



The ENERGY CONSERVATORY

DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS TO MEASURE BUILDING PERFORMANCE

Update Newsletter From The Energy Conservatory

In This Issue

[Blower Door Update](#)

[Recalibration Costs](#)

[Fan Calibration](#)

[Blower Door Graphic](#)

[Upcoming
Conferences](#)

Quick Links

[TEC Website](#)

[Manuals](#)

[Brochures](#)

[Prices](#)



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Here is the latest electronic newsletter from The Energy Conservatory. This was sent to you using the email address in our system. If you do not wish to receive future notices please click on the link at the end of this email message. If you like what you see and you think others would benefit from receiving it, please forward this email to your colleagues. In the near future each of the newsletters will be archived on our website so that you can refer to previous issues for information.

If you have comments and suggestions for future newsletters, please let us know.

→ Minneapolis Blower Door™ System Update

As part of our on-going effort to continually improve the Minneapolis Blower Door System, we have made the following changes starting last November 2009:

- We added a mini USB communication port to the DG-700 Pressure and Flow Gauge. The USB port makes connecting the DG-700 to a computer easier than ever. Set-up of the USB drivers is quick and only needs to be performed once on any given computer.
- With each Blower Door System, you receive a 16 foot USB cable, and a copy of our TECTITE™ Building Airtightness Testing Software at no additional charge. This means that every Minneapolis Blower Door System is ready for fully automated testing right out of the box.

The DG-700 Gauge continues to have a standard serial port, in addition to the new USB port. The serial port allows much longer computer data connections, which is often necessary when testing large commercial buildings. TEC has been working with ASHRAE researchers on a project to determine the best practices and methods for testing the



Complete Minneapolis Blower Door™ System

airtightness levels of commercial buildings. News about this project and our new large building testing software will be reported in upcoming issues of the TEC Update Newsletter.

The USB communication port can not be retrofitted to older DG-700 gauges. However, if your gauge does not currently have Cruise Control, this feature can be added the next time you send it in for recalibration. The cost of a Cruise Control upgrade is \$50, in addition the regular calibration fee. Please use our Equipment Return Form (available from our website) when sending in gauges for calibration or Cruise Control upgrades, and indicate which service you are requesting on the form.

Updated literature is available on our [website](#). You can also see our latest price sheet by going to the [Ordering and Prices Page](#). Lead time for new Minneapolis Blower Door Systems is about a week (or less).

→ Recalibration Costs and Return Form

Annual calibration of your DG-700 or DG-500 Gauge is important to maintain accuracy of readings for any of your tests. The cost of the annual calibration has been \$50 for a number of years. Starting October 1, the cost of recalibration will increase to \$75. The cost of recalibrating an APT will go from \$75 to \$100. Normal turnaround time at our facility for recalibration is 3 to 5 days. Repairs may take longer. You can find more information about calibration and repair for all Energy Conservatory products on this [page](#).

We have also added a new Equipment Return Form to help speed up the transaction once you send something in for calibration or repair. The link for the form is [here](#). This form will help us quickly find your company in our computer system and ensure that we are performing the services you need and returning the equipment to the right location.

For those that have a number of gauges and want to find out if their any of their gauges needs to be sent in for recalibration, you might want to check out the following [procedure](#). The next time you have a gauge recalibrated, before you send it back out into the field, arrange time to check the newly calibrated gauge against the other gauges in your office. Make sure you keep records of these calibration checks for future reference.

→ Fan Calibration

A standard Model 3 Minneapolis Blower Door fan has an accuracy of +/- 3% of reading. This default accuracy level comes with each fan we sell, at no additional cost. Model 3 fans maintain their calibration unless physical damage occurs. Conditions which could cause the calibration to change are primarily damaged flow sensors, movement of the motor and blades relative to the fan housing, and leaks in the sensor tubing running from the flow sensor to the fan pressure tap. These conditions are easily detected and should be tested for on a regular basis using the procedures contained in Appendix A of the [Blower Door Operation Manual](#).

If you need a custom calibration certificate for your fan, this can be provided for an additional fee of \$200 per fan. Some testing standards, such as the commercial building testing standard developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, require a custom calibration of the fan every 3 years. If you order a new fan and need a custom calibration certificate, it will add several days to the shipment time of a new Blower Door system. Existing fans sent in for custom calibration will have a 5 - 7 day turnaround at our facility.

→ Blower Door Graphic Panel

A picture is worth 1,000 words as the saying goes. At The Energy Conservatory we have created a picture of a Minneapolis Blower Door System than can be used for a variety of situations. The full size Blower Door is shown with Ring A on the fan and the DG-700 is on Cruise Control monitoring a home. The photograph is printed on high quality vinyl material that rolls out of the base to stand approximately 6 feet tall. The Blower Door Graphic Panel is great at home or remodeling shows, conferences, training sessions or other events when you need to keep using your Blower Door in the field but want to show others what a Blower Door really is.



Roll up graphic for tradeshow

The Blower Door Graphic Panel is available from The Energy Conservatory for \$250. They are usually in stock or available within a week.

→ Upcoming Conferences

The Energy Conservatory will be on the road again this fall. We will be returning to a number of conferences we have supported for a many years while adding a few new shows. You will have the

opportunity to ask questions about our products, pick up a copy of our latest product brochures, view some of the features on our products. We hope you will have a chance to stop by and say hello.

Wisconsin Weatherization Tech Fair, Wausau, WI, Sept 13-15

The Remodeling Show, Baltimore, MD, Sept 15-17
www.remodelingshow.com

National Association for State Community Services Programs
Charleston, SC - Sept 21 - 25
www.nascsp.org/events.htm

Insulation Contractors Association of America
Las Vegas, Sept 23 - 25
www.insulate.org

National Association of State Energy Officers
Boston, MA, Sept 28 - Oct 1
www.naseo.org

ACI New England
Sturbridge, MA, Oct 6-7
www.affordablecomfort.org

Energy & Environmental Building Association
Portland, OR, Oct 12 - 14
www.eeba.org

We hope that this issue of the Update has been informative. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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