):	5700W	MAX AMB TEMP:	40 °C (104 °F)
(SURGE):	7125W	DUTY:	CONT
MADE IN CHINA		FABRIQUÉ EN CHINE FABRICADO EN CHINA	



		MODEL NO: HU3650	
SERIAL NO:	XXXXXX XXXX	FREQUENCY:	60 Hz
AC VOLTAGE:	120/240 V	PHASE:	SINGLE
CURRENT:	30.4/15.2 A	RPM:	3600
DC VOLTAGE:	N/A	POWER FACTOR:	1
CURRENT:	N/A	INSUL CLASS:	F
POWER (RATED):	3650 W	MAX AMB TEMP:	40°C (104°F)
(SURGE):	4550 W	DUTY:	CONT
MADE IN CHINA		FABRIQUÉ EN CHINE	
		FABRICADO EN CHINA	

CPSC is still interested in receiving incident or injury reports that are either directly related to this product recall or involve a different hazard with the same product. Please tell us about it by visiting <https://www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/incident.aspx>

NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2009

Release # 09-322

Firm's Recall Hotline: (866) 533-9817

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

Maytag Expands Recall of Refrigerators Due to Fire Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product.

Name of Product: Maytag®, Magic Chef®, Performa by Maytag® and Crosley® brand refrigerators

Units: About 46,000 (1.6 million units were **previously recalled** March 2009)

Manufacturer: Maytag Corp., of Newton, Iowa

Hazard: An electrical failure in the relay, the component that turns on the refrigerator's compressor, can cause overheating and pose a serious fire hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: Maytag has received 23 additional reports of refrigerator relay ignition, including 4 reports of property damage ranging from smoke damage to extensive kitchen damage.

Description: The recall includes certain Maytag®, Magic Chef®, Performa by Maytag® and Crosley® brand side-by-side and top freezer refrigerators. The affected refrigerators were manufactured in black, bisque, white and stainless steel. They have model and serial numbers printed on a label located on the top middle or left upper side of the refrigerator liner and have the following model and serial number combinations:

	Serial Numbers ENDING with	AND Model Numbers BEGINNING with
Side by Side Refrigerators	CN, CP, YY, YZ	MZ
Top Freezer Refrigerators	CA, CC, CE, CG, ZB, ZD, ZF, ZH	CT15G4, CTB152, CTL151, CTM152, CTN151, MTB195, MTB215, MTB245, MTF195, MTF215, PTB155, PTB175, PTB195, PTB215

Refrigerators with freezers on the bottom are not included in this recall.

Sold at: Department and appliance stores and by homebuilders nationwide from September 2000 through May 2004 for between about \$350 and \$1,600.

Manufactured in: United States

Remedy: Consumers should immediately contact Maytag to determine if their refrigerator is included in the recall and if so, to schedule a free in-home repair. Consumers should not return the refrigerator to the retailer where it was purchased.

Consumer Contact: For more information, contact Maytag toll-free at (866) 533-9817 anytime, or visit the firm's Web site at www.repair.maytag.com

Representative Models:



Figure 1: Side by Side model

Figure 2: Top Freezer model



Figure 3: Model/Serial Label

CPSC is still interested in receiving incident or injury reports that are either directly related to this product recall or involve a different hazard with the same product. Please tell us about it by visiting <https://www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/incident.aspx>

NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2009

Release # 09-333

Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 449-9812

Sears' Recall Hotline: (800) 449-9810

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

Firm Media Contact: (614) 761-2633

Frigidaire and Kenmore Smoothtop Electric Ranges Recalled Due to Fire Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Certain Frigidaire and Kenmore Elite Smoothtop Electric Ranges

Units: About 200,000

Manufacturer: Frigidaire, a division of Electrolux Home Products Inc., of Augusta, Ga.

Hazard: Depending on the model, the surface heating elements can: 1) turn on spontaneously without being switched on; 2) fail to turn off after being switched off; or, 3) heat to different temperatures than selected. This poses a fire and burn hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: Frigidaire has received 126 reports of incidents, including four reports of minor burns and two reports of minor property damage.

