

Generators, Light Towers, Compressors, and Heaters

Used Compressors Seattle - Air compressors are popular equipment that stores pressurized air by transferring power into potential energy. Air compressors use diesel, gasoline or electric motors, forcing air into a storage tank to pressurize it. Once the tank reaches its' upper limit, the air compressor turns off, as the compressed air is held into the tank until needed. Compressed air is utilized in a variety of industries. As the kinetic energy in the air is used, the tank depressurizes. Once the lower limit is reached, the air compressor turns on again to start the pressurization process again.

Positive Displacement Air Compressors There are multiple methods for air compression. They are divided into *roto-dynamic* or *positive-displacement* categories. In the *positive-displacement* method, air compressors force the air into a space with decreased volume and this compresses the air. A port or valve opens one maximum air pressure is achieved. Next, the air is discharged from the compression chamber into the outlet system. There are different kinds of *positive-displacement* compressors including *Vane Compressors*, *Piston-Type* and *Rotary Screw Compressors*.

Dynamic Displacement Air Compressors The dynamic air compressors consist of centrifugal air compressors and axial compressors. Pressure energy is transformed via discharged kinetic energy with a rotating component. Pressurization is attained from a spinning impeller that creates centrifugal force to accelerate and decelerate contained air. Air compressors generate heat and require a method for heat disposal; usually with some type of air cooling or water. Changes in the atmosphere play a role in compressor cooling. Many factors need to be considered for this kind of equipment including the power available from the compressor, inlet temperature, the location of application and ambient temperature.

Air Compressor Applications There are many uses for air compressors and they are used frequently in a variety of industries. Supplying clean air with moderate pressure to a submerged diver is one use. Providing clean air with high-pressurization to fill gas cylinders to supply pneumatic HVAC controls and powering items such as jackhammers or filling vehicle tires are other popular uses. There are many industrial applications that rely on moderate air pressure.

Types of Air Compressors Most air compressors are the reciprocating piston style, the rotary vane model or the rotary screw kind. These types of air compressors are favored for portable and smaller applications.

Air Compressor Pumps Oil-injected and oil-less are two specific types of air-compressor pumps. The oil-free model depends on technical items; however, it costs more and lasts less than oil-lubed models. The system that functions without oil has been recognized with delivering better quality.

Power Sources There are numerous power sources that are compatible with air compressors. The most popular models are diesel-powered, gas and electric air compressors. Additional models are available on the market that have been built to use hydraulic ports or engines that are commonly utilized by mobile units and rely on power-take-off.

Isolated work sites with limited electricity commonly use diesel and gas-powered machines. They need adequate ventilation for their gas exhaust and are quite noisy. Indoor applications including warehouses, production facilities, garages and workshops that offer easy access to electricity typically rely on electric-powered air compressors.

Rotary-Screw Compressor One of the most popular air compressors available is the rotary-screw model. A rotary-type, *positive-displacement* mechanism is what this type of gas compressor relies on. These units are commonly used in industrial settings to replace piston compressors for jobs that require high-pressure air. Some common tools that rely on air compressors include impact wrenches and high-power air tools. Gas compression of a rotary-screw model features a sweeping, continuous motion, allowing minimal pulsation which is common in piston model compressors and may cause a less desirable flow surge. In the rotary-screw model, compressors rely on rotors to compress the gas. Timing gears come into play with dry-running rotary-screw compressor models. These components are important to ensure the female and male rotors operate perfectly aligned. There are oil-flooded rotary-screw compressors that rely on lubricating oils to fill the gaps between the rotors. A hydraulic seal is created which transforms the mechanical energy in between the rotors at the same time. Starting at the suction area, gas moves through the

threads as the screws rotate. This makes the gas pass through the compressor and leaves through the ends of the screws. Effectiveness and success are obtained when certain clearances are achieved with the sealing chamber of the helical rotors, the rotors and the compression cavities. Rotation at high speeds minimizes the ratio of a leaky flow rate versus an effective flow rate. Many applications including food processing plants, automated manufacturing facilities and other industrial job sites rely on rotary-screw compressors. Besides fixed units, there are mobile versions in tow-behind trailers that are powered with small diesel engines. Also known as “construction compressors,” portable compression systems are popular for sandblasting, industrial paint systems, construction crews, pneumatic pumps, riveting tools and more. Scroll Compressor A scroll compressor is used to compress refrigerant. It is popular with supercharging vehicles, in vacuum pumps and commonly used in air-conditioning. A variety of air conditioning systems, residential heat pumps and a variety of automotive air conditioner utilize a scroll compressor in place of wobble-plate, reciprocating and traditional rotary compressors. Fluids including gases and liquids are pumped, compressed and pressurized with the dual interleaving scrolls on this compressor. As one of the scrolls is often fixed, the other scroll eccentrically orbits with zero rotation. This motion traps and pumps the fluid between the scrolls. The compression movement occurs when the scrolls co-rotate with their rotation centers offset to create a motion akin to orbiting. Acting like a peristaltic pump, the Archimedean spiral is contained within flexible tubing variations’ similar to a tube of toothpaste. There is a lubricant on the casings to stop exterior pump abrasion. The lubricant diverts heat. Since there are no moving parts coming into contact with the fluid, this pump is an affordable option. The lack of glands, seals and valves keeps them simple to operate and fairly inexpensive in terms of maintenance. Compared to many other pump models, this tube or hose feature is relatively low cost.