

WHITE PAPER

USING DRICALC® TO CONFIDENTLY AND EASILY SPECIFY AND SELECT HUMIDIFICATION SYSTEMS

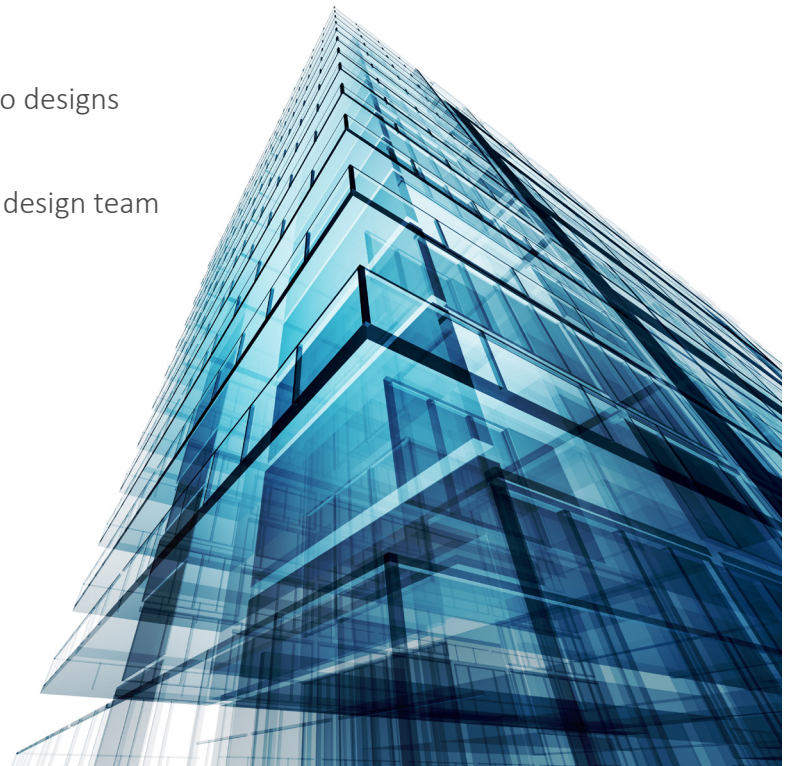
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Humidification is an integral part of many of today's HVAC systems. The fundamental principles of humidification are well documented, but the intricacies of how humidification systems work within the context of a complex HVAC system, and the vast array of humidification options, can be daunting even for a seasoned HVAC Engineer. DriSteem is a world leader with over 50 years of expertise in designing and manufacturing humidification systems to meet demanding and unique requirements. As a way of supporting our mission to provide customers with exceptional service and superior products, DriSteem has developed DriCalc® Sizing and Selection software to provide an easy way for Engineers to navigate the process of selecting a humidification system to meet their needs.

Engineers face many challenges when designing HVAC systems; demanding customers, tight schedules, limited budgets, competing requirements, new and changing technologies, and meeting rigorous standards. DriSteem understands these challenges and is committed to partnering with our customers to make the process of selecting the best humidification system as easy as possible, while giving you confidence that the system you select will perform as expected.

There are four main goals of this white paper.

1. Introduction to incorporating humidification into designs
2. Overview of what the DriCalc software offers
3. Benefits that the DriCalc software brings to the design team
4. Accessibility and training options



INTRODUCTION TO INCORPORATING HUMIDIFICATION INTO DESIGNS

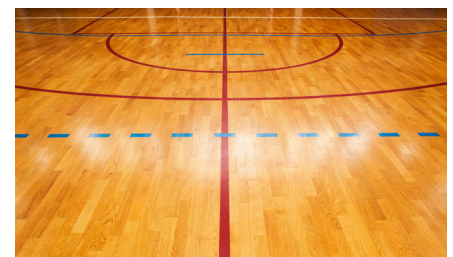
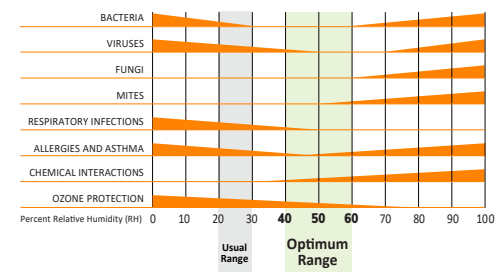
Importance of Humidification in Building Design

Proper humidification is extremely important for many applications and must be considered up front during the building design process. Factors to consider include the intent (humidification or cooling), the humidification load, available energy sources, quality of the supplied water, where the moisture will be dispersed, and the level and type of controls needed.