Description: This recall involves Frigidaire, Frigidaire Gallery, Frigidaire Professional and Kenmore Elite smoothtop electric ranges with rotary knobs and digital displays. The following model and serial numbers are included in the recall:

Frigidaire (Serial Number Range VF122xxxxx - VF831xxxxx) and Models Beginning with					
FEFBZ90GC	GLEF396AB	GLEFM397DQ	LEEFM389FE	PLEF398AC	PLEFMZ99EC
FEFLMC55GC	GLEF396AQ	GLEFM397DS		PLEF398CC	PLEFMZ99GC
FEFLZ87GC	GLEF396AS	GLEFM97FPB		PLEF398DC	PLEFZ398EC
	GLEF396CQ	GLEFM97FPW		PLEFM399DC	PLEFZ398GC
	GLEF396CS	GLEFM97GPB			
	GLEFM397DB	GLEFM97GPW			

Kenmore Elite (Serial Number Range VF122xxxxx – VF334xxxxx) and Models Beginning with

790.99012

790.99013

790.99014

790.99019

The model and serial number can be found by opening the range drawer at the base of the unit.

Sold at: Sears and other national chain and independent retailers nationwide from June 2001 through August 2009 for between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Manufactured in: United States

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the recalled ranges immediately and contact Frigidaire or Sears to schedule a free repair.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Frigidaire at (800) 449-9812 between 8 a.m. and midnight ET Monday through Saturday or visit the firm's recall Web site at www.smoothtoprangerecall.com. Consumers who purchased their products at Sears should call Sears at (800) 449-9810 between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. ET Monday through Saturday.



Sample of a smoothtop range with rotary knobs and digital displays



Serial plate is located by opening the range drawer at the bottom of the unit.

CPSC is still interested in receiving incident or injury reports that are either directly related to this product recall or involve a different hazard with the same product. Please tell us about it by visiting <https://www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/incident.aspx>

NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2009

Release #09-323

Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 394-8084

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

[CPSC, Goodman Manufacturing Co. Announce Changes to 1998 Recall Program to Replace Dangerous Home Heating Vent Pipes](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The CPSC and Goodman Manufacturing Company, of Houston, TX, are urging consumers who have not yet responded to the [previously-announced 1998 recall](#) to do so immediately. After October 1, 2009, the remedy consumers receive will change to be identical to modifications recently announced for a [related recall](#).

The recall included about 10,000

Plexvent and Ultravent HTPV pipe systems attached to certain Goodman mid-efficiency furnaces manufactured from October 1988 to July 1994 (models GUP, GDP, GUPS, GDPS, GUPI, GDPI, GUPX, GDPX, GMP and GMPV for the following brands manufactured by Goodman: Janitrol, GMC, Hamilton Electric, Franklin, Liberty and Sears/Kenmore).

The HTPV pipe used for these vents could be susceptible to corrosion, cracking and joint separation, which could result in the release of carbon monoxide (CO) into living areas, posing a danger to consumers. Goodman did not manufacture the HTPV pipe. The following table describes the different remedies available to consumers with qualifying furnaces that use the two leading brands of HTPV pipe – Plexvent and Ultravent.

	Plexvent owners	Ultravent owners
Valid claims initiated on or before October 1, 2009, with remediation completed and required documentation submitted by January 1, 2010.	Will receive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a new, professionally-installed venting system free of charge or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a new, high-efficiency Goodman furnace and suitable vent for the manufacturer's price (of just the furnace), with no charge for labor, associated materials or dealer markup. 	
Valid claims initiated after October 1, 2009	A rebate up to \$400 toward either an HTPV replacement system, or a new, high-efficiency furnace from Goodman that does not require HTPV.	A rebate up to \$250 toward either an HTPV replacement system, or a new, high-efficiency furnace from Goodman that does not require HTPV.

Consumers who register after October 1, 2009 and who choose to repair their systems will be responsible for up-front payment of parts, labor and permits, and will be responsible for arranging to have the work performed.

Consumers should determine whether they have a recalled HTPV pipe system by checking the vent pipes attached to their natural gas furnace. Vent pipes subject to this recall can be identified as follows:

- the vent pipes are plastic;
- the vent pipes are colored gray or black;
- "Plexvent," "Plexvent II" or "Ultravent" is stamped on the vent pipe or printed on stickers placed on pieces used to connect the vent pipes; and
- the vent pipes are located on furnaces and the pipes go through the sidewalls of structures.

