

13 SEER Comfortmaker Builder Models Provide Economical Answer for School Installation

An Illinois heating and cooling contractor found Comfortmaker entry level models to be an economical solution to a challenging project this past summer.

In the early spring, Illinois heating and cooling contractor Sun Ray Heating, Inc. of Matteson priced a bid for a school installation using cooling only air handlers and premium 10 SEER condensing units which, while no longer manufactured, were still available in distributor warehouses at the time of the bid.

However, by the time the project was finally awarded, the phased-out 10 SEER equipment was no longer available—especially coils and air handlers.

“Immanuel Lutheran Evangelical School was looking to add air conditioning to four classrooms, a staff office, library, and common areas for their school in Richton Park, Illinois,” said Bob Krause, sales supervisor for Sun Ray Heating. “I conferred with Rich Pawela and Dave Lopez, our reps from distributor Gustave A. Larson, and found a solution to the problem, which also provided an equipment upgrade for the school.”

Maintaining Bid with Builder Model

Bob was able to utilize the Comfortmaker builder model N4A3, 13 SEER, R410A condensing units and EDM4 coils matched to the MB Series cooling only air handlers, which are powered by 115 volt electrical. By selecting the builder model and 115 volt air handler, Bob was able to maintain the project within the original bid.

“The upgrade system worked out great and the school is extremely pleased with the results,” said Bob. “The Comfortmaker entry product has quite a few strong features including Copeland Scroll Compressors, solid appearance with heavy grille, baked-on paint and even ceramic screws to keep the unit from unsightly rusting.”

For this installation, Bob found he could cut down labor by installing the 115-volt air handlers.

Ease of Access Saves Techs Time

“Power was readily available from outlets that previously served room air conditioners,” Bob said. “We estimated that the MB 115 volt air handlers saved us over \$5,000 in electrician charges and helped us stay within budget. Our technicians also saved time with the unit’s ease of access to service valves and to the service panels.”



Bob Krause of Sun Ray takes pride in providing a quality installation and system upgrade for Immanuel Lutheran School.



2½ ton units for each classroom are positioned close to the air handler for short refrigerant lines. School staff was impressed with the low sound levels of the outdoor Comfortmaker units.



Shop fabricated return box and coil transition make good use of limited space available.



Spiral Duct provides three supply registers and single return for each classroom served by a 2½ ton system.

Bob said that positioning of the air handlers and coil in each classroom at ceiling height also kept the units out of reach and provided “a good throw of air” to quickly cool each classroom and provide an excellent level of comfort.

The project provided 19 tons of cooling to the school. Each classroom used a 2½ ton system. The library, office, and common areas are serviced by one 4 ton and a second 5 ton unit.

Comfortmaker Engineers Consulted

Bob said the air handlers are actually set up as push through units. Most air handlers are set up for pull through, but since space was at a premium, Bob consulted with the Comfortmaker engineering staff and was able to adjust airflow to provide the correct CFM without creating any excess velocity or water blow-off.

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Comfortmaker SXT+ Two-Stage

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troubleshooting access to components.

- Three-piece grille panels can be removed separately as needed – making it easy to view and clean debris.
- Comfort Alert™ troubleshooting LED fault indicators accurately diagnose most system-related malfunctions.

Backed by Industry Leading Warranties

SoftSound SXT+ Two-Stage units include 7 year parts limited warranties and 10 year compressor, coil and No Hassle Replacement limited warranties. The No Hassle Replacement warranty provides a new equivalent replacement unit if the compressor, covered coil or heat exchanger fails during the No-Hassle period. Restrictions apply. Contact your local Comfortmaker distributor for details.

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Comfortmaker Builder Models

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“So much of the equipment is exposed, and we wanted to make our installation as attractive as possible,” says Bob. “By mounting the air handler, coil and filter box from strut and threaded rod, we were able to maintain a compact yet effective system in each classroom. We took great effort to make sure that every aspect of the job was first class and professionally done.

“After presenting our proposal and company capability to the school board, I felt personally obligated to do everything I could to make the install look great.”

Because Bob had been an installer himself, it was easy for him to transfer his enthusiasm for the project to the technicians and get them excited about providing a top-level, quality installation.



Joe Cantelli of Sun Ray demonstrates ease of access to electrical panel and service ports for checking pressures and sub cooling on the Comfortmaker N4A3 5 ton unit.

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