Failure to consider all factors may result in a system that operates inefficiently, doesn't meet the intended requirements, or can cause unintended consequences due to poorly managed moisture. With a good design, properly controlled humidification can promote health and safety, improve productivity, extend the life of materials, and enhance occupant satisfaction.

Here are some common uses of humidification:

- **Indoor Air Quality:** Studies have shown that the optimum range for relative humidity (RH) is between 40-60%. Bacteria and viruses thrive in dry air where the relative humidity is less than 40%. Keeping the relative humidity under 60% hinders the development of fungi, mites, chemical interactions and ozone production. Proper humidification can reduce occurrences of allergic rhinitis, respiratory infections, asthma, and can reduce absenteeism.
- **Material Preservation:** Many building materials, finishes, furnishings, and artifacts are hygroscopic, meaning they absorb, retain, and release moisture. Fluctuating humidity can cause damage to these sensitive materials due to the cyclical contraction and expansion as the moisture content changes. Maintaining consistent relative humidity levels helps to preserve these materials and extends their life.
- **Process Control:** Many manufacturing processes can be impacted by the relative humidity. Maintaining proper humidification can keep production rates high, improve product quality and reduce scrap. Low relative humidity can also cause problems with static electricity which can damage electrical components, ignite combustible materials, and cause dust particles to adhere to sensitive materials.



- **Improves Comfort for Building Occupants:** The human body is highly sensitive to relative humidity levels. As a body's moisture migrates (evaporates) to areas of lower relative humidity, it becomes cooled. Raising the relative humidity level in a room slows the evaporation rate and will make the room feel warmer. Controlling relative humidity levels can impact the comfort level of the occupants.
- **Promotes or Inhibits Biological Growth:** Many plants and biological organisms are affected by the relative humidity level of the environment they are in. Controlling the relative humidity level can either promote biological growth or inhibit it.



Critical Design Considerations

Intent: When designing a humidification system, it's important to consider the intent. If the purpose of the humidification is to provide cooling or add moisture without adding heat, an evaporative (adiabatic) humidifier is appropriate. High pressure atomization and wetted media humidifiers utilize evaporation to add moisture to the air. The alternative to an evaporative humidifier is to use an isothermal humidifier. Gas, electric, and steam powered isothermal humidifiers add moisture to the air by boiling water to generate steam which then evaporates quickly.



EVAPORATIVE (ADIABATIC) HUMIDIFIERS:

Use the heat in the air to evaporate water into the ductwork or directly into the space.



ISOTHERMAL (STEAM) HUMIDIFIERS:

Work by boiling water inside the humidifier tank and distributing it into the ductwork through a steam manifold or directly into the space.



Load: For any system, it's important to determine the required humidification load so the proper size of the equipment can be selected. The risks of under sizing or oversizing must also be considered as this will impact the cost and performance of the humidification system. Consider how outside air enters the building whether through natural ventilation, mechanical equipment, or an economizer which will vary the amount of outside air and impact the load.

Energy Source: Isothermal humidifiers can use electricity, natural gas or steam as the energy source. Adiabatic systems use electricity. The most appropriate choice will depend on the cost of the energy source at the location where the humidifier will be installed, the humidification load, the availability of the energy source, the budget available, and whether rebates are available. Electric powered isothermal systems are generally simpler to install than gas or steam powered systems, but the cost to operate them will be higher. If a building already has steam available, a steam to steam system is a good option.

