

Technical Bulletin 10

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Compressed Air Dryer Types

by Brian S. Elliott

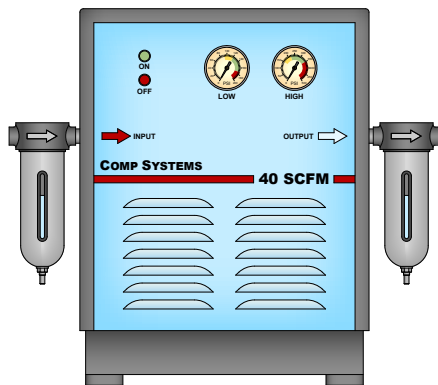
Dryers can be principally divided into two different categories: primary and secondary. Primary dryers produce air qualities that are appropriate for approximately 95% of all compressed air applications. This category is the purview of refrigerated dryers. There are two basic types of refrigerated compressed air dryers, Freon types and JT types. Freon-based dryers are typically used on compressors using very small, screw and rotary vane pumps. JT type dryers are specifically designed to operate on two-stage piston compressors. If you are operating a two-stage compressor, then a JT system is the type of dryer you should be using. The illustration below shows both Freon-based and JT type refrigerated dryers.

JT Type Refrigerated Compressed Air Dryer
For Two-Stage Piston Compressors



Primary Dryers

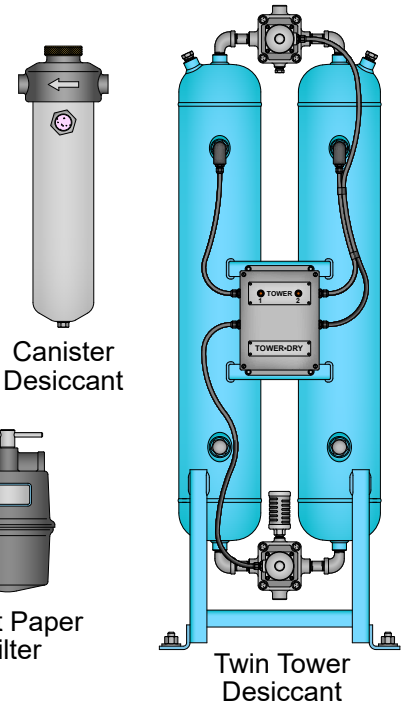
(General Purpose Air, 95% of all
Compressed air Applications)



Freon Based
Refrigerated Air Dryer

Secondary Dryers

(For Specialty Applications)



Specialty applications are the purview of secondary dryers. These dryers are typically used following a refrigerated dryer. Secondary dryers are used when the necessary quality of the compressed air is higher than typical. These applications normally include instrument air, high purity systems and fine finish applications.

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