

Generators, Light Towers, Compressors, and Heaters

Used Compressors Eugene - Air compressors are valuable equipment that transfers power into potential energy which is stored in pressurized air. These machines rely on gasoline, diesel or electric motors to force air into a special storage tank, subsequently increasing the pressure. After the tank reaches a certain limit, it is turned off and the compressed air is held in the tank until it needs to be used. Compressed air is utilized in a variety of industries. Once the kinetic energy in the air tank is used up, the tank undergoes depressurization. After the lower limit has been attained, the air compressor roars back to life to begin the process of pressurization.

Positive Displacement Air Compressors There are multiple methods for air compression. There are two categories: roto-dynamic or positive-displacement. 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 once maximum air pressure is achieved. Next, the air is discharged from the compression chamber into the outlet system. Popular types of positive-displacement compressors include Piston-Type, Rotary Screw Compressors and Vane Compressors.

Dynamic Displacement Air Compressors Centrifugal air compressors, along with axial compressors fall under the dynamic displacement air compressor category. Pressure energy is transformed via discharged kinetic energy with a rotating component. A spinning impeller generates centrifugal force, accelerating and decelerating contained air, creating pressurization. Air compressors create heat and need a method to dispose of the heat, typically with some kind of water or air cooling mechanism. Atmospheric changes are also taken into consideration during compressor cooling. Certain equipment factors need to be considered including the available compressor power, inlet temperature, ambient temperature and the location of the application.

Air Compressor Applications There are many uses for air compressors and they are used frequently in a variety of industries. For example, supplying clean air at moderate pressure to a diver that is supplied for surface submersion, supplying clean air of high-pressurization to fill gas cylinders and supplying pneumatic HVAC controls with moderately pressurized clean air to power pneumatic tools including jackhammers and filling up high-pressure air tanks to fill vehicle tires. Copious amounts of moderate pressure air are generated for numerous industrial applications.

Types of Air Compressors The vast majority of air compressors are either the rotary screw kind, the rotary vane type or the reciprocating piston model. 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 system relies on more technical components; however, it lasts for less time in comparison to oil-lubed pumps and is more expensive. Overall, the oil-less system is considered to deliver higher quality.

Power Sources There are a variety of power sources that can be used alongside air compressors. Gas, electric and diesel-powered air compressors are among the most popular types. There are other models that have been created to rely on power-take-off, hydraulic ports or vehicle engines that are commonly used for mobile systems. Isolated work sites with limited electricity commonly use diesel and gas-powered machines. Gas and diesel models are noisy and emit exhaust. Interior locations such as workshops, warehouses, garages and production facilities have power and can rely on quieter, electric-powered models.

Rotary-Screw Compressor One of the most popular air compressors available is the rotary-screw model. This model of gas compressor relies on a positive-displacement mechanism of the rotary type. 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. Rotors are used by the rotary-screw compressors to make gas compression possible. 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. This design creates a hydraulic seal and transfers mechanical energy in between the rotors simultaneously. Entering at the suction portion, gas travels through the threads while the screws rotate; forcing the gas to pass through the compressor and exit through the screws ends. 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. Rotary-screw compressors are used in industrial locations that need constant air, food processing plants and automated manufacturing facilities. Mobile models that rely on tow-behind trailers are another option compared to fixed models. They use compact diesel engines for power. Commonly called “construction compressors,” these portable compression units are useful for road construction, pneumatic pumps, riveting tools, industrial paint systems and sandblasting jobs.

Scroll Compressor This type of popular air compressor specializes in compressing refrigerant or air. It is popular with supercharging vehicles, in vacuum pumps and commonly used in air-conditioning. Scroll compressors are used in many automotive air-conditioning units, residential heat pumps and air-conditioning systems to replace wobble-plate traditional and reciprocating rotary compressors. Fluids including gases and liquids are pumped, compressed and pressurized with the dual interleaving scrolls on this compressor. One of the scrolls is usually in a fixed position and the other scroll orbits extensively with no rotation. This dynamic action traps and compresses or pumps fluid between both scrolls. The compression movement occurs when the scrolls co-rotate with their rotation centers offset to create a motion akin to orbiting. The Archimedean spiral is found in flexible tubing variations. It functions similarly to a tube of toothpaste and resembles a peristaltic pump. Lubricant-rich casings stop exterior abrasion from occurring. 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.