Water: One thing that all humidification systems have in common is their use of water. The quality of the water can have an impact on the performance, level of control, maintenance, and overall cost of any humidification system. DriSteem's humidifiers can operate with potable (tap) water, softened water, Reverse Osmosis (RO) water, or Deionized (DI) water.

Factors that should be considered when selecting a water source include the required up-time, location where the humidifier will be installed, level of control needed, and the budget. If a high up-time is required or the humidifier is in a hard to access location, softened, or preferably RO/DI water should be used. DriSteem offers dechlorinators, water softeners, RO systems, and storage tanks which can be selected within the DriCalc software either individually or as part of a complete system.



The humidification load for a building varies depending on many factors.



Isothermal humidifiers use electricity, natural gas or steam as an energy source.



Humidifiers use potable (tap) water, softened water, Reverse Osmosis (RO) water, or Deionized (DI) water.



DriSteem system with dechlorinator, water softener, reverse osmosis system, and storage tank.

Dispersion: There are many options to disperse the moisture generated by a DriSteem humidifier. It could be dispersed into an Air Handling Unit (AHU), into a duct, or directly into open spaces. The placement of the dispersion system is very important. Dispersion systems can be located in the incoming air, makeup air, supply air, or within the humidified space. Factors to consider when selecting the location include available absorption distance, location of downstream components (i.e. elbows, fans, vanes and filters), and materials of construction.

Control and Monitoring: Finally, it's also important to consider the level of humidity control needed and the sensors required for safe operation. Controllability varies based on technology and configuration. Sensors for detecting high humidity or low airflow are useful for ensuring safe operation. Both can be used to shut down a humidifier to prevent a build up of excessive moisture. Setback setpoint sensors can also be used to monitor the relative humidity in cold weather conditions to prevent frost from building up on cold surfaces such as windows. Most of DriSteem's humidification systems come with Vapor-logic® controllers. It's also possible to integrate with other building control systems such as BACnet, Modbus, and LonTalk. All of these options can be selected within the DriCalc selection software.



DriSteem Ultra-sorb® XV steam dispersion panel.



Vapor-logic controller for DriSteem humidification systems.

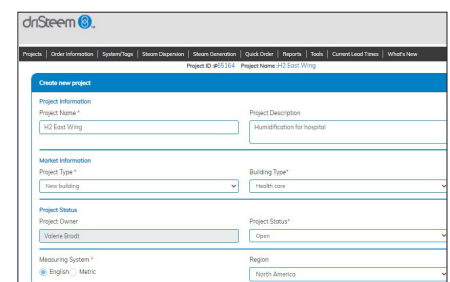
OVERVIEW OF WHAT DRICALC PROVIDES

Design and selection of humidification systems

There are many steps involved in the process of properly designing an effective and efficient humidification system. As with any engineering project these steps include proper planning, defining requirements, performing detailed calculations, identifying feasible options, weighing costs and benefits, documenting design outputs, performing necessary validation, and generating a documentation package for the customer. Doing this all manually can be a difficult and time-consuming process. To simplify this process, DriSteem has developed the web based DriCalc Sizing and Selection software which guides an Engineer through the entire process.

This process can be broken down into four major steps:

1. **Plan**
2. **Define**
3. **Sizing & Selection**
4. **Reports**



New project page in DriCalc Sizing and Selection software.

Plan: As with any design, the first step is to plan things out. This requires some work up front to gather information about the building and humidification requirements. Then, a project can be created within the DriCalc selection software. Each project can have an unlimited number of individual systems. These systems can be isothermal humidifiers, evaporative (adiabatic) humidifiers, water treatment systems, or low maintenance humidifiers which combine water treatment and humidification into one system.

Define: For each system that is part of the project, the next step is to define the system conditions and application requirements. The DriCalc tool allows for the use of ASHRAE weather data to aid in determining the appropriate humidification load. The type of information DriCalc asks for will depend on the type of system being designed and may include the following.