Other plastic vent pipes, such as white PVC, are not included in the recall.

Owners of Goodman furnaces that are vented with HTPV pipe should immediately call Goodman at (800) 394-8084 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT Monday through Friday. CPSC reminds all consumers to have fuel-burning appliances

professionally inspected each year to check for cracks or separations in the vents that could allow CO to leak into the home. In addition, CPSC recommends that every home should have at least one CO alarm.

CPSC is still interested in receiving incident or injury reports that are either directly related to this product recall or involve a different hazard with the same product. Please tell us about it by visiting <https://www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/incident.aspx>



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Energy

Recovery Act Announcement: Obama Administration Delivers More Than \$66 Million for Weatherization Programs in Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut and Hawaii

August 13, 2009

U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced that the Department of Energy is providing more than \$66 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to expand weatherization assistance programs in Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, and Hawaii. The funding, along with additional funds to be disbursed after the states meet certain Recovery Act milestones, will help these states weatherize approximately 26,300 homes, lowering energy costs for low-income families that need it, reducing pollution, and creating green jobs across the country.

"These awards demonstrate the Obama Administration's strong commitment to moving quickly as part of the country's economic recovery—creating jobs and doing important work for the American people—while ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly," said Secretary Chu. "Today's investments will save money for hard working families, reduce pollution, strengthen local economies, and help move America toward a clean energy future."

The states will receive 40% of their total weatherization funding authorized under the Recovery Act today, adding to the initial 10% of each funding allocation that was previously awarded for training and ramp-up activities. The remaining 50% of funds will be released after states meet specific reporting, oversight and accountability milestones required by the Recovery Act. The states may spend up to 20% of their total funds to hire and train workers.

The Department of Energy also announced today the release of a new web video highlighting the Department's weatherization program and recent National Weatherization Conference. See the video on the [U.S. Department of Energy's YouTube channel](#).

DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program will be available to families making up to 200% of the federal poverty level—or about \$44,000 a year for a family of four. Weatherization projects allow low-income families to save money by making their homes more energy efficient, which results in average savings of 32% for heating bills and savings of hundreds of dollars per year on overall energy bills. States will spend an average of \$6,500 to weatherize each home.

The Recovery Act includes a strong commitment to oversight and accountability, while emphasizing the need to quickly deliver funding to states to help create new jobs and stimulate local economies.

The following states received weatherization funding today:

CONNECTICUT - \$25,724,201 awarded today

Connecticut will use its Recovery Act funds to weatherize approximately 7,400 homes and re-weatherize an additional 100 homes over the three-year grant period. The Department of Social Services administers the Weatherization Program, assisting low-income persons in minimizing energy-related costs and fuel usage in their residences.

Every home is checked for various health and safety measures and receives an energy audit to determine the most cost-effective weatherization activities for that home. Some of the most common weatherization activities include insulation throughout the home, air-sealing, and replacing windows and doors. Under the Weatherization Assistance Program, the state will not be focusing on cooling measures and refrigerators, since these are addressed through utility funded low-income programs.

After demonstrating successful implementation of its plan, the state will receive an additional \$32 million, for a total of over \$64 million.

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News Release

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

New England Regional Office

August 7, 2009

Contact: David Deegan, (617) 918-1017

Harford Group Will Provide Green Job Training through EPA Brownfields Grant

(Boston, Mass. – Aug. 7, 2009) – EPA has selected the North Star Center for Human Development in Hartford, Conn. to receive \$500,000 in grant funding to help train community members for jobs assessing and cleaning up brownfields sites. Funding for these grants is supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"EPA's Brownfield's program has been an incredibly powerful economic engine, helping communities throughout New England to assess, clean and reclaim abandoned parcels, returning property to productive uses," said Ira Leighton, acting regional administrator of EPA's New England office. "Not only will this funding help jump start local economies – we'll be providing needed job training and putting people to work creating a cleaner and healthier environment."

