

The 90%-plus furnace and heating efficiency

Before the rising cost of fuel and environmental considerations increased consumer interest in saving energy, furnaces were sold largely according to price, not efficiency. As a result, furnaces made prior to 1976 are typically only 65% efficient at best, as measured by annual Fuel Utilization Efficiencies (AFUE) ratings. Many are even less efficient. Developments in the heating industry over the past several years have produced reliable systems with efficiencies in the 80% range. Now, at last, there is a way to heat your home with 90% efficiency, according to local dealer Tri-County Heating and Air Conditioning.

A condensing gas furnace utilizes basic laws of physics to maximize home heating. In a traditional gas heating system, considerable indoor heat escapes through the furnace flue. A condensing furnace reclaims the lost heat by condensing water vapor. Exhaust gases are discharged at low temperature, which keeps heat loss to a minimum. Furthermore, since the exhaust gases are cool, multiple wall metal or masonry chimneys are not usually necessary with these furnaces. Simple low-cost plastic pipe often replaces the need for an

expensive heat resistant flue.

Though some condensing furnaces use combustion air drawn from within the home, your most beneficial choice is one that employs outside combustion air. First of all, by drawing combustion air from outside the home, you will be utilizing air that you haven't paid to heat. Secondly, use of outside combustion air locks out household chemicals that can otherwise promote furnace corrosion. In many America households, a furnace is located near a washing machine and dryer. A condensing furnace drawing from outside air prevents the corrosive effects of laundry products such as bleach and propellants from spray cans from damaging the furnace. This is a far greater danger to condensing furnaces than to traditional, less efficient designs.

If you need to replace an old furnace or are planning to make energy-saving home improvements this winter, a condensing furnace is a good choice for your heating needs. Before you buy, however, examine carefully the specifications of the unit you are considering. Since various manufacturers now offer these systems, some of the items to

look for in a condensing gas furnace are:

Installation. A condensing furnace should have no special installation requirements. Beware of a unit that needs the additional installation of a muffler or other expensive sound-isolation system in order to achieve satisfactory noise levels.

Maintenance. In general, gas furnaces are relatively low-maintenance items. A condensing furnace should require no special attention from its owner. Before you buy, ask the dealer for details on how the system should be maintained once installed.

Size. There is no reason for a condensing furnace to be any larger than a traditional gas

furnace. Some manufacturers offer compact models.

Price. The cost of a condensing furnace should be weighed against its payback--the number of years required for your savings to equal the initial cost. Though a condenser furnace can add 30% heating efficiency, you do not want to spend more initially than you will get back within a reasonable period of time.

Warranty. Read the warranty prior to your purchase and question any of the terms that are vague or unclear. The key component in a condensing furnace is the heat-exchanger, which should be covered by a long warranty.

McDonald's continues tradition of commitment to fashion

M.J. McDonald & Company, known as McDonald's Fashions, will mark its 79th anniversary in Oswego this year and is looking forward to many more, said owner Margaret Falise. "The road to the future begins with the past," she maintains. "We plan always to offer the latest and finest in women's fashions, good quality merchandise, and the ultimate in personalized service."

McDonald's was founded in 1911 at its current location, 190 West First St. in downtown Oswego. In the past, McDonald's has had branches in Fulton and Watertown as well as the parent store in Oswego.

The late M.J. McDonald and his wife, Laura, started the company and were

followed by their son, Chauncey. Chauncey was company president until his death in 1981, when Mrs. Falise assumed ownership.

"Since the early 1900s there have been many changes in fashions and the structure of the fashion industry," Mrs. Falise noted. "In order to better serve our customers' needs, we strive always to stay abreast of fashion and marketing trends in order to preserve the image for which McDonald's Fashions is best known."

The principals of McDonald's Fashions have been actively involved in civic affairs over the years through membership in such organizations as merchants' associations, the Chamber of Commerce, and service clubs.

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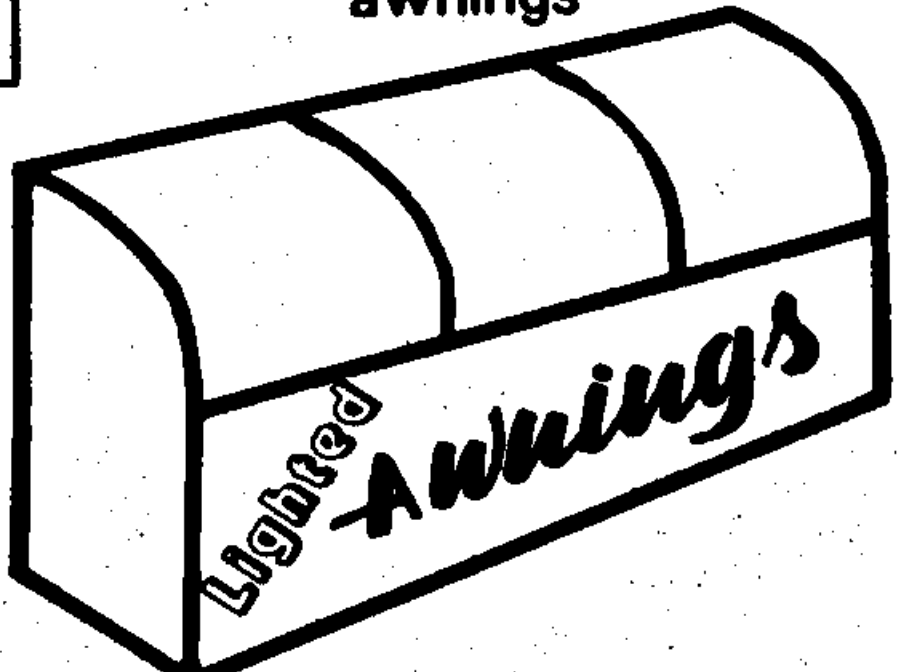
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McDonald's

Fashions

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Charles Chiasson (installations), Ron Kistner (owner), Scott Conner (serviceman)

For heating and AC expertise

Tri-County Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. was founded by Ronald and Leslie Kistner in Oswego in 1984 with four employees. Ronald Kistner, president and owner, has been active in the heating and air conditioning business since 1968 as serviceman, installer, and manager. He has lived in the Oswego County area since 1978.

The business has three locations, including the original site at 1 Murray St. in Oswego. A second location was opened in 1985 at 123 Phelps St., Oneida, and the third was opened in 1988 at 2120 Whitesboro St., Utica. The business employs 30 and has 20 trucks for service and installation.

Leslie Kistner is office manager; Charles Chiasson, general manager; and Scott Conner, service manager.

Tri-County has become one of the largest HVAC dealers in central New York. The business has expanded into the new construction housing and light commercial markets with the hiring of Norm Valley as sales representative, former director of the Small Business Extension.

Tri-County sells Amens, Trane, and Carrier equipment as well as major lines of heating, air conditioning, heat pumps, furnaces, boilers, electronic air cleaner, humidifiers, ducting systems, air-to-air heat exchangers, and refrigeration equipment. "We sell only the very best equipment and give our customers the very best service," Kistner says.

Tri-County Heating & Air Conditioning

1 Murray Street, Oswego 343-7542