Humidifiers

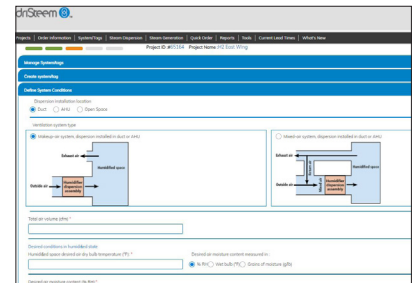
- Dispersion location
- Ventilation type
- Total air volume
- Temp & RH conditions
- Location details
- Airflow conditions
- Load
- Energy source
- Water type

Water Systems

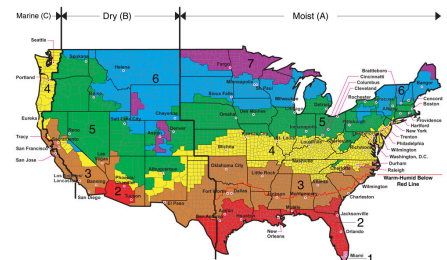
- System type
- Water source
- Water hardness
- Required capacity
- Min/max flowrates

Size & Select: During the third step, the software guides the selection of system hardware which will include generation and dispersion systems for humidifiers or water treatment components for water systems. DriCalc will ask additional questions about the application to narrow down the possible options and recommend optional accessories that are appropriate for the previous selections. Many Engineers will try different hardware configurations to optimize the design.

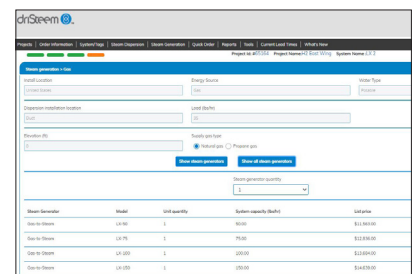
Reports: The final step in the process is to generate the project documentation. This can include Project Level Reports (System View, Schedules, and Detail Reports) as well as System Level Reports (System View, Detail Reports, Product Data Sheets, Guide Specifications, and Installation and Operation Manuals). This documentation can be included as part of the project submittals.



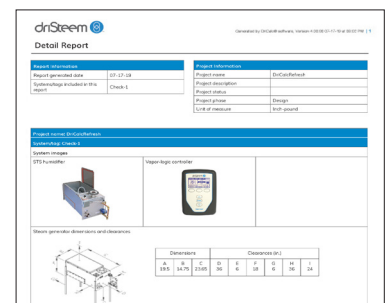
New system page in DriCalc Sizing and Selection software.



ASHRAE climate zone map for the United States.



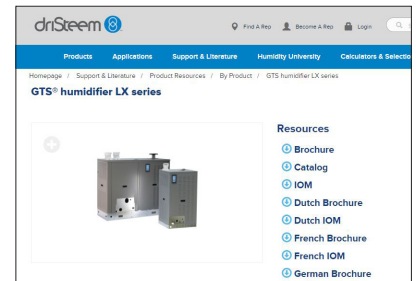
Steam generator selection page in DriCalc Sizing and Selection software.



Detail report in DriCalc Sizing and Selection software.

Easy access to the most current product literature

During the sizing and selection step, the DriCalc software will provide a list of equipment options. This list includes links to the product information for each option allowing for easy access to product specifications as well as other product resources. These product resources can be downloaded for the Engineers reference or included as part of the submittal package.

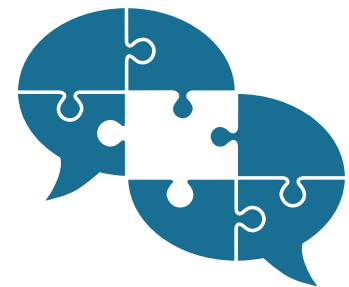


Links to product resources included in DriCalc Sizing and Selection software.

Collaborative platform for working with Rep

DriSteem has a world-wide Rep network that is trained to provide assistance during the entire process from project creation to the actual bid. DriCalc includes many features that facilitate this collaboration with the local Rep. At any point during the project, an Engineer can share a project with a DriSteem Rep to review selections, provide feedback, share insights, and to quote the project. This access can either be full access or read only access.