The North Star Center for Human Development is a community-based non-profit organization that serves the disadvantaged community of North Hartford, Conn. With the EPA brownfields job training grant, North Star will train at least 140 local individuals. North Star has customized its training course curriculum to offer an 8-week Green Environment Certificate Program in topics including renewable energy/green initiatives/efficient building designs; water resources and air pollution; and asbestos, lead and hazardous waste treatment, including a 40-hour HAZWOPER course. North Star will use the EPA funds for outreach, recruitment, curriculum development, training, placement and monitoring trainees. North Star has previously been the recipient of a 2006 Brownfields Job Training Grant and a 2007 Brownfields Cleanup grant.

Since 1998, EPA has awarded more than \$25 million in brownfields job training funds. More than 5,000 people have completed EPA-funded training programs, with more than 3,250 obtaining employment in the environmental fields, earning an average wage of \$13.81 per hour. EPA established the Brownfields Job Training Program to help residents take advantage of jobs created by the assessment, cleanup and sustainable reuse of brownfields sites and to ensure that the economic benefits derived from brownfields redevelopment remain in the affected communities.

Brownfields are sites where expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (Brownfields Law) was passed. The Brownfields Law expanded the definition of what is considered a brownfield, so communities may now focus on mine-scarred lands or sites contaminated by petroleum or the manufacture and distribution of illegal drugs. EPA's Brownfields Program encourages redevelopment of America's estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites.

How The New Credit Card Rules Work

By EILEEN AJ CONNELLY
Associated Press
August 20, 2009

Some new rules under the recent credit card reform act passed by Congress earlier this year will take effect today. Once the rules are fully in place in February, credit card users will have an easier time figuring out the terms of their cards and will be able to refuse to pay higher interest rates and fees. In the meantime, however, some card companies are using the time lag to raise costs to consumers while they still can.

Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Senate banking committee and the bill's author, said Wednesday: "These are important first steps for American consumers. Unfortunately, some credit card companies are trying to squeeze their customers before the clock runs out on 'any time, any reason' rate increases. These companies will be held accountable for rate hikes when the full Credit CARD Act takes effect."

Here are some questions and answers about the new regulations.

Q. What changes are going into effect today?

A. Credit card companies will be required to notify customers 45 days before changing interest rates or other significant terms of an account. They also must make sure customers have 21 days between the time statements are sent out and the payment is due, up from 14 days under existing rules.

Q. How does the new law affect the average credit card holder?

A. One big change is that consumers facing rate increases will have the right to cancel a card and pay it off over time at the lower rate if they choose to do so.

Q. Will this help consumers who have already seen their rates increased or credit limits cut?

A. In the short term, banks are likely to keep rate increases and credit limit cuts in place. But industry observers say they expect that as the economy recovers, competition for customers with strong credit histories will return, and banks will go back to offering competitive rates to lure them.

The best move for consumers in the meantime is to make their payments on time and try to pay down balances, in order to keep their credit scores as high as possible. That will make them more attractive customers in the future.

Q. What else is going to change?

A. Starting in February, credit card statements will begin to spell out in an easy-to-read way how long it will take to pay off a balance if you make only the minimum payment each month.

Credit card companies will no longer be able to raise interest rates on existing balances if you've been paying on time. The companies won't be allowed to raise rates the first year an account is open unless a time-limited promotional rate is explained up front, and they will have to review accounts every six months if they do increase rates to see if they should lower them again. They will also no longer be allowed to charge fees for going over credit limits unless the consumer agrees to pay that fee, and must apply any amount of payment over the minimum to the highest interest rate balance first.

Q. How will I know if my bank is following the rules?

A. Regulators will be watching banks to make sure they're complying, and since about 90 percent of cards in the U.S. are issued by the 12 largest banks, most consumers can expect few problems. More regulations will come into play in July 2010, so banks aren't likely to try to dodge the changes in the Credit CARD Act.

News Release

U.S.Environmental Protection Agency New EnglandRegional Office

August 20, 2009

Contact: David Deegan, (617) 918-1017

3 Facilities Agree to Pay Penalties Totaling \$226,132 for Oil Spill Planning Failures

(Boston, Mass.– August 20, 2009) – Three southern New England facilities that store over a million gallons of oil each agreed to pay penalties for failing to take adequate precaution to prevent and contain oil spills.

