

RETROAIRE™

*Commercial building gets upgrade
with new VPAC units.*



Exterior of the Motel 6 located in Colchester, Vermont.

There are a dozen or so different concerns that cross your mind when you're traveling with regards to staying at a motel chain: Will the rooms be clean? Have the sheets been changed? Has the bathroom been scrubbed? Is there Wi-Fi? All reasonable questions when you are looking into staying at one of the many motel options available. One concern that might not immediately cross your mind is this: Will the heating and air conditioning be functioning properly?

It might not be the first thing to come to your mind, but for Roderick LaRocque, Head of Maintenance at the Motel 6 in Colchester, Vermont, it's one of his primary concerns. The building that houses the motel was constructed in 1997 and within the first year had 106 RetroAire VPAC (vertically-packaged air conditioning) units installed in its rooms.

RetroAire's reliable operation and construction of the VPAC units that were put in allowed for them to last for nearly 20 years, not needing to be replaced until August of 2015. The consistent quality of the 106 previous RetroAire units was just one factor that influenced Motel 6



Seen here, the previous VPAC units await their removal from the Motel 6 site in preparation for the new VPAC unit installations.

to stay with the RetroAire name when it came time to replace.

One factor that allowed LaRocque to have an easy installation experience was that VPAC units are factory designed specifically to fit the existing opening where the old units were installed. This eliminates the need for retrofitting and reduces installation time and labor. One particular feature that also aided Motel 6 in making the decision was the new and improved electronic control board, which offers an anti-short cycle protection built in to the unit, as well as coil freeze protection, a low ambient compressor lockout, and control board testing functions; reliable features that the original units did not come equipped with.

The improvements made to these VPAC units over the past twenty years will ensure the new RetroAire units perform more reliably and efficiently than ever before.



Interior of a Motel 6 room; on the right, the access panel has been removed to show the enclosure for the VPAC unit.

When VPAC units operate during air conditioning season, they produce condensate which usually requires a drain that can capture the condensate as it is expelled from the unit. The RetroAire units have a unique condensate removal system that captures the condensate in the unit and uses a slinger ring to direct the condensate towards the warm coil, which allows for positive condensate evaporation, eliminating the need for a dedicated drain and additional maintenance issues associated with it, such as clogging or any cleaning requirements of the drain. Another feature that LaRocque especially likes is the factory-installed fresh air damper, which allows for outdoor air to be brought into the room. This feature helps keep the room fresh.



The anodized louvers seen here are standard; custom painted louvers available as an option.



The rubberized, resilient ring mounting on the blower that allows for quieter operation as seen on the new VPACs installed.

LaRocque says he has had a “great amount” of experience dealing with the previous RetroAire units. The new VPAC units have a factory-installed return air filter, which eliminates the need to construct a custom filter rack, simplifying installation and making LaRocque’s job a little easier. The VPAC is also completely concealed in an enclosure which dramatically reduces sound levels for the motel patrons. The new units employ a rubberized, resilient ring mounted blower allowing for quiet operation, important to those motel patrons who want a good night’s rest.



Photo of the previous unit installed versus the new upgraded VPAC unit in one of the Motel 6 guest rooms. Note the optional Hydronic heat coil installed on top and the air filter rack in front of the unit.

Jonathan Phyte, the General Manager of the Motel 6 in Colchester, is very excited about the new installations and extremely comfortable knowing that he is purchasing units for his motel rooms that are going to last another decade and a half, like the previous units did. These VPACs feature capacities ranging from 9 to 36 mbtuh, and flexible design options that include cooling only, heat pump, as well as factory installed electric heat backup, and hydronic heat coils. The VPAC is available in 230/265/277 VAC (1-phase), and can replace Carrier 50QT/ETs, Armstrong Magic PACs, and Singer Vertical PTACs.

RetroAire is an excellent replacement choice when looking for economical and reliable service.

For more information, please visit retroaire.com