Once shared, the Rep can also copy projects, make changes and share alternate selections without changing the original project. DriCalc also provides the ability to track Project Status (Open, Closed, Hold) and Project Phase (Design, Specify, Submit, Bid, Other). This helps keep everyone up to date on where the project stands.



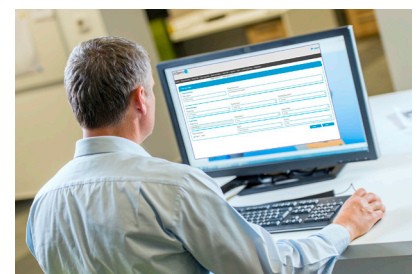
Share projects with a DriSteem Rep to review selections, provide feedback, share insights, and to quote the project.

BENEFITS DRICALC BRINGS TO THE DESIGN TEAM

Increases in-house HVAC component design capabilities

While humidification and water treatment are important elements of an HVAC system, they are not required for every system. Therefore, not every agency has developed a high level of expertise when it comes to humidification system design. With DriCalc, it's now possible to more easily develop and support this expertise in-house.

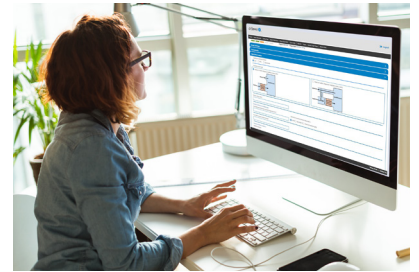
DriCalc puts DriSteem's extensive knowledge and expertise at your disposal and allows agencies to take on projects that they were not able to bid by themselves previously. This can provide a strategic advantage in terms of agency expertise and turn-around times.



Take on projects that your team was not able to bid on before with the DriCalc sizing and selection software.

Builds humidification system design knowledge

The flexibility of a tool like DriCalc makes it easy for an Engineer to design humidification and water treatment systems. The step by step process helps educate users by immediately displaying the impact of their selections. This makes for a great training tool and gives the user confidence that their selections will work. Engineers are able to easily share this knowledge with others within their organization which help build a foundation of knowledge that can be applied to future projects.



Use DriCalc's step-by-step process to design humidification and water treatment systems.

Provides a humidification load double check on in-house calculations

DriSteem's DriCalc software provides three options for coming up with a humidification load. These options include using the ASHRAE weather data and selecting the location, entering the location data and weather settings manually, or bypassing the DriCalc calculated load and just entering the humidification load directly. The DriCalc generated loads will also require entering airflow conditions. Even though DriCalc is capable of calculating the required humidification load, DriSteem still encourages Engineers to do all their own calculations initially. Then, when working through a design in DriCalc, the Engineer is able to compare the loads generated in DriCalc to their own calculations. This aids in verification of the design.



Double check humidification load against in-house calculations with DriCalc.

Convenient solution comparisons

In most cases, it's possible to come up with multiple solutions to a given humidification requirement. These solutions can vary depending on the energy source used, type of generation and dispersion equipment selected, and can also be dependent on the entered system conditions. The best choice will depend on customer requirements, budget, level of control needed, or other factors such as ease of installation or maintenance requirements.

The DriCalc sizing and selection software allows for easy comparisons. Once a system is created, it can be copied and changed without altering the original system. It's also possible to create new systems with entirely different generation or dispersion options. The different variations can then be compared and evaluated before making the final selection.

Dispersion product	Model	Qty	Max flow (gph)	Max flow (m³/hr)	Air velocity (ft/min)	Non-wetting distance (ft/min)	Tube spacing (inches)	Tube spacing (mm)	Tube pressure drop (inches H ₂ O)	Airflow (cfm)	Heat gain from steam (BTU/hr)	Heat gain from dispersion assembly (BTU/hr)	Load plus SHF
Ultra-cath	UV	1	64	54	1041.07	12	12	5	0	1.05	0.28	423	
Ultra-cath	UV	2	1	64	54	1041.07	9	9	7	0	1.05	0.28	423
Replish-ure	UV	1	64	54	1041.07	10	9	7	0	1.05	0.25	414	
More options													
Ultra-cath	UV	1	64	54	1041.07	6	9	25	0.099	1.05	0.08	402	
Ultra-cath	UV	1	64	54	1041.07	9	9	7	0	1.05	0.25	424	
Ultra-cath	UV	1	64	54	1041.07	7	9	10	0.038	1.05	0.27	427	
Ultra-cath	UV	1	64	54	1041.07	9	9	7	0	1.05	0.25	424	

Select options: Ultra-cath models LMS11 shown. Dispersion panels.

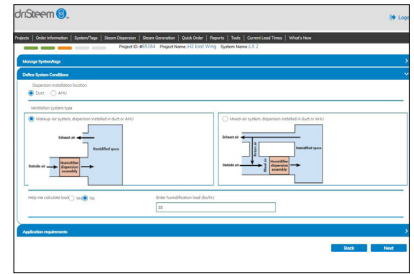
System conditions

Select Dispersion Product Accounts

Use DriSteem's DriCalc software to compare and evaluate systems before making a final selection.

Quickly change variables to see how they affect system design

It's not uncommon for HVAC system requirement to evolve over the life of a project. Once a project is created within DriCalc, it's easy to go back and make changes. DriCalc will reevaluate the selections made, and present new options based on the information entered. It's also a good practice to copy projects or systems prior to making changes in order to preserve the original sets of requirements.



It's easy to go back and make changes in DriCalc.

Speed up design time by re-using previous system designs

Even though DriCalc greatly simplifies the process of creating effective humidification systems, it still takes time and effort to enter all of the information.

Many Engineers use the copy features within DriCalc to make template projects that can be reused. When a project comes up that is similar to one that was previously created, save time by copying a project and/or systems and make minor modifications instead of re-entering everything from scratch. The project share features within DriCalc facilitate sharing of templates with others, even if they are in different locations.



DriCalc streamlines the process of sizing and selecting humidification and water treatment systems.

ACCESSIBILITY AND TRAINING

Where to get the DriCalc sizing and selection software

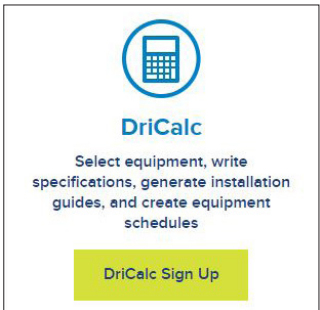
In order to gain access to DriCalc, visit the DriSteem website, navigate to the [Calculators & Selection Software](#) page and click on [DriCalc Sign Up](#). Fill out the form to Register for DriCalc. The request will be forwarded to the local DriSteem Rep for approval. The [Find A Rep](#) link at the top of the home page will help identify your nearest Rep.

Training Resources

DriSteem has extensive resources available to assist you in learning more about DriCalc as well as humidification products and water treatment systems. Check out the [DriSteem website](#) and our channels on [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#). Follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).

DriSteem regularly offers classroom style training for Engineers. [Check with your local Rep](#) for availability in your area.

Video tutorials are also available within the DriCalc sizing and selection software.



Register for DriCalc Sizing and Selection software at www.dristeem.com.

DRISTEEM RESOURCES



DriSteem Website



YouTube & Vimeo



Classroom Training



Social Media

- Industry Publications
- Case Studies
- White Papers
- Design Guides
- Articles
- Glossary
- Brochures
- Catalogs
- Product Resources
- Technical Support
- Video Library
- Installation and Operation Manuals
- Service Kit Manuals
- References Guides
- Handbooks
- Charts
- Flyers
- Cut Sheets
- Drawings
- Piping Instructions
- BIM Models

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EXPECT QUALITY FROM THE INDUSTRY LEADER

Since 1965, DriSteem has been leading the industry with creative and reliable humidification solutions. DriSteem leads the industry with a Two-year Limited Warranty and optional extended warranty.

For more information:

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sales@dristeem.com

For the most recent product information visit our website:

www.dristeem.com