Specifically, EPA alleges that the following oil storage facilities had failed to adequately prepare and maintain Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure plans (commonly called “SPCC” plans) and/or Facility Response Plans (“FRPs”): **DDL Energy of New London, Conn.; Taylor Energy of Broad Brook, Conn.;** and Northeast Products Co. Inc. of Fall River, Mass.

DDL Energy, New London, Conn.– While this company, located on the Thames River in Connecticut, had developed an SPCC and FRP plan, EPA alleged the plans contained certain deficiencies. In addition, DDL Energy was unable to adequately respond to simulated oil spill to the satisfaction of EPA, U.S.Coast Guard and Connecticut Department of

Environmental Protection (CT DEP) during a surprise drill. As a result, the U.S. Coast Guard issued an order prohibiting the facility from receiving barge shipments of oil and EPA filed a penalty action against the company. To settle the case, DDL has agreed to pay a \$75,000 penalty. DDL personnel worked cooperatively with EPA since the case was filed, correcting noted deficiencies and subsequently “passing” a second drill at the facility. The U..S.CoastGuard was also lifted following steps taken by the company to address noted deficiencies.

Taylor Energy, Broad Brook, Conn.- Taylor Energy, located on Rustic Brook in Broad Brook, Conn., has the capacity to store over one and half million gallons of oil. During an inspection it was determined that the facility failed to fully prepare, maintain and implement a SPCC Plan. In addition, the FRP was outdated and had not been revised to reflect the current operating conditions of the facility. Also, the company had failed to implement an adequate spill response training and drill/exercise program.To settle the case, Taylor Energy has agreed to pay a \$70,000 penalty. Taylor Energy personnel worked cooperatively with EPA, and made significant investments to the facility, to correct the noted deficiencies.

Northeast Products, Fall River, Mass.Northeast Products Co. Inc. is located at 52 Ferry Street in Fall River Massachusetts and it includes a commercial warehouse building utilized for the processing and packaging of lubrication oils and a bulk oil farm. At the time of EPA’s inspection the company failed to develop an adequate FRP.. More specifically, the plan failed to provide evidence of contracts or other approved means for ensuring availability of personnel and equipment in the event of a spill. In addition, there were no records of testing, inspection or deployment of response equipment. Also, the company failed to comply with certain notice requirements under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. To settle this case, the company has paid a \$81,132 penalty.

Every year, thousands of gallons of oil are spilled from large and small oil storage facilities, polluting New England waters. SPCC plans and FRPs are critical to ensuring that such spills are prevented and, if they do occur, adequately addressed.

Federal law requires that facilities that have the potential for spills, like these companies, take every step possible to prevent, before they occur, oil discharges to the nation's rivers, lakes and oceans through implementation of SPCC plans. Any facility with more than 1,320 gallons of aboveground oil storage capacity and meeting certain other criteria must develop and implement SPCC plans to prevent and contain spills, such as by installing impervious secondary containment around storage tanks and transfer areas.

Since accidents can and do happen, the law recognizes that it is equally important that facilities know how to minimize environmental damage when spills do occur, and therefore requires response planning and spill preparation especially for facilities with more than one million gallons of storage capacity, like these facilities. To ensure that a facility can adequately respond to a spill, it must have adequate employee training, spill response equipment, and a contingency plan for containing and cleaning up a release.

Oil storage facilities subject to the FRP rules must prepare and implement spill response plans for worst-case discharges from their facilities, which can be upwards of tens of millions of gallons of oil. EPA will continue to pay unannounced visits to facilities throughout New England.

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Members who requested free tickets we purchased for the live presentation “Get Motivated Business Seminar” at the XL Center in Hartford Wednesday, September 9th will receive your tickets by mail in the next few days. Speakers list include: Gen. Colin Powell, Zig Ziglar, Joe Montana, Steve Forbes, Rudy Giuliani, Tamara Lowe and special guest Laura Bush. If you have not made your request yet, we may have a few tickets left, call us ASAP 860-214-